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The Prospector, June 13, 2017

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 102, NO. 30

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JUNE 13, 2017

THE FIGHT FOR DURANGUITO CONTINUES

EVICTED
NOTICE

here.
been here.
not going anywhere.



PHOTO & ILLUSTRATION BY GABY VELASQUEZ & ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Last week Judge Amy Clark Meachum, Travis County judge in Austin, was presented with a temporary restraining order by the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to hinder the discussions to obtain properties for the \$180 million proposed arena in Downtown El Paso.

Both sides were able to argue their sides in Austin on Friday, morning, but no verdict was rendered.

On Monday, Judge Clark Meachum ruled in favor of the four Duranguito tenants who pushed for the restraining order.

The plaintiffs with the Texas Rio-Grande Legal Aid are demanding that the city stop issuing demolition permits for the buildings in the Duranguito area, stop agreeing to new contracts of relocating residents and stop the demolishing of any building until a final decree has been issued.

Now, the city cannot issue demolition permits and is not allowed to engage in new contracts to acquire, demolish or start construction related to the arena project.

"I think it's really wrong that the city grants these demolition permits while they're in court," said Paso del Sur's director and UTEP history professor, Yolanda Leyva. "The people to me are

the most important. The city will say that it's the property owners, but it's them. They're granting the owners permits to take them out."

Leyva filed a civil rights suit against the city at the beginning of June and she is self-representing the case, saying this matter violates the civil rights of the tenants living there.

Paso del Sur, a local organization dedicated to the preservation of historical landmarks in El Paso and works for citizen's rights, reported on their Facebook page that Borderplex REIT landlord, Alejo Restrepo and his father in law, Dr. Roberto Nassim Assael, are plotting to demolish some of the buildings as soon as this week.

They also said in a post that the owners of the Flor de Luna Art Academy Gallery were evicted from their building last week.

"A lot of people are already starting to leave," Leyva said. "They (the property owners) are pressuring the people so much that they are scared and want to leave. The residents are calling it harassment."

According to court documents, Scott Incerto, an attorney who is defending the city on the restraining order filed, is arguing that all the topics brought up by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid would not impact the residents.

Regarding the buildings that are up to be demolished by Restrepo and As-

sael, there are currently four buildings that are proposed to be torn down.

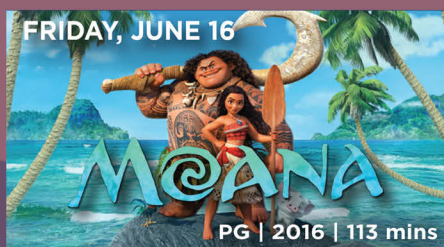
However, according to the court documents, Incerto said that two of the four tenants agreed to relocate. He reported that the third tenant is not living at the location currently and that the fourth will not be demolished before July 17.

There is a hearing set for July 17-18 in Austin that will determine whether the city is allowed to move forward with its plans to demolish these buildings.

see DURANGUITO on page 4

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JUNE 13, 2017

OPINION

Duran(gone)ito

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ
The Prospector



In the last nine months, El Paso has acted as the civic battleground for the struggle between gentrification and historic preservation. Somewhere along the way, the conflict turned towards the residents of the barrio(ward) now known as Duranguito.

Through the threat of exercising eminent domain, the residents became concerned with thoughts of relocation and eviction. The thought of rebooting their lives in another part of town because of a shiny, new \$180 million multi-purpose arena was difficult to bear with for some residents, especially the elder ones.

When the news started spreading, some started taking the role of activists, trying to lead a movement that expressed the unrest they felt because of a cause they didn't find fair. People like the chair of the department of History at UTEP, Yolanda Leyva, author David Romo and business owner Michael Patiño did not want the residents to be relocated due to the inconvenience it represented for people who already lived in a low-income area and faced transportation shortages.

It wasn't just Leyva, Romo and Patiño who rose up to the occasion. Duranguito saw people from all over town pour in their support helping with protests, marches and community meetings and even a posada to rally support and bring everyone together during the holidays. More importantly, El Pasoans dedicated their time and power of will when they saw the community struggle.

Personally, I had never seen this type of movement and rallying behind a single cause. El Paso showed resiliency and within my immediate social circle, a culture of proud El Pasoans started breeding. A heavier emphasis on El Paso's history and culture was placed on my social media feed, and those who I interacted with.

Crafting signs for protests evolved and turned into protest-

ing outside city hall, and with the legal help of former head of the County's Historical Commission Dr. Max Grossman the pro Duranguito group managed to sustain a solid, legitimate case against the city.

Now with all but one properties bought, the landscape looks bleak. Even with the smaller victories such as the granting of a restraining order that impedes the city to issue demolition permits, acquire properties and build new ones, it seems like an inevitable fate.

The city treated things as covert operations some times. For example, at the beginning of the year members of city council held a meeting at the Indigo Hotel to discuss the construction of the arena and the potential relocation of the multi-purpose arena that potentially violated the rules of quorum.

However, the hard work, time and hope invested should not be overlooked and underestimated. Politics inherently involve the citizens of a territory to be actively involved in matters that concern that territory, and the people who have followed this development have done just that.

Regardless of whether the multipurpose arena is built within the specified territory, let this be an example of community support, social responsibility and community involvement that utopian democracies are founded on. The change in El Paso culture will hopefully serve as a way to move forward while also remembering its history and having an active role in local policy making.

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez

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ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Every day should be Father's Day

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector



It's a shame that I put so much emphasis on celebrating Father's Day because in reality, I shouldn't wait until that specific day to remind my dad how much he means to me. As cliché as it might be, my dad deserves to be treated like it's Father's Day every day.

My dad has never put anyone before me, never left my side when I needed someone, always supported everything I've done and what I plan on pursuing in my life. There is nothing I could ever do to repay him for the being the best dad in the world.

I honestly don't know where I would be without my old man. He pushes me to heights I would never think of approaching. Who knows what I would be doing with my life if he wasn't the way he is. Maybe I wouldn't be in school, maybe I

wouldn't care about my future, maybe I would have gone down a path that wasn't meant for me. The only thing I know is that I'm glad I will never find out because my dad has sacrificed everything he has for me.

My dad works late nights just to keep a roof over my head, keep food on the table, keep the lights on in the house, and allow me to have more than I could have ever asked for.

When I'm older and have my life situated, I'll still know what to do. I'll still know who to turn to when life has me on a high or when life throws me a curve ball.

