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The Prospector, November 7, 2017

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

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PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 103, NO. 11

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

KEVIN BAKER

EMBARKS ON A NEW JOURNEY WITH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Poised and respectfully, Kevin Baker told his team “last time” for their in-bound drill to cap off another practice.

Baker, who filled the spot of UTEP's highly acclaimed head coach Keitha Adams, is coming off a teaching-filled summer, a fine-tuning fall and now is embarking on new possibilities for the start of his inaugural season as head coach.

“Family on three. One, two, three...” family,” the team yells in unison after they finish practice. It's what they do after every practice.

How could eight returning players and four newcomers call themselves family after only knowing each other for less than six months?

Simple, says the team.

“We have great chemistry and that's most of what he's doing,” said sophomore guard Katarina Zec, who has adjusted well to the change from former head coach Adams to Baker.

“The way he talks to us and the way he appreciates us affects the way that we play as a team. We can't wait for Saturday's game.”

They have two exhibition games under their belt, topping the likes of Division II opponent Sul Ross State, 99-40, but falling short to St. Mary's, 68-62.

Now the countdown begins to the regular season, where Baker will begin his campaign as head coach when the Miners take on Cal State Bakersfield on Saturday, Nov. 11.

“Honestly it doesn't feel real right now because we're practicing and practicing, and the games aren't real games, they're scrimmages. So it doesn't feel that real to us. Plus, we're working really hard to build a team, so I think it won't be real until November 11th, when we run out there on the floor for the first time,” Baker said. “I think that'll be the moment when I'll feel this is happening, our team's ready to play.”

Backtracking to the start of his tenure, Baker was not pressed with

all the challenges that most teams have initially with a new coach.

Instead, he believed the team adapted well to the change and continues to impress him.

“It's been remarkably easy to put the kids together,” Baker said. “Before we got here, the eight returners were all really close, really tight. The four we brought here have been really good too. My job as a coach—this is probably been the easiest group as far as kids who all get along and

see BAKER on page 9

Your input is needed!

The Tuition and Fee Advisory Committee will be hosting a forum on proposed increases to tuition and fees for the next two years. No one ever wants to see an increase in what they currently pay, but understanding how tuition is an investment in their own future can make a huge difference.

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NOVEMBER 7, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7446

Wiggins’ out-of-bounds claims should be tossed in the trash

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospecter



It’s sad when a person tries to tarnish an organization that gives you an opportunity of a lifetime, an opportunity to be a role model and be able to make a living doing what you love.

Candice Wiggins, the former storied WNBA guard, is full of lies when she claimed that she was “bullied for being a straight woman in a league that was 98 percent gay.”

The first problem with that claim is that it is based on unfounded facts. In fact, there is no evidence or research that backs up what she said. Several players and coaches have disputed what she said and no other player has been vocal about a similar experience.

Back in March 2016, Wiggins announced her retirement from

the league. She was expected to play two more seasons with the New York Liberty but made an abrupt exit. At the time, she said that her body had been through too much and she could not handle it anymore. Eight surgeries in 15 years can definitely take a toll on anyone’s body. She also expressed that she didn’t love the sport anymore, so it was time for her to go. This seems like a usual reason that almost any player in a professional league says when they retire, but there’s more.

Here is where it gets complicated.

Earlier this year in an interview with the San Diego Union-Tribune, Wiggins said that the WNBA culture was “very, very harmful,” “toxic” and it took a toll on her mental state. She blamed the league for pressuring players to “play like a man.”

She claimed that other players tried to deliberately hurt her by pushing her down all the time, and there was a lot of jealousy and competition in the league. She also went as far as saying

that her feminine looks and playing skills created tension between her and other players.

“I was proud to be a woman and it didn’t fit well in that culture,” she said.

Now it seems like she’s giving the real reason she decided to retire and it is absolute trash. There are so many things wrong with all her claims. And, understandably, this ignited major backlash.

First of all, what makes her believe that she was the only woman in the WNBA that was proud of being a woman? She’s trying to bring sexuality and sexual orientation into a place where it has no business. To say that her feminine looks were a reason why she was bullied is also ignorant.

Wiggins is reinforcing the completely biased and unfair stereotypes for every player in the WNBA, including any other women or young girls who play sports in general. She’s saying that if you are not straight, then you can’t be proud to be a wom-

an. She’s saying that if you don’t look feminine, then you aren’t woman enough. She is discriminating against everyone in the league that doesn’t fit her own box of what a woman should be. Most of all, she is trying to diminish what those before her, the pioneers in WNBA—Lisa Leslie, Rebecca Lobo, Sheryl Swoops, Becky Hammon and Candace Parker—have done for the league.

For the last 20 years, the WNBA has allowed many young women playing basketball to achieve a life-long dream in an industry that is tough for anyone to get into. They gave her the chance to inspire others like her to keep working toward their dream of becoming a professional basketball player. Yet, she’s being somewhat of a dream-killer, giving the WNBA a bad image to those who aspire to follow in her footsteps.

One of the reasons, Wiggins said she stayed was because she felt she owed it to her fans. What a hypocrite. All her claims

are doing more harm than good. And it doesn’t stop there.