If anyone knows me, they know I'm the biggest Pittsburgh Steelers fan around. But what a lot of my friends don't know is that the Steelers are so much bigger than football to me—they are what my dad and I bond over, and no one could ever take that bond away. There isn't one Sunday I don't look forward to. I don't remember the last time my dad and I missed a Steelers game together. If my week is complete garbage, there isn't one

Sunday with my dad that hasn't cured whatever I'm going through.

Steelers football is a tradition that I'll share with my dad until our final days.

I've traveled with my dad to all parts of the United States like Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Denver, Chicago and many other destinations, but it didn't matter what city we stopped at. All that mattered is that I was with my best bud and that we made memories that will always remind me how blessed and how great life is, even when times seem low.

As much as I look up to the greatest athletes or biggest celebrities in the world, they have nothing on my dad. Or as much time we have missed over the years by never living together, there isn't one person that has inspired me like my dad. Since day one, I've only ever wanted to be at least half the person my dad is.

Father's Day is the day I get to see my favorite person happiest and I can't wait.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal

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Weather forecast for the week of June 13, 2017, featuring anchors Nichole Gomez, Doppler Dave Speelman, and Iris Lopez. The forecast shows sunny conditions with high temperatures ranging from 97 to 103 and low temperatures from 70 to 74. A 0% chance of rain is predicted for most of the week, with a slight increase to 10% on Friday and Saturday.

An overview of Trump’s first six months in office

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector

In the month of June, President Donald Trump has been in office for about six months, which is long enough for the country to evaluate him on a short-term basis.

Through six months, Trump has not necessarily done as the public might have expected him to. He has passed more than 100 policies since he was sworn into office, and most of the policies have sparked controversy. While he has his tight knit group of cabinet members, other members of his party have criticized his actions.

It’s difficult to measure the success of Trump’s time in office so far, with approval ratings at a historic low (38.1) and constant scrutinization by the media of everything he does.

Oscar Sanchez, a junior electrical engineering major who is the president of the College Republicans, believes that the immediate implementations have impacted the world in a positive way.

“Worldwide, a lot of people don’t like him, but I think he’s doing a good job externally like at the G-summit,” Sanchez said. “He was basically saying, ‘I don’t want the American taxpayers to get ripped off. Honestly, I think he should’ve done the tax plan first before working on health care. I think that just hurt his image and the party’s image a little bit. But I think he’s doing a good job externally.’”

Celeste Acevedo, a senior communications studies major who is the president of the University Democrats, disagreed with Sanchez’ stance on Trump’s positive external views.

“Our relations with other countries, besides Russia, have definitely deteriorated because of his choice in warfare and rhetoric,” Acevedo said. “I think that his policies and rhetoric have globally negatively affected the impact of how the United States look as a superpower of the world now.”

Department chair and political science professor, Dr. Charles Boehmer, who has studied various topics in international security and international organization, keyed in on Trump’s first six months. He believes that Trump’s biggest accomplishment thus far has been his initial nomination by the GOP.

“That is rather important for conservatives in the U.S., and the president can claim that at least they made progress on something,” said Boehmer, who has been teaching at UTEP since 2002. “As far as his major policy ideas, those have really stalled. On the one hand he has a political base that still finds him popular, but his overall approval ratings are pretty low.”

Some would say Trump’s political inexperience has been an issue thus far in his administration. Based on his political inexperience, political scientists and other critics of Trump have deemed him as a rash decision maker on topics such as health care and immigration.

“Building a border wall, tax reform, the problems he’s had with travel bans

and the Department of Justice have been particularly a problem,” Boehmer said. “And especially with any kind of potential scandal with Russia, and the number of people in the White House who are associated with him that are being investigated.”

While Sanchez agreed with the decision to leave Paris Agreement, which sparked controversy, Gabriel Solis, who is a member of the Young Democratic Socialists and recently graduated with a bachelor’s in history, disagrees with Trump’s taking the U.S. out of the agreement.

“With him leaving the Paris climate agreement, the United States became the laughing stock of the world,” Solis said. “We have a president who doesn’t believe in climate change or won’t admit whether it exists. That’s a huge thing. Just planetary, he’s a dangerous person to have in office.”

In the earlier stages of his administration, Trump passed a travel ban that prohibited Muslim refugees from entering the U.S. as well as immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries. Previously, the countries were deemed countries of concern for terrorism by the Obama administration.

His view on immigration has impacted the borderland as well. Although Trump has not enacted all of the policies regarding immigration that he campaigned on, such as building the wall, some of the policies have already impacted people, according to Acevedo.

“I think that one of the biggest things, especially living so close to the border—something representative Beto O’Rourke has talked about a lot—is kind of the rhetoric about immigrants and the narrative that he frames,” Acevedo said. “The way that he speaks about the border has affected El Paso and I think it’s created a lot of anger in people here, especially because we’re a Democratic city.”

Despite all of the negativity that surrounds him, Trump has still gar-

nered success in having passed as many executive orders as he’s had in such a short amount of time in office.

“To say that he hasn’t accomplished anything is not necessarily true,” Boehmer said. “Some of that has been through executive order, some of that has been symbolic, but particularly the Supreme Court confirmation is one of the biggest accomplishments so far.”

Sanchez agreed that Trump’s time in office has been well spent, although it has outside the ideas that Trump promised at the beginning.

“I expected him to do a bit better, but I’m pretty much good with where he is right now,” Sanchez said. “I didn’t even like that health care bill act, but it should’ve been passed. I think he’s doing all right, but it should be slightly better since he does have a simple majority in both houses. I think the most important part, and this is probably why he won over Hillary, is the Supreme Court.”

On the other end, Solis, who is entirely against Trump’s administration, believes that the president has done an awful job of maintaining stability and fears for his cohorts.

“A lot of people are afraid. A lot of undocumented friends of mine are very, very afraid—a lot of Muslim friends also,” Solis said. “The positive side of this is that so many young people are coming out, trying to join organizations and are demanding the opposite of what he’s demanding, and are ready to fight back and are mobilizing. For example, the student group E.N.D. (Education Not Deportation), their goal is to get the Border Patrol off campus, to make UTEP a sanctuary campus. Even if the administration won’t do it, from the ground up, we’re going to build a sanctuary culture. We’re going to inform students.”

Sanchez said he would rather look at Trump’s economic policies in the future and is hopeful about what’s to come for the president’s actions on taxation.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR
College Republicans’ President Oscar Sanchez stands by Trump despite his low approval rating.

“Ever since he won, the stock market has been doing super good—record highs,” Sanchez said. “If a tax plan were to be implemented that lowered taxes for everyone, not just the one percent, I think that would be my favorite thing about his presidency, if it were to happen.”

Recently, Trump fired former FBI Director James Comey and now, Comey was questioned on behalf of the president trying to form ties with Russia. Despite the scandal, Sanchez is confident this will not lead to something drastic like impeachment.

“I don’t see him getting impeached. The Russian collusion has not been proven,” Sanchez said. “In my opinion, it should’ve been dead already after what happened with the Comey hearing. There’s really no real factual reason to impeach him. It’s just that

people don’t like him. I’m sorry to say, but he hasn’t done anything worth impeaching for.”

The hearing had no ruling or conclusion if Trump obstructed justice by being affiliated with Russia.

“His approval ratings are generally real low,” Boehmer said. “He had no honeymoon effect in his first six months. In a sense, often times congress is more willing to cooperate and they’ve accomplished not as much as they should have given the fact that the republicans control both chambers of congress and the presidency.”

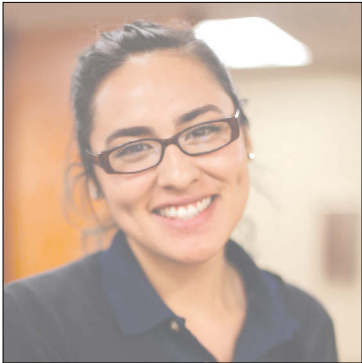
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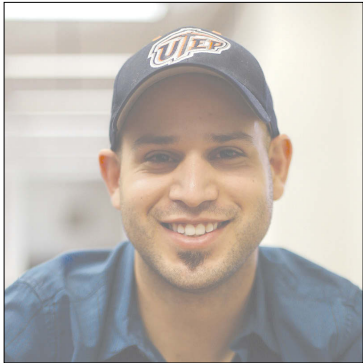
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What do you think of the first six months of Trump’s administration?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, SERGIO MUÑOZ, GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



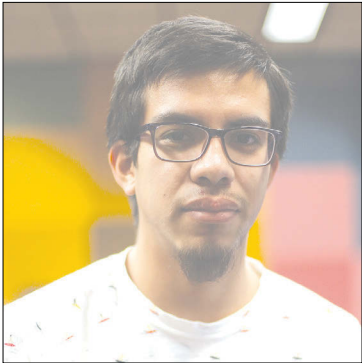
ARAMARIS PARADA
Senior psychology major
“We are suffering the stuff that he is doing and I think that we should be more educated and think about the next elections.”



JULIO CENICERROS
Master’s candidate in environmental science
“I don’t agree with most of the things he does, especially on the environmental side.”



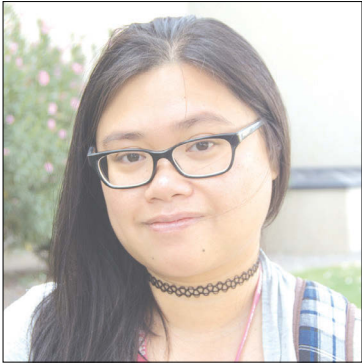
CYNTHIA ALVAREZ
Senior nursing major
“I think it’s been very interesting. I guess he’s done different things, some good and some bad. Hopefully he does more of the good than bad.”



CHRISTOPHER FORAY
Sophomore computer science major
“He has been moving a lot of things, but there really isn’t any progress in his six months as president. He is just making a lot of trouble.”



ERIN LOPEZ
Junior nursing major
“I think it’s pretty chaotic everything that has been going on, but then again, we still have to give him a chance because he is our president.”



JULIENNE SALVADOR
Junior biochemistry major
“I think he’s doing a really bad job and I don’t agree with anything he’s doing. I hope he is impeached.”



SEBASTIAN MONCAYO
Junior engineering major
“One of the main concerns is the climate change. He took us out from the Paris agreement and that’s one of the biggest growing industries.”



MARISOL ADAME
Junior digital media production major
“I feel that he has only done controversial things that aren’t useful. He did the travel ban a few months ago and I think that was a huge mistake.”



ROGER EZRI
Senior biochemistry major
“He is terrible and I think we need to do whatever we can to get him out of office or at least away from the public eye.”



CATHERINE VILLARREAL
Senior social work major
“He’s trying to do good for the country, but he’s going on the wrong way, he’s not being open minded to other situations that could benefit us.”

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DURANGUITO from cover

Although the court documents state that, Leyva said there is more to the issue than the tenants deciding to relocate.

“We talk to them all the time, and we meet with the residents every Friday. They said they don’t want to move because they don’t have the money to move,” Leyva said. “It’s accessible and affordable for them. So, they signed the contract that they would leave, but they don’t want to leave. They are clients of legal aid. They signed these contracts under distress.”

Incerto, on the other hand, does not believe that a restraining order is necessary because the tenants “face no imminent harm or irreparable injury.”

According to the court documents, the city wants to build the arena on 19 different assortments of land in the Duranguito neighborhood. The city has already started to grant permits for the demolition of some of these buildings. Before the property owners can be paid for selling off some of these properties, the city is requiring the owners to demolish the buildings.

In the city’s defense, Incerto argued in the court documents that according to current codes and local ordinances, the city is not allowed to restrict demolition permits.

If enacted, several businesses in the Duranguito area will be affected, including El Tiradero, a flea market that is home to about 50 vendors who pay between \$10 and \$20 to sell their goods in the indoor building, falls within the boundaries of the desired arena.

Vendor Leticia Herrera is an active supporter at every protest against the stadium and does not believe there is a price that the city can put on her business.

“We’re fighting because we don’t want to throw away the Tiradero,” Herrera said. “We’re fighting that the city won’t sell out the people because it’s a pressure that the city is putting on us to take the money and simply leave. But they don’t think about the damage it has on people.”

The city did not comment on the matter.

Paso del Sur has also set up different protests in the spirit of advocating against the displacement of the residents. On June 3, the group had a March for Solidarity protest, where many public figures, Duranguito residents and El Pasoans spoke out on behalf of the matter.

“Duranguito represents one battle, one challenge that we have to fight to preserve yet another neighborhood,” said state Sen. Jose Rodriguez at the protest. “This is the heart of El Paso, this is the beginning of El Paso. It’s not only the historical buildings we are trying to preserve, we’re trying to preserve the history, the culture, the preservation of life, the spiritual aspects of Duranguito.”

The unfolding of all this has taken a roller coaster turn on Leyva. Although she is hopeful for the right verdicts coming their way, she often feels the landlords have scared the tenants away already.