Wiggins is now trying to become a pro beach volleyball player and hopes to one day play in the Olympics. The reason she said, “it’s a celebration of women and the female body as feminine, but strong and athletic.”

Again, she’s discriminating against every single female athlete, young and old, who doesn’t fit her idea of what woman is.

Wiggins is being the bully.

No one should believe what she says. I hope no one buys into her false claims. As cliché as it sounds, women are exceptional human beings, that come in all sizes, shapes and colors. And in this current state, it’s important to remind young women, especially those pursuing their dreams, that they are capable and to continue to build each other up, instead of tearing each other down.

Follow Elenie Gonzalez on Twitter @eleniegonz

Mass shooting results in another cry for national policy

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospecter



In 2008, my unit was preparing to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Saddam Hussein had been captured five years earlier and the U.S. mission had become vague and the enemy even more so.

We were warned prior to leaving home that almost every civilian in the “fertile crescent” of farmland, where we would be housed for the next year, carried a weapon, which was usually a fully automatic AK-47. Indeed, it wasn’t long before we saw exactly what the intel guys were talking about.

The friendly farmers outside the fence, weapons slung over their shoulders, would wave every time our Blackhawks or Chinooks would fly in and out. The intelligence guys were right to warn us. They were also right to tell us that we were not in any danger from these farmers. Decades of war and occupation from outsiders had made everyone in Iraq a little wary.

Where the Intel guys missed

the mark slightly was when we came out of the briefing believing that every civilian had a gun. In actuality, a survey taken in 2007 showed that 35 out of 100 Iraqis actually owned a gun. A nation at war only had 35 guns for every 100 people—let that sink in.

Meanwhile, the United States had 88.8 guns for every 100 people in the same 2007 survey.

Following the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, which killed 20 children, National Rifle Association Executive Vice-President Wayne LaPierre said, “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.”

The population of Iraq in 2008 was reportedly 29,000,000. This means that there were about 10,150,000 guns owned by mostly “good guys.” During the year that I was there, the U.S. lost 314 military members in total.

During the same year, the U.S. population was 304.1 million, with about 267,608,000 guns in the hands of what the NRA would like to think, are “good guys.”

In 2008, 31 people were killed in mass shootings in the U.S., and none were stopped by the “good guys.”

I know what you’re probably thinking as you read that last

sentence. “Wow, only 31 people?” That’s what it has come to these days. “Only 31 people,” especially spread out over five or six different shootings. That’s really not so bad.

Until you realize that our minds have become warped from the NRA constantly telling us that there is nothing that can be done. The politicians telling us that “thoughts and prayers” are all that can be given to help prevent anything in the future. I mean, come on, that’s 31 human lives—someone’s parent, someone’s husband or wife, someone’s 7-year-old son or daughter.

We’re not talking about the 314 military members who voluntarily gave their lives in service to their country. We’re talking about college students in class. We’re talking about a family opening Christmas presents. We’re talking about joggers running on a New York City bike path.

That was not a 64-year-old white man named Stephen who committed the largest mass murder in U.S. history only a month ago. That was not a 26-year-old white man named Devin who opened fire on a church service this past Sunday, killing the fourth-largest number of people in modern U.S. history.

No, what Sayfullo Saipov did

in New York last week, killing eight pedestrians and bicyclists with a rented truck in what was quickly labeled “an act of terror,” would not even rank him in the top 10 in mass shootings had he used a gun.

But, how quickly did President Donald Trump head to Twitter to threaten to end the green card lottery that brought him here? About as quick as he went to Twitter to send his “warmest condolences” to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting, whatever the hell that means. The same speed at which he told the Japanese media late Sunday evening that America has a mental health problem, not a gun problem.

Of course, there were no bills or executive actions made following the shooting that would change anything.

Following the most recent shooting Sunday night here in Texas, Trump once again sent condolences along with Governor Greg Abbott. Neither acknowledged the fact that the shooting was reportedly done, yet again, with an automatic or semi-automatic weapon like the ones used in the Las Vegas shooting.

Abbott was reminded, however, by many Twitter users of his recent tweet berating Texans for

falling to second in gun purchases behind California.

I’ve written before about the continued thoughts and prayers that politicians send to the victims of these mass shootings and the emptiness that they hold when nothing is being done at the executive level. As the time between shootings lessens, the hypocrisy shows even more from the Washington and Texas state show ponies.

Nothing will happen until we, as a people, demand to stop being targets and decide to live in a country that is actually safer than Iraq at the height of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There is no need to live in a warzone, where the NRA funds corrupt leaders, keeping us as bullet sponges for any mad man who so chooses.

In Iraq, it took overthrowing a criminal despot, who was corrupt and fueled by greed, in order to help the people feel safe. I saw it firsthand.

In America, we have ways of getting rid of our leaders through democratic means. If the system isn’t working, it’s time for a change.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

THE PROSPECTOR

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Making Movies uses music to voice political reason



PHOTO COURTESY MAKING MOVIES
Multicultural rock band Making Movies uses their musical platform to advocate for the importance of the DACA program.

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ
The Prospector

In early September, U.S. President Donald Trump decided to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program with a six-month notice, a program that protected 800,000 immigrants from deportation.