“What I feel, it’s up and down on a daily basis,” Leyva said. “I feel hopeful about the July 17 hearing. My one fear, what makes me very worried is that if they (the city) don’t stop the pressure of the landlords, all the people would be pushed out.”

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JUNE 13, 2017

Kicha Foods expands on chorizo family tradition



SERGIO MUÑOZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Chorizo is sold in tacos sandwiches and melted in cheese at Kicha Foods.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

In a calm, humble storage unit at Montecillo lives one of El Paso’s newest and most unique food creations. The Villanueva brothers, Sergio, who is a UTEP alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry, and Jaime, a senior pre-nursing major, opened their doors to the community for their new eatery, Kicha Foods. Since its grand opening in early May, Kicha has attracted a lot of local buzz. What makes Kicha Foods so exceptional is their menu, which is flooded by chorizo. This isn’t your regular egg-and-chorizo burrito type of chorizo. The Villanueva brothers process chorizo with different spices and meticulously work to perfect each batch. “We get the meats from the store and we take it back to our table and clean it out. We take out all the gristle and fat—just the bad stuff we don’t want there,” Sergio said.

He closes the store every Monday and Tuesday to make chorizo with Jaime for the week. “We trim it and clean it out really good and then we pass it through the grinder. Once it’s ground, we blend our spices together and we pass them into the mixer with the meats,” he said. “We still do small batches because it’s all manual.” The Villanuevas have had this passion for cooking their entire lives and it comes from their family. While Sergio and Jaime were still in high school, their father showed them how to make chorizo with an industrial meat grinder. “We always had an affinity for cooking and we have been very passionate with food,” Sergio said. “That’s all we talk about at the dinner table. We’re eating and we think, ‘oh, what would you do to make this better.’” After their dad showed them the works of chorizo, the duo started actively making it and hopping around to different farmers markets to try and sell their product.

However, it was the Montecillo farmers market that truly propelled Kicha Foods into what it is now. “People loved it, people loved it since the first day,” Jaime said. “We were nervous that we wouldn’t sell anything our first time. But no, people loved it. We did samples and people said, ‘this is so good.’” From then Kicha Foods was a must for the farmers market at Montecillo. The brothers said they even had a reserved section, where they would set up shop each week, with the organizer calling them up to make sure they were coming. As the name Kicha Foods spread, so did the demand for their food. They started to grow their business and had regulars coming each time a farmers market arose. The demand pushed Jaime and Sergio to decide they should rent out a space in Montecillo and expand their business. It was an unexpected location, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The brothers had never been to Montecillo prior to the farmers market and after

a while of selling chorizo there, they decided it would be the home of Kicha Foods. “We were looking for different spots and different locations and we actually found one other spot on the far east. For some reason, things weren’t right at that location,” Jaime said. “We came over here and found this vacant spot and we were like, ‘this has potential.’ We signed the lease the following week.” The two did all the construction, such as installing sinks, a drop ceiling and more building installations. Then at the beginning of May, Kicha Foods opened up for business officially. It was a dream come true for the Villanuevas, and they both owe their parents for inspiring it. In fact, the name Kicha Foods is actually a combination of their parent’s names—their mother, Francisca, or “Kika,” and their father, Ismael, or “Chamel.” “Since the very first day, they’ve always pushed us and encouraged us. When we would go around to markets and wouldn’t sell anything, we were down, but they always said not to worry and to keep going,” Sergio said. “They were the ones who inspired us. They showed us how to make chorizo and we still use the grinder from back in the day.”

Kicha Foods has also started to make impressive professional relationships with different businesses around town. Jaime, who used to work at Pizza Joint, collaborated with the local company to introduce the Kicharizzo, a pizza with their chorizo as a topping. Tin Man, a bar located in Montecillo, has also reached out to the brothers and asked them to act as the bar’s kitchen. “Future plans would include us opening up a small processing plant, where we would process and distribute our chorizo into wholesale stores, like Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s,” Sergio said. “Also, introducing cured sausages and cured chorizo. Messing around with bacteria and what not.” The menu at Kicha Foods includes chorizo tacos, sandwiches and other items. The different chorizos they have include green chile, red chile, chipotle and soy chorizo, which is entirely vegetarian. Kicha Foods is located at 4935 N Mesa St. They are open Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to midnight and on Sunday from noon to 10 p.m.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus



SERGIO MUÑOZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Kicha Foods is open Wednesday through Sunday at 11:ME at Montecillo.

VINE TRACKS

‘Crack-Up’ changes direction for Fleet Foxes



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector

After a six-year hiatus, Seattle band Fleet Foxes is back with their third studio album “Crack-Up.” The band is

known for their classic indie folk sound and delicate, yet powerful harmonies in songs like “Helplessness Blues,” “White Winter Hymnal” and “Mykonos.” However, this album ditches their stereotypi-

cal joyous sound for a darker and gloomy one by questioning aspects of life with skepticism and hope at the same time. During their hiatus, the band’s original drummer, Josh Tillman, more commonly known as Father John Misty, left the band after their second album was released and went on to become a popular name in indie music. In contrast, lead singer Robin Pecknold used this time to go to Colombia University to get his degree and even co-wrote the score to an off-Broadway play. The album’s themes of love, loss, relationships and even politics show Pecknold might have used this time for some self-discovery and didn’t rush the artistic process. The first song of the album, “I Am All That I Need/Arroyo Seco/Thumbprint Scar,” incorporates three different melodies, revealing why there are three different phrases in the title. The six-minute song talks about how things aren’t what they’re really cut out to be. “And the thumbprint scar I let define you was a myth I made you measure up to, you’ve got all you need on me and now I see that it’s all corroding,” Pecknold sings. The song ends with “White Winter Hymnal” being sung acapella, reportedly by high school stu-

dents, similar to the version that acapella group Pentatonix released back in 2015. The concept of lying is also mentioned throughout the album. Pecknold emphasizes this in songs such as “Fool’s Errand,” where he sings “I knew you fine, slight dream of mine, but I know my eyes, they’ve often lied.” Lying is also at the center of “On Another Ocean (January/June),” where Pecknold sings, “wherever you run, you see all you leave behind you lies inside.” “Crack-Up” also takes note of the politically violent times in our country with “Cassius.” “Red and blue, the useless sirens scream,” Pecknold sings. The track also includes somewhat of an indie electronic sound different from anything Fleet Foxes has ever released. Pecknold uses a variety of allusions throughout the album, specifically in the song titled “Mearcstapa,” a word used in the 10th-century poem “Beowulf.” A mearcstapa or march-stepper is a creature that is between a man and monster, who stalks borderlands. “Third of May/Odaigahara” is about Pecknold’s relationship with bandmate Skyler Skjelset. “It addresses our distance in the years after touring, the feeling of having an unresolved, unrequited relation-

ship that is lingering psychologically,” Pecknold told Pitchfork in a recent interview. Pecknold breaks down the song referencing Francisco de Goya’s painting titled, “Third of May, 1808,” and how his bandmate’s birthday is also May 3. Pecknold posted a photo on his Instagram, with a list titled “Crack-Up inclinations.” He writes, “1. Show, don’t tell: mimetic > diegetic... 3. Avoid sing-songy, theatrical melodies... 4. Songs = exercises in the management of contrasts... 6. Sounds = materials, the world = materials... 7. Process oriented, not goal oriented... 8. Nostalgia = subtle nihilism... 9. Offer no false solutions.” He ends the list with 10. I’ll Know It When I See It. The singer-songwriter accomplishes these inclinations without a doubt in “Crack Up.” The album is unlike anything Fleet Foxes have released before. Heart-breaking and beautiful all at the same time. Its somber tone and thought-provoking lyrics won’t make you crack up and laugh, but it will make you appreciate life and all it has to offer: time.

✉ Brianna Chavez may be reached at theprospector@entertainment@gmail.com.

Old Kids trying to change perception of pop music



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Old Kids are looking to distinguish themselves from other bands through an intelligent and complicated pop sound.

BY ANDRES GALLEGOS

The Prospector

Local band Old Kids is well stocked with classically trained musicians whom appear to fear nothing since they expect nothing. Since their slow and sporadic beginning in 2013, to their first humble performance in 2015, Old Kids have remained loyal not only to their music, but to the creative process as well. They are in it for music’s sake and musical enlightenment.

Old Kids consists of Sofia Quesada on vocals, Michael Martinez on keyboard and vocals, Stephen Pugh on

bass and Joaquin Aragon on drums. Martinez and Quesada are both UTEP graduates with bachelor’s degrees in music, while Pugh studied sound engineering in Arizona, and Aragon is a coveted musician, who is also part of three other bands.

They categorize their music as pop; smart, coherent and well-arranged pop. “We’ve proven that pop music doesn’t have to be dumb,” Pugh said. “Pop music can be intelligent and complicated.”

To drift away from the common misconception of pop music as simple and often unpleasant, Old Kids centered their focus on creating clean and at-

tractive melodies. Martinez said that the sound the band was initially trying to emulate was that of The Beatles and Animal Collective.

It was their desire not to be like bands, whose main sounds focus on the tapping of the drums and the strumming of a guitar.

“We wanted a very vocal, a very melodic sounding band,” Martinez said. “Melody is very important to us.”

In the early stages of the band, Quesada was diagnosed with nodes on her vocal cords, which impeded her to even rehearse. This setback allowed the band to rehash the songs so that they would

fit Martinez’s voice. Fortunately, Quesada recovered and the process of relearning every song provided a most significant understanding of everyone’s roles.

“We’re all intimately aware of what everyone else’s role is,” Pugh said. “That is as important as knowing your role so that you can complement what they are contributing appropriately.”

This kinship that Old Kids have achieved can be attributed to the long period of time that passed between first introducing the idea of becoming a band and their first performance. However, that can also be blamed on their perfectionist attitude toward music.

Their first outing was at a house party they hosted for close friends and relatives, who they trusted for honest input.

With the blessing of their friends and family, Old Kids proceeded to perform at local venues such as The Pizza Joint and the Lowbrow Palace.

They’ve had their fair shares of successful and rough performances. One of them being the Battle of the Bands at the Lowbrow Palace, where they didn’t reach the final stage of the competition.

“We must accept that we aren’t everybody’s cup of tea, people don’t see us the way we see us and that’s okay,” Quesada said. “It was a really valuable lesson for us; A: to get over ourselves and B: to just be okay with playing what we love to play.”

Old Kids have had performances where they have attracted curious listeners and where members of the audience remember songs that they used to play in their early gigs.

The brevity of the loss at Battle of the Bands reflects the priorities of Old Kids. After all, not only are they experienced and well educated in music, but they are

also passionate about it. Music to them is a different plane of existence and the thing that turns time elastic.

Old Kids is a well-prepared bunch that is not in search of the cheap thrills that often come with being in a band. They are serious about their approach to music. Every rehearsal is a step that betters each song and brushes the melody.

We must accept that we aren’t everybody’s cup of tea, people don’t see us the way we see us, and that’s okay.

- Sofia Quesada
vocalist for
the Old Kids

As Pugh said, Old Kids is a throw-back to the idea of well-composed and intelligent music.

“We’re never going to be the most popular band and we’re not trying to be the most popular band. We’re trying to be the most musical band,” he said.