In order to apply for DACA, immigrants had to have come to the U.S. before turning 16, lived in the country since June 15, 2007, and needed to be younger than 31 on June 15, 2012.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, 1.9 million immigrants were eligible to receive protection against deportation and receive a lawful work permit, among other benefits as of 2016.

To Enrique Chi, the front man of avant-garde and multicultural rock band Making Movies, the idea of protecting these immigrants, who came to the United States as children, is a commonly agreed upon ideal.

“If you are a DACA recipient, you are an ideal that most people would agree with. If you are a child, you should have an opportunity to have an education, to work, to try and better yourself—most people would agree with this,” Chi said.

Making Movies is currently on their “Immigrants Are Beautiful” tour to promote its latest LP, “I Am Another You,” and is donating a portion of the record’s sales to the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) as part of its support to those affected by the abolition of the DACA program.

“Immigrants Are Beautiful” will stop in El Paso on Nov. 10 at the Low-brow Palace.

“The conversation about children seems like a black-and-white simple thing to talk about. They don’t have a choice in the situation and they’re here, so we decided that with all this negative rhetoric against immigrants... giving anybody who’s part of the DACA program a free ticket to our show,” Chi said. “We are also reaching out to organizations and inviting them to the show to continue to educate people and connect people to resources that might be able to help them as they encounter these issues. We are not lawmakers, but we can

let people know that these resources do exist and that there are people on their side.”

Chi’s sense of social responsibility stems from his multicultural upbringing and his fascination for the lyrical component of music.

“I take inspiration from Ruben Blades, a salsa artist who was very socially conscious and now is actually involved in politics in Panama, and he wrote about the streets and I really resonate with him. I also listen to The Clash and they are talking about Jamaican immigrants in

the UK afraid of being gunned down by police officers. And then I go and listen to Kendrick Lamar and hear about his experience with the LA police as a black man,” he said.

This multicultural perspective has inspired the message in the band’s creative process, especially in “I Am Another You,” which tells this story of three people from different parts of the world, who each face a crisis and go through a rough stretch.

Although one of them is from Venezuela, one is from Mexico and one from the Midwest in the United States, the dynamics and the way their suffering is related reveal that they are the same person.

The concept embraces the Mayan phrase, “in lak’ech ala k’in,” which translates to “I am another you, and you are another me,” as the band wrote on a pledgemusic.com post last year.

“This happens to immigrant people. It happens to anyone who travels or has left their home to live somewhere else, but you realize that the people who are in your environment, they have their own concerns, stresses, social issues,” Chi said. “Although they might be completely different, it has nothing to do with what is another person in another part of the world’s concerns, but the feeling human beings have, the desire to succeed or to overcome the heartache and the loss, those are all so similar no matter how extraneous the circumstances are, they ain’t different.”

The electoral process of 2016 was also a turning point for the band. Although they had already finished recording their latest full-length project, they did see a change in their approach to using their platform as influencers.

“After making the album, Donald becomes president and he starts spewing out fear-mongering stuff. He is still doing it to this day. We have this person who has enormous power and is just spewing uneducated nonsense about human beings, and we couldn’t stay silent,” Chi said. “That (the message of the record) evolved into now that we put this in music how do we take this and say ‘look, we will not stand for the kind of decisions being made at the White House. We will not stand for hate speech to be spoken—not on our watch.’”

As part of their more politically focused approach, the band is planning on delivering a new EP of protest songs titled “You Are Another Me” on Dec. 1.

The EP focuses on covering songs that align with distinct political messages and will feature a new track every month over the span of a year. Two of the announced tracks have been Manu Chao’s “Clandestino” and Los Tigres Del Norte’s “De Paisano a Paisano,” both of which focus on the lives of immigrant workers.

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Program gives first-time marijuana offenders a chance



First time offenders caught with marijuana will be allowed to complete community service hours instead of the charge being added to their record.

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector

A new program will allow first-time offenders, who are caught in El Paso with marijuana, to choose between getting arrested or completing community service hours. First Chance, the program presented by District Attorney Jaime Esparza, which was approved by El Paso County Commissioners on Monday, Oct. 30, is expected to start within the next couple weeks.

Claudia Duran, the project administrator for the El Paso County District Attorney's Office, said people who are caught for marijuana possession in addition to another charge will not qualify for First Chance. "First Chance is a program for first-time offenders of possession of marijuana—four ounces and under misdemeanor possessions," she said. "The program came about because the District Attorney's office did a study and found that approxi-

mately 2,600 possessions of marijuana are under two ounces. And out of those, 700 were first-time offenders who had no convictions on their record." After reviewing the study, Esparza thought the program would help first-time offenders avoid an arrest and a possible costly judicial process if they are caught with marijuana. "The better alternative was that we offer this program to these first-time offenders and hope that going through this program would basically teach them a lesson. 'Don't do this again.' You get one chance and that's it," she said. According to the study, the majority of those arrested were 25 years of age and younger. This makes it difficult for people looking for jobs, according to Duran. "When you get arrested it stays on your record forever," she said. "We're hoping that not having that one arrest for marijuana possession on their background will help them get great jobs, get school loans. I hope this a lesson they can take and learn from." If there is probable cause for stopping a person for possession of marijuana, a law enforcement officer will detain the offender for a couple of minutes while they make a phone call to the district attorney's 24-hour program, DIMS. "Our office will then determine whether that person qualifies or not," Duran said. The El Paso Police Department and the El Paso Sheriff's Department will be the ones offering the program to the offenders, who will have the

chance of choosing between the program or getting arrested. If the offender chooses the program, they will have five business days to report to the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department. If the offender fails to show up to CJC, they will be arrested and charged with marijuana possession. "They will have to complete eight hours of community service and pay a \$100-dollar fee within 60 days," Duran said. During a February 2016 debate, Esparza said marijuana was a "gateway drug" and that marijuana crimes should be prosecuted. "I don't think it's a big change at all, I don't think we're letting these offenders go at all," Duran said. "All we're saying is that they get one chance without being arrested and if you don't comply with the terms, you're gonna get arrested." Colt DeMorris, executive director for El Paso NORML chapter, an organization dedicated to achieving the legalization of non-medical marijuana in the U.S., said this is a program that will help a lot of people in the city. "It's a small step in the right direction. It will benefit people who have never offended before, it will benefit a lot of students that are receiving financial aid," DeMorris said. He said these kinds of programs should expand more and cover people who have chronic diseases. "Another step that we can take is expanding this program to include patients with cancer or multiple types of sclerosis, people who can show why they need it," DeMorris

said. "I would also like to see the stop going after and stop arresting people with minor possessions. Yeah, they take their weed, but don't put them in jail." The Prospector contacted UTEP Police Chief Cliff Walsh for a statement on the program and asked if First Chance would be offered to students by UTEP officers, but did not receive a clear response. "All university procedures adhere to local, state and federal laws. We cannot speculate on the outcome of policies that are not yet in place, but we look forward to learning the outcome of this discussion so we can better assess its impact on our campus community," Walsh said in an email. According to the UT System and UTEP Policy, "any student who is guilty of the illegal use, possession and or sale of a drug or narcotic, including any amount of marijuana, on the campus is subject to University discipline in addition to possible criminal prosecution by civil authorities." If a student is found guilty, the minimum disciplinary penalty is the suspension from enrollment or attendance for a specified period of time and or the suspension of rights and privileges for a specified period of time.

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"I am a man with Down syndrome and my life is worth living," Stephens said at the hearing.

Stephens' testimony was also aimed at those who say that research into Down syndrome is unnecessary because of prenatal screens, which detect the disorder and allows the parents to abort if they choose.

"Let's be clear, I completely understand that the people pushing that particular 'final solution' are saying that people like me should not exist. They are saying that we have too little value to exist."

Kerry McKee, the executive director of Every Little Blessing Preschool, which is a preschool for children with Down Syndrome and children of similar needs, helps individuals participate as they enter elementary schools. The preschool is also a part of the Down Syndrome Coalition alongside the El Paso Community Foundation.

“The only research that I’m opposed to is the research that is intended to eliminate individuals with Down syndrome, if it’s research to identify Down syndrome earlier so that people have a better opportunity to terminate, I have a hard time with that. Not because I’m judgmental about termination, but because I think making a judgment call on what makes a quality of life is tough, I think it’s a slippery slope,” McKee said.

Stephens called people who have Down syndrome a "canary in the eugenics coalmine."

"I try very hard not to judge but the reality is, who are you or I to judge what is a quality of life? Would this same person decide that they want a boy and not a girl, so at what point do we get to say what makes our perfect child?" McKee said.

Testimonies in the hearing also highlighted the disparity in funding for Down syndrome research compared to other developmental disorders.

- Kerry McKee,
executive director of
Every Little Blessing Preschool

"Despite being the leading cause of developmental delay in the U.S. and the world, Down syndrome is one of the least funded genetic conditions by the NIH," said Michelle Sie Whitten, president of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, during her testimony.

In 2016, out of the \$32 billion budget the National Institutes of Health receives, only \$28 million was allocated to research Down syndrome. Compared to autism research at \$243 million and \$97 million in research for multiple sclerosis.

“We are helping to defeat cancer and Alzheimer’s and we make the world a happier, kinder place. Is there really no place for us in this society? Is there really no place for us in the NIH budget?” Stephens questioned at the hearing.

The actual statistics on the number of individuals with Down syndrome in El Paso is hard to come by, according to McKee.

"I can tell you that El Paso County has the highest birth rate for Down syndrome in the state of Texas," McKee said, and continued to say that there is speculation, but no solid reasons for the high birth rate.

Today, there is an estimated 300,000 people who have Down syndrome and 6,000 are born with the condition each year. With the expected lifespan rising from 28 years to 60 years since the 1980s, the population is expected to grow significantly.

"When my daughter was a baby and I started reading a little bit about Down syndrome...one of the things that I read was that there's a shortened life expectancy, and that was very difficult as a parent to process, because as parents you're not supposed to imagine outliving your child," McKee said.

McKee said that in the 1980s there were some doctors who refused to treat children with Down syndrome with lifesaving treatment. Heart conditions such as congenital heart disease is common, and it was not until recently

that children with Down syndrome were treated.