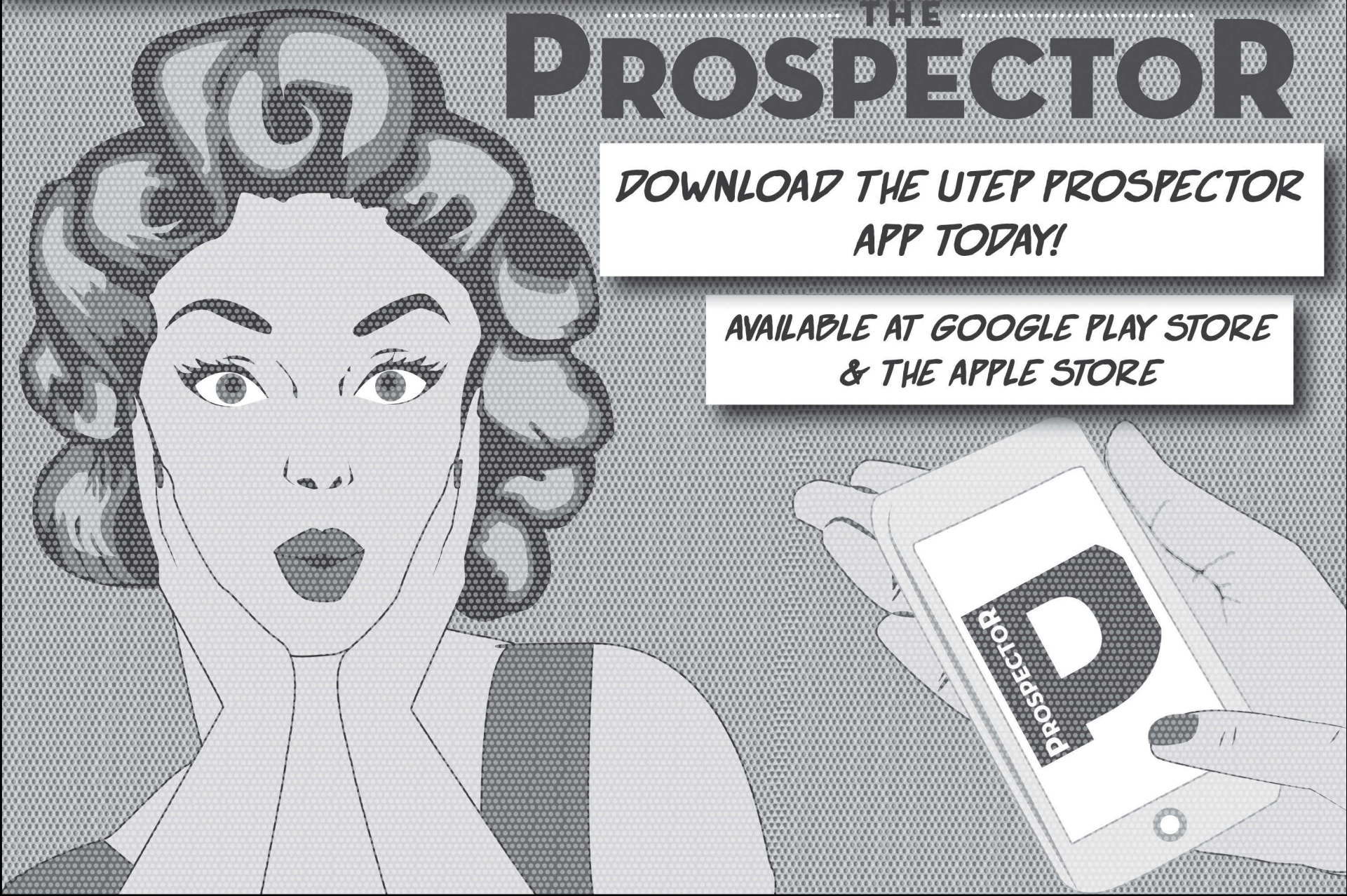
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JUNE 13, 2017

SPORTS

EDITOR
MIKE FLORES, 747-7477

Track and field closes out strong



COURTESY OF UTEP ATHLETICS

Sophomore Tobin Amusan wins her first NCAA title in 100-meter hurdles at NCAA Championships.

BY JEREMY CARRANCO
The Prospector

The 2017 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships took place from June 7-10 at Hayward Stadium in Eugene, Oregon. Two Miners brought home NCAA titles—freshman star Emmanuel Korir and sophomore sensation Tobin Amusan.

The last time multiple Miners won individual titles at the NCAA Championships in track and field was when Peter Lemashon (800-meter), Michael Musyoki (10,000-meter), Jennifer Smith (shot put), and Ria Stahlman (discus throw) did so in 1978.

Korir finished his freshman season on a high note by winning a second straight NCAA title on Friday, June 9, after winning the 800-meter run indoors earlier this year. Korir ran a 1:45.03 to claim another gold medal, this time in the outdoor competition.

“He (Korir) is such a talented runner, this may have been his last race for us,” said head coach Mika Laaksonen.

Given his success, Korir could possibly sign a professional contract if the opportunity presents itself.

Running alongside Korir in the 800-meter final was another freshman, Michael Saruni, who tripped and fell during his run, but still managed to finish the race with a time of 2:15.56.

“I don’t know how I tripped. I was in the lead, and then I found myself on the floor,” Saruni said.

Laaksonen felt bad for the freshman runner who was projected to finish second to Korir.

“It was very unfortunate that Michael went down in the 800-meter, it would’ve been a very exciting finish to see who would be the national champion had he not fallen,” Laaksonen said. “Emmanuel should feel very fortunate, Michael would have really challenged him at the end.”

On Wednesday, June 7, in the semifinals of the 800-meter, Korir and Saruni became the first freshmen duo in NCAA history to make the 800-meter final from the same school with each freshman winning their heats and placing in the top three overall. Korir and Saruni were also given All-American honors for their successful freshman campaign.

The 4x400-meter relay team that featured both Korir and Saruni, as well as Asa Guevara and James Bias, struggled in their run on Wednesday. Running just 90 minutes after Korir and Saruni completed the 800-meter semifinal run, the team placed last with a time of 3:18.56.

As a team, UTEP finished in a three-way tie for 23rd with Oklahoma and rival New Mexico with a score of 11. Florida took home the National Championship with a score of 61.5 and Texas A&M finished second with a score of 59.5.

On the women’s side, Amusan claimed revenge and won the 100-meter hurdles event on Saturday, June 10, after finishing as runner-up to Kentucky’s Jasmine Camacho-Quinn last season. Amusan, who clocked in with her time of 12:57, finished just .01 seconds in front of Quinn (12.58) and won her first NCAA title.

“I’m not lucky when it comes to photo-finish races, so I was pretty scared when I saw her (Quinn) right beside me. But I really worked for this,” Amusan said. “I know I’m way faster between the hurdles, but she (Quinn) is more of a power runner, so I know she uses the ground way better than me, so I had to get off the line faster than her.”

The Nigerian native broke the UTEP school record in the same event earlier this year at the UTEP Springtime event with a time of 12.63. Amusan’s time of 12.57 at the NCAA Championships broke that record and set a new personal best.

“I was way better than last year. Last year I was running a 12.7, and it felt like I was running the fastest race of my life. But now running at a 12.5 feels much easier. My training from last year to this year is way different, and I could see the results,” Amusan said.

Laaksonen reflected on Amusan’s title-winning event.

“Amusan is another special talent. She executed her race very well and all the hard work she put in this season paid off,” Laaksonen said. “This was her closest race yet and she stepped up to the challenge.”

In the semifinals of the 100-meter hurdles on Thursday, June 8, Amusan set the fastest qualifying time in the

whole event winning her heat with a time of 12.79. That beat the likes of Drior Hall from USC and Sasha Wallace from Oregon, who won the 2017 indoor title (60-meter hurdle).

“It’s a dream come true for me,” Amusan said. “I don’t know when yet, but national tryouts are coming up soon.”

Senior Samantha Hall wrapped up her UTEP career on Saturday at the 2017 NCAA Championships by finishing just one place shy of qualifying for the finals of the discus throw. Hall placed 10th with a throw of 54.66-meter (179-4). She is also a two-time Conference-USA champion in the discus throw and garnered All-American second team honors this season for her efforts.