“These conditions tended to mean that they didn’t have the opportunity to live as long. We are now treating those conditions, so they are living longer. So with that comes the other end of the spectrum where we are starting to deal with the health issues at the advanced ages,” McKee said.

People with Down syndrome also have a high likelihood of developing Alzheimer's. By 60 years old, almost 90 percent will have the disease, and they also are 500 times more likely to have a form of leukemia. Yet, it is rare for someone with Down syndrome to suffer from solid tumor cancers, such as breast or prostate cancer, or have heart attacks.

“We are planning not just to support our daughter for our life but for her life. Would that mean living with us,

would that mean a home somewhere, what would her level of independence be? You never know with any child, but with kids with special needs there is another level to that question," McKee said.

According to Whitten, half the U.S. population will die because of one of these diseases, which, advocates say, is why the genetic makeup of people with Down syndrome is such an interesting and potentially helpful field of research.

Take Alzheimer's for instance—almost six million people have the disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. The cost of care for the disease is more than \$250 billion annually, and as the population both increases and ages, the cost of care will exceed one trillion dollars by 2050.

“Individuals with Down syndrome, if you look at their brains after they

pass away, they all pretty much have the same lesions on the brain of someone with Alzheimer's," McKee said.

By researching the genetic makeup of individuals with Down syndrome, scientists have discovered a copy of a gene that leads to Alzheimer's in those with Down's, and treatment is currently being tested. William Mobley, executive director of UC San Diego's Down Syndrome Center for Research and Treatment, believes that clinical trials are in the near future.

“For individuals with Down syndrome, short-term memory can be an issue and that might be related to the link to Alzheimer’s, so that may hinder their ability to learn. It could be significant for the individuals with Down syndrome, but it could also be significant to the population as a whole,” McKee said.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who is the best basketball player of all time?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, SERGIO MUNOZ / THE PROSPECTOR



AVERY OLIVER
Junior communication major
"I believe Michael Jordan. I guess since he is not only a very successful basketball player, but also he is a black man who is a role model for me."



ANDREW MORALES
Freshman marketing major
"Kobe Bryant because he had determination, something that we saw every time his team was losing."



AUBREY OLIVER
Junior psychology major
"I think Michael Jordan is. I guess because he is notable and has given to the black community some good figures to look to."



KEVIN RUIZ
Junior industrial engineering major
"Russell Westbrook because he won M.V.P. last year."



CECILIA GUTIERREZ
Freshman nursing major
"I don't watch basketball and I don't know any basketball players."



EZRA MITSAK
Freshman mathematics major
"Michael Jordan is definitely my favorite basketball player because you just got to be like Mike."



JORGE CAMARGO
Junior multimedia journalism major
"Larry Bird, because he meant a lot for the Celtics, which is my favorite team."



CAMILA HERNANDEZ
Sophomore theatre arts major
"Michael Jordan, because he was in 'Space Jam.'"



LUIS JAVIER GUTIERREZ
Freshman mechanical engineering major
"I am big Boston Celtics fan and I hate Kobe, but I had to accept he was the GOAT."



PRISCILA RODRIGUEZ
Sophomore nursing major
"I'm not a basketball fan but I think Kobe Bryant, since he is still progressing with his career although he is not in the league anymore."

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INBRIEF

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS: ‘WONDER WOMAN’

The series of films at the Union Cinema continues Friday, Nov. 10, with the critically acclaimed “Wonder Woman.” From director Patty Jenkins, the first adaptation of the popular comic book character starring Israeli actress Gal Gadot managed to win three Teen Choice Awards for Choice Action Movie, Choice Action Movie Actor (Chris Pine) and Choice Action Movie Actress (Gal Gadot). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and admission for students is \$2 and \$3 for general admission.

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Lil Peep brings emo trap to Tricky Falls



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ
The Prospector

Rapper and songwriter Lil Peep is bringing his emblematic emo-infused trap sound to Tricky Falls as part of the “Come Over When You’re Sober” on Nov. 14.

Deemed the “future of emo” by popular music website Pitchfork, Long Island native, Gustav Åhr, is coming off the successful release of his first LP, “Come Over When You’re Sober (Part I).” While critics found the project polarizing, it is hard to argue with Peep’s success on music streaming services. Aside from his strong presence in the SoundCloud rap scene, all of the tracks from the album have over a million plays on Spotify.

Peep’s collective the Goth Boi Clique will be present, and London

rapper Bexey will open for Peep. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Here is what we thought of “Come Over When You’re Sober (Part I)” when it released:

While Peep successfully crafted an unorthodox and inventive blend of trap-infused emo with this album, the sound quickly grows stale thanks to uninspiring vocal performances and painfully dull lyrics.

At first listen, the somber lo-fi guitars and the trap beat’s 808 snares and boosted bass all seem to coexist smoothly, creating a sound that improves on what other “emo rappers” have done. For example, the opening track “Benz Truck (Гелик)” features a fast paced beat that plays to the strengths of the simplistic guitar arrangement.