Lucia Mokrasova closed out her junior season on Saturday with a 17th-place finish in the heptathlon with a total of 5,172 points. Mokrasova’s best of the seven-event heptathlon came in the shot put on Friday. The junior heaved the ball out to 13.36-m (43-10) to capture 751 points and place first.

Sophomores Lilian Koech (800-meter) and Winny Koech’s (10,000-meter) season came to an end on Thursday, placing 23rd overall in their events.

As a team, UTEP finished in a seven-way tie for 21st with Iowa State, San Francisco, Michigan, Miami (FL), Purdue and Arizona with a score of 10. Oregon won the National Championship with a score of 64 to become the first NCAA women’s program to win cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field national titles in the same school year. Georgia finished second with a score of 62.2.

UTEP closed out 2017 with two women’s conference titles (indoor and outdoor) and four All-American honorees (Korir, Saruni, Amusan, Hall). The 2017 Conference-USA Outdoor Championships title for the women was their first outdoor conference title in program history.

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @J_Carranco22

Best 5 moments for UTEP sports this spring



BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

5. UTEP men’s basketball midseason turnaround

The UTEP men’s basketball season consisted of many lows and highs. The Miners started off the year 2-13, including losses to Southeastern Louisiana, Northern Arizona and Maryland Eastern Shore. To top off the already shaky start, one of UTEP’s starting forwards Terry Winn and guard Adrian Moore called it quits, leaving head coach Tim Floyd with voids to fill in the middle of the season.

However, four games into conference play, the 0-3 Miners, shocked the league and many of their followers by going 12-3 in their final 15 games before the C-USA tournament started. Due to their late-season turnaround, UTEP snatched the fourth and final spot in the standings to receive a first-round bye in the playoffs—an achievement that seemed far-fetched at the beginning of January.

In that stretch, UTEP took out some of the top teams in the league such as Marshall, Middle Tennessee and Rice. UTEP was also victorious over Rice in the second round of the C-USA tournament. But unfortunately, the Miners’ turnaround was brought to an end by the MTSU team that went 17-1 in conference play and was a participant in the NCAA tournament.

4. Tobin Amusan and Emmanuel Korir: national champions

The last time UTEP had multiple individual NCAA champions in track and field was nearly 40 years ago in 1978. However, freshman standout Emmanuel Korir and sophomore sensation Tobin Amusan broke that drought in Oregon, at the 2017 NCAA Outdoor Championships.

Korir competed in the 800-meter final alongside teammate Michael Saruni. Coming into the event, Korir and Saruni were both favored to come out in the top two spots. Korir finished the race in 1:45.03 and took home gold in both outdoor and indoor 800-meter races.

Korir was named on the Bowerman Watch List three times in his freshman debut.

Amusan took on her challengers in the 100-meter hurdles. She finished in 12.57 to take the gold medal.

Last season, Amusan finished the same event as the runner-up, but improved in her second go around. Amusan’s time barely edged out a stacked field of competitors, as she beat Kentucky’s Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (12.58) and Texas’ Rushelle Burton (12.65).

3. Frederik Dreier wins consecutive C-USA Golfer of the Year Awards

Only one student-athlete in UTEP’s golf history has ever won back-to-back C-USA Golfer of Year awards—his name is Frederik Dreier.

In Dreier’s junior season, he led the conference with his career-best 71.8 stroke average, placed top-10 in five competitions, was UTEP’s top finisher in eight tournaments and eventually received what only three other

golfers in school history had done before—C-USA Golfer of the Year.

In Dreier’s senior outing, he produced seven top-10 finishes, was UTEP’s top finisher six times, helped lead the Miners in winning four tournament crowns, led UTEP to their second C-USA Championship in program history—a first since 1985—and was the conference’s top golfer at the end of year.

Dreier, who was named to C-USA First Team honors, was the only Miner to earn PING All-Region Division 1 honors and ranked as high as No. 4 in the Arnold Palmer Cup European Rankings.

Dreier is only the third player in the conference’s history to win back-to-back C-USA Golfer of Year awards.

2. Women’s outdoor track and field team picked up first C-USA title for UTEP

After six runner-up finishes from the Miners in the last six out of 11 Conference USA Outdoor Championships, which also included three consecutive second-place finishes from 2006-2008, the UTEP women’s track and field team finally overcame their hump and brought home the crown on May 14, 2017 for the first time in the school’s history.

The Miners scored an invitational high of 153 total points to cruise past the rest of the league. Middle Tennessee State came in second place, as they found themselves 27 points behind the Miners (126 points).

UTEP’s standout sophomore, Tobin Amusan, scored a team-high for the Miners (24.5 points) and set a C-USA meet record in the 100-meter hurdles, as she clocked in a time of 12.79—helping her win gold.

To top off their success, UTEP’s head coach Mika Laaksonen was named C-USA’s Coach of the Year.

1. Aaron Jones forgoing his senior season to pursue his dream of playing in the NFL

Former UTEP running back Aaron Jones decided to declare for the 2017 NFL Draft after he announced his decision to sit out for the season on December 31, 2016. Months later, Jones was selected in the fifth round of the NFL draft, 182nd pick overall, to the Green Bay Packers.

Jones’ time with the Miners rewrote the record books. He left the Miners as the all-time leading rusher in the program’s history (4,114 yards), broke a single-season rushing record for UTEP in his final season (1,773 yards rushing), ran for over 100 yards in 17 games (also a school record) and finished second in all-purpose yards with UTEP (4,760 yards).

Now, the El Paso-native is set to compete with Ty Montgomery and fellow rookie tailback Jamaal Williams for carries throughout the 2017-18 NFL season.

Jones was the first Miner to get his name called on draft night since the trio of former UTEP football players Oniel Cousins, Quintin Demps and Marcus Thomas got drafted in 2008.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal



Frederik Dreier reflects on illustrious career

GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Frederik Dreier: UTEP's only back-to-back Conference USA Golfer of the Year winner.

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

Since the UTEP men's golf program was first introduced to the school in 1983, not one student-athlete has ever been able to accomplish what Frederik Dreier has for the Miners in golf. He is the school's only back-to-back winner of the conference's most valuable award, the Conference USA Golfer of the Year.

Dreier finished off his junior and senior season with the Miners as the recipient of the prestigious award. As a two-time consecutive C-USA Golfer of the Year, Dreier is only the third player to ever do so in the entire league's history, joining elite company such as former U.S. Open winner in 2010, Graeme McDowell, who won consecutive C-USA Golfer of the Year awards in 2001 and 2002 with UAB.

Before Dreier made his way to El Paso, he was relatively new to the United States. He moved back and forth from Nykobing Falster, Denmark, where he was born, to Greenland, before he finally settled into the northern part of Copenhagen, which he has since called home since the age of 13.

Living in Denmark, Dreier almost went the route of pursuing soccer instead of golf.

It wasn't until his grandparents introduced him to the sport of golf that Dreier would later master the game. When Dreier turned 12 years old, his grandmother made holes in their garden for him to practice his golf stroke and she continued spending time with him on actual golf courses to help sharpen his game at a young age.

"We made holes in the garden, where I would hit plastic golf balls. I made a couple of hole-in-ones in the garden and I fell in love with the feeling," Dreier said. "It helped me chose golf over soccer when I was 15 years old. I still love the sport of soccer, but I don't regret my decision. I'm still a nerd about professional soccer, I know everything and everyone's names."

In his high school days, Dreier was selected into the Danish National Team in 2011, in which he is still a member as of today. He finished second-place at the Team Rudersdal Open, Mollea Open and Royal Tour III in 2011. Dreier also finished fourth in the Royal Tour Final and fifth in the Luxembourg International Amateur in 2011. The following year, Dreier picked up a fourth-place finish in both the Royal III and Danish Amateur.

Dreier's impressive resume and accomplishments had many colleges lined up for his talents. Some of the schools included Baylor, Lamar, Kennesaw State and Memphis—where he signed his letter of intent, but due to problems with his transcript conversions, Dreier had to sit out a full year.

Martin Simonsen, Drier's friend and former Miner golfer, heard about Dreier's problem and gave Dreier a word of advice—to get in contact with UTEP's head coach Scott Lieberwirth. That's exactly what the Denmark native did.

A week after getting to know each other, Lieberwirth offered Dreier a scholarship, and Division I golf was finally a reality for Dreier.

"I went to visit UTEP and that's when I decided to sign here. I loved the weather and the guys on the team seemed like really good people," Dreier said. "I've been away from home before college with golf schools and camps here and there, but I was still excited and ready for change."

In 2013, Dreier officially started suiting up for the Miners. Being nervous, anxious and not knowing what to expect, Dreier stepped foot on his first collegiate tournament—the Gene Miranda Invitational in Colorado Springs. After his first taste of college level golfers, Dreier could see that his future was bright after a second-place finish.

"When I finished second place, I knew I could play among the best golfers in the country. In fact, that first tournament was my mental breakthrough. I told myself, 'this is going to be tough, but I can do it if

I play like I know I can.' I knew my goals were achievable from that point on," Dreier said.

"I knew I could play among the best golfers in the world. In fact, that first tournament was my mental breakthrough."

- Frederik Dreier after his first collegiate tournament.

Dreier finished his freshman year being named to the C-USA All-Freshman team after he was UTEP's top finisher four times that year, placed top-10 in three events and recorded the team's second-best scoring average (74).

However, after his spectacular freshman season, Dreier hit a bump in the road during his sophomore outing. He only finished top-10 in one tournament and was the Miners' top finisher only twice.

"I think it was part of the growing up process, you know guys are going to make mistakes," Lieberwirth said.

By the time he hit his junior year, he saw that he could be special. He vowed to right his wrongs and achieve his every goal. Dreier responded with a career-best 71.8 stroke average, which led the conference, placed top-10 in five competitions, tallied eight top finishes for UTEP's team, finished sixth in the C-USA Championships, participated in the NCAA Regionals and eventually was named UTEP's fourth-ever C-USA Golfer of the Year.

As hard as it was to top his junior year, Dreier did just that throughout his last year in orange and blue. Dreier's career-year consisted of seven

top-10 finishes, UTEP's top finisher six times, helping the Miners win four tournament crowns and leading UTEP to their second-ever C-USA championship in program history—a first since 1985, along with being the most valuable golfer in C-USA again.

"My last two years were the peak of my golf career. This year was surreal, it was like it was written in a movie script," Dreier said.

Dreier's final tournament at UTEP ended when his team placed ninth in the NCAA Regionals at Sammamish, Washington. He shot seven-over 220 (76-68-76) to come in tied for 27th. His second round score of 68 was a team low.

"I was disappointed in my performance because I knew that was my last time playing for UTEP. I really wanted to do well in that last round, so I could walk out of my UTEP career on a high mark," Dreier said. "But that doesn't take away from all the good memories here (El Paso). One of my goals was to play with my teammates to regionals and we did it. I'm glad we all got to experience it."

After his senior year came to a close, Dreier gained C-USA First Team honors and became the only Miner to earn PING All-Region Division One honors. He was ranked as high as No. 4 on the Arnold Palmer Cup European Rankings.

"He (Dreier) had the best work ethic of any student-athlete I've ever coached in 14 years. He treated it like a pro would, and he was extremely dedicated and worked hard at everything," Lieberwirth said.

With his time at UTEP as a business major, Dreier not only excelled on the golf course, but in his classes as well. He was named the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll all four years at UTEP.

Dreier said he would sacrifice going out and having fun like most college kids do. During the week, Dreier had to juggle 6 a.m. workouts, school from 7:30 a.m. to noon, golf practice from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., yoga at 5 p.m., night classes on certain days and studying to finish off his night. His weekends

consisted of books and catching up with all his studies instead of being with friends.

"I tried to get ahead of my work, so I could be stress-free on the golf course. If you want to be a good golfer, you have to sacrifice some of the most fun things, and it's paid off for me," Dreier said.

After one more summer class, Dreier will be an official UTEP graduate.

The star golfer plans on taking his talents to a professional level back home in Denmark. Two tournaments he's been dreaming of competing in are the European Tour, which is equivalent to the PGA Tour in the U.S., or the Challenge Tour. Plan B for Dreier is the ECCO Tour.

"It's going to be tough, but I'm ready for the next level. I'm going to focus 110 percent on golf," Dreier said. "All my coaches and teammates here have helped me a lot on and off the golf course. The staff is amazing here. We all pushed each other to get better. And I'm going to miss all my friends I've made here. It's been a pleasure being able to play for UTEP."

Coach Lieberwirth will be losing one of the best players he has ever come across in his coaching career.

"He's highly successful in what he does and what he's going to do after college, everyone can see his elite talent. You're not going to find many athletes who care the way he did about his team," Lieberwirth said. "He wasn't only our best player, but our best leader, too. He had the respect of all of his teammates and other coaches. They saw how much he wanted to be the best. You could replace a good player, but it's hard to replace a good person and player like Dreier."

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