However, the sonic passages in this album feel limited and repetitive because of how little producer Smokeasac does to keep the sound fresh throughout the project. It doesn’t help that Peep mumbles and moans his way from one shallow verse to the next.

Tonally, Peep manages to hit many of the tropes that fans of emo music have come to expect from the genre. However, that is not necessarily a positive. The tiresome and unhealthy over-romanticizing and over-fetishizing of depressive mental states and emotional instabil-

ity seem to plague “Come Over When You’re Sober Pt. 1.”

The overly repetitive references to longing for death and suffering, heartbreak, and allusions to the devil lessen the impact and seriousness of Peep’s already muddled message on this record.

The track “U Said” is particularly guilty of one-dimensional songwriting with verses such as: “I wish I didn’t have a heart to love you/I wish I didn’t play a part to break you/I wish I didn’t do a lot of the shit I do,” and “Sometimes life gets fucked up/that’s why we get fucked up.”

In context, this project should be welcomed by fans of emo music despite its jarring shortcomings due to its attempt at revitalizing a genre that has needed a new face for a few years now.

“Come Over When You’re Sober Pt.1” could find an audience in what appears to be a scene that holds on to the younger generation’s nostalgia. A younger generation that might develop an appreciation for the heavily trap-influenced contemporary hip-hop scene.

While Lil Peep might not quite be the mix between Dashboard Confessional and Lil Uzi Vert that some music journalists anticipated, the production found in his debut LP could be seen as a viable blueprint for other rappers to foray into “emo trap.”

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez

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SPORTS

EDITOR
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Men’s basketball aims for better start in 2017-18



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The Miners face Louisiana College in their 2017-18 season opener this Friday night.

BY JEREMY CARRANCO

The Prospector

The UTEP men’s basketball team will look to put last season’s start in the rear-view mirror and start the upcoming season stronger with their first shot coming against Louisiana College this Friday night at the Don Haskins Center.

UTEP opened up the 2016-17 campaign with a 2-13 record before finishing up with a 13-4 tear that saw the team come up one game short of the Conference-USA tournament championship game.

Although the team was able to turn it around, the poor start hurt any chances of the Miners making it to a postseason tournament.

The Miners’ season earlier this year ended against eventual two-time champion Middle Tennessee, 82-56, on March 10 in Birmingham, Alabama. The season for UTEP turned around at the start of conference play, which helped the Miners tie for third place in C-USA and secure the No. 4 seed in the C-USA tournament.

The turnaround was even more surprising, considering the Miners losses to the likes of Southeastern Louisiana, Northern Arizona and Mary-

land-Eastern Shore in the months of November and December.

Head coach Tim Floyd is entering his eighth season at the helm of the UTEP men’s basketball program. It has been quite the journey for the 63 year old, who started his coaching career in El Paso as an assistant under legendary head coach Don Haskins from 1977-86.

As a head coach, overall, Floyd sits with a NCAA career record of 444-248. Since taking over at UTEP in 2010, Floyd has posted a 135-81 (75-41 in C-USA) mark with two NIT appearances as head coach.

Despite the 62.5 winning percentage, Floyd has faced scrutiny during his seven-year tenure with the Miners. Since Floyd took over, 31 players have left the program due to going pro, transferring schools, facing gambling issues and/or other personal reasons.

The men’s basketball program has not made the tournament since the final season of the Tony Barbee era (2009-10), which was also the last time the Miners were ranked in the polls with a final record of 26-7 overall and 15-1 C-USA mark. Barbee departed for Auburn after the season and Floyd was then hired later that summer.

UTEP will be led this season by three seniors; guard and preseason C-USA

team member Omega Harris, center Matt Wilms and guard Jake Flaggert.

Harris was named to the preseason team for his efforts as a junior last season, which include a team-leading 17 points per game and 29 double-figure finishes. Wilms averaged 11.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game last season as a junior, with an average shooting percentage of 59.1 percent, a Conference USA best in 2016-17. Flaggert led Conference USA in charges drawn for the second-straight year with 33, giving him a total of 57 in his career.

Graduate student transfer Keith Frazier will be a big boost for the Miners this year, thanks to the experience he brings in. The guard was announced to the Miners roster back on Sept. 12, after spending the previous four seasons at SMU and North Texas.

At SMU, Frazier played in the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons during a period where the Mustangs posted 79 victories and played in the 2015 NCAA Tournament. Frazier scored a total 493 points (7.8 per game) with 178 rebounds (2.8 per game). At North Texas, the guard averaged eight points and 3.5 rebounds in just four games played with the Mean Green in 2016-17.

Youth will be a big part of this UTEP team to go along with their four veterans.

Aside from their three juniors—guard Trey Touchett, forward Paul Thomas and EPCC transfer Isaiah Rhyanes and sophomore guard Isiah Osborne—the rest of the UTEP team consists of five incoming freshmen. Four of the five freshmen are guards—Trey Wade, Evan Gilyard, Kobe Magee and Deshaun Highler. The fifth freshman is forward Tirus Smith.

Balancing experience and talent will be the Miners’ driving force to success in 2017-18.

The recent loss of freshman forward Joey St. Pierre and sophomore center Kelvin Jones will hurt the Miners’ depth in the post and near the rim. Kelvin was a big part of the Miners last season, playing a significant number of minutes and was the expected backup to the 7-foot1 center Wilms.

vates us really hard and pushes us really hard each day. He’s willing to correct our mistakes and correct every detail.”

To others, he’s becoming a strong mentor both on and off the court.

“It’s been great even when we have some different programs, we go to his house and they call it ‘club Baker,’” Seda said. “We have fun, we do some fun games. Even last week we did a scavenger hunt, it’s been great.”

And to Baker, he is trying to be the positive successor to Adams, who is the program’s all-time leading coach.

“They loved Keitha Adams for a reason,” he said. “She was not only a coach here on the court, but also in the community. So there was a reason people loved her. I think the best thing I can do for the community is just be me. I’m kind of the same way, I’m really good in the community. I think the more the people of El Paso get to know me, the better off we’ll all be and I love it here. This is home for me now and I want it to be home for me.”

The family mentality seems to continue on beyond the court for most of the team, which is some-

The 2017-18 season for UTEP will be highlighted early with the Puerto Rico Tip-Off, which was moved to the campus of Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC, after the impact of Hurricane Maria on the region in late September. The Miners join Appalachian State, Boise State, Illinois State, Iowa State, South Carolina, Tulsa and Western Michigan, with games scheduled for Nov. 16, 17 and 19 at the HTC Center.

UTEP will face-off first against Boise State on Nov. 16, with two more games following on Nov. 17 and Nov. 19.

The Miners will also meet Battle of I-10 rival New Mexico State twice in six days, with game number one taking place on Nov. 25 at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, and game two will take place on Nov. 30 at the Don Haskins Center. The Aggies have won five-straight dating back to the 2014-15 campaign.

The team will play back-to-back rivalry games in the Haskins Center against NM State (Nov. 30) and New Mexico (Dec. 2), prior to completing a four-game series with the Washington State Cougars out of the Pac-12 Conference on Dec. 9.

New Mexico will be making its first appearance in the Don Haskins Center since January 2, 2008. Last season the Lobos survived a furious UTEP comeback after leading 27-6 early in the first half. The Miners nailed 15 3-pointers in the 78-77 loss.

After a 10-day break for finals, UTEP will host Incarnate Word (Dec. 19) prior to battling Howard (Dec. 21) in the first round of the 56th-annual WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational. The Miners will meet the winner between North Carolina-Wilmington (29 wins/NCAA Tournament in ‘16-17) and North Dakota State (19 wins in ‘16-17) in day two of the tourney on Dec. 22.

The Miners will be home for the entire month of December for the first time since 2012, and only the second time since 2005.

The 18-game Conference USA schedule tips off at home versus North Texas on Dec. 28, the earliest date of a league opener since 2001. It marks only the sec-

ond time in the modern era (since 1965) that the Miners will launch conference play prior to the new year.

The Miners will face all three C-USA Texas schools – North Texas, Rice and UTSA – twice each for only the second time in four years. The Miners will also play LA Tech and Southern Miss twice. Single games are scheduled versus Charlotte (away), FIU (home), Florida Atlantic (home), Marshall (home), Middle Tennessee (away), Old Dominion (away), UAB (away) and WKU (home).

UTEP will have a three-game C-USA road swing from Jan. 20-27 (at UTSA, at UAB, at Middle Tennessee), followed by a three-game homestand Feb. 1-10 (WKU, Marshall, UTSA). The Miners will start and end their league slate against North Texas and Rice. The Mean Green and the Owls will serve as UTEP’s first two league opponents for the third time in four years.

The Conference USA Championship is slated for March 7-10 at The Star in Frisco, Texas.

NAIA team Louisiana College is first up for the Miners this Saturday. UTEP opened up last season against the Wildcats with an 88-54 victory for one of just two wins in their first 15. Harris scored 24 points with four 3-pointers in the win.

“I think every coach this time of the year will tell you ‘no we’re not ready,’ but I feel a whole lot better about it (starting the season) this week than last week,” said Floyd after his team’s exhibition win against Western New Mexico. “We are going to keep working and striving to improve our offense and we expect them (Louisiana College) to play well.”

The Miners won both of their preseason exhibition games, but outscored Western New Mexico this past Friday by 48 points as opposed to the close 78-70 win against Sul Ross State a week prior on Oct. 28.

Louisiana College will be led by their lone Senior Torrian Lee, a guard transfer from Itawamba Community College (Fulton, MS) and a Junior guard transfer Lejawon LeBlanc from McNeese State.

Tip-off against the Wildcats is set for 7 p.m.

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @JACarranco_.

BAKER from page 1

have great chemistry—that’s make my job really easy.”

As a four-year senior, even center Tamara Seda has seen a swift transition from coaches.

Unlike Adams, Baker focuses on detail-oriented drills and runs a fast-paced offense that likes to push the ball inside.

“What better way to do it than your last year?” Seda said. “I just have to make sure I don’t stay behind.”

An interesting resume builder about Baker is that throughout his 15 years of coaching Division 2 schools and high school basketball, he’s only had one losing season.

He started his career at Commerce High School in 1997 and then coached at Palestine High School (1998-2000), Nacogdoches High School (2000-03) and Copperas Cove High School (2003-06).

During his high school coaching career, he put together a 222-101 all-time record. He has had district championships, bi-district titles and regional wins throughout his time.

His Division 2 time was also successful, leading Angelo State and UT Tyler to the Sweet 16 of the

NCAA Tournament, something that both respective programs had never done.

With UT Tyler, Baker won back-to-back American Southwest Conference titles in 2014 and 2015 and was named ASC Coach of the Year all three years he was there.

At Angelo State, he led his team to be ranked as high as second in the nation and had four Conference Coach of the Year awards.

“I used to tell people when I started this profession that I wanted to win the biggest game on the highest stage one day. Even back then I was naïve and I didn’t know what it would take to get there,” he said. “It’s just that every job I took, whether it was a 3A school, 4A, 5A, Division 2 coach, I was going to do the best I could there and if other opportunities came open for me, I would jump there if I could. But every job I get, I roll up my sleeves and it becomes the job, I’m gonna make it the best situation I can.”

Throughout his time, he changed his coaching philosophy from being like a “general,” as he calls it, to a “teacher.”

“I think he’s doing great with us, trying to find what each player is good at,” Zec said. “Also he moti-



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Kevin Baker is entering his first season at the helm of UTEP women’s basketball.

thing that Baker wants to bring forth and build upon.

“Being international and being far away from family is hard, and you can really feel the whole family thing on this team,” Seda said. “It’s everything together, nothing is singular. It’s ‘our,’ ‘we,’

‘together’—everything is just a plural environment. “

The team, or family, as Baker likes to call it, will take the court against CSU Bakersfield at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Don Haskins Center.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @Adrian_Broaddus.

Women’s basketball season features a new era



The Miners tip-off the 2017-18 season against CSU-Bakserfield this Saturday afternoon at the Don Haskins Center.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

Last season not only marked the end of coach Keitha Adams’ tenure with the UTEP women’s basketball program, but it also came with the graduation of 571 point-scorer and team leader Sparkle Taylor.

Adams’ last season with the Miners before accepting the head coaching gig at Wichita State saw the team finish 8-23 while going 5-11 in conference play. Taylor was the Miners’ only senior last season and her 18 points

per game ranked fourth in C-USA during the 2016-17 campaign.

This season is different. The Miners will have a new coach gracing the hardwood this season along with another lone senior—Kevin Baker and Tamara Seda.

Baker became the eighth head coach in the program on April 24, 2017. Baker came from Angelo State University, where he posted a 50-14 record in two seasons at the university. Before Angelo State, Baker coached at the University of Texas-Tyler from 2012-15, where he was

72-16. Bringing his combined college record to 122-30.

The Miners return eight players from last season’s squad. Seda led the team in scoring with 9.6 points per game with an average of nine rebounds a game, also a team best last season.

Returning Miners include junior guard and forward Najala Howell, sophomore forward Jakeira Ford, senior forward Seda, sophomore guard Katrina Zec, sophomore guard Faith Cook, sophomore guard Rachel Tapps, sophomore guard Roeshonda

Patterson and sophomore forward Zuzanna Puc.

One of the new faces, freshman guard Jordan Jenkins, will look to have an impact in the offense. Jenkins has started at the guard position for the Miners in their exhibition games. Jenkins was a three-time district MVP and defensive player of the year, helping Buffalo High School (Buffalo, Texas) earn runner-up honors in the 2017 Texas UIL 3A playoffs.

Junior guard and forward Jordan Alexander, junior forward Arizona Gill, junior guard Neidy Ocuane and Jenkins are the newest Miners. Gill and Ocuane are slated to be red-shirted this year.

“A lot of kids early in the season don’t know each other very well and they will walk away from a tough situation,” Baker said after his team’s recent exhibition loss against St. Mary’s University. “And our kids today fought back a little bit. Which is a testament to their great character. I was really impressed with that.”

The Miners will have a total of 14 home games this season. The season opener at the Don Haskins Center this Saturday, Nov. 11, will be against CSU Bakersfield, with the regular season concluding at home against conference foe Western Kentucky on March 3, 2018.

On Nov. 30, the team will face rival New Mexico State at the Don Haskins, and on Dec. 10, the Miners will continue the Battle of I-10 rivalry series when they travel to face the New Mexico State Aggies in Las Cruces.

The Miners will open up Conference USA play on the road as they face Florida International on Jan. 5, 2018, with the conference home opener coming against Charlotte at noon on Jan. 11, 2018.

The C-USA championship tournament will begin on March 7, 2018, with championship action concluding on March 10, 2018 at The Star in Frisco, Texas.

The biggest hurdle for the Miners this season will be how long it will take for the team to figure out the defensive scheme Coach Baker is deploying out on the court.

“We are focusing on a new defensive scheme that will help us get the stops we need,” Alexander said. “Defensively, we need to work on our defense and rotations.”

The Miners will have their hands full as they face two preseason All-WAC team senior Jazmyne Bartee and senior Aja Williams for their season opener this Saturday afternoon against Cal State-Bakersfield at the Don Haskins Center.

Williams as a junior averaged 11 points, four rebounds and scored 35 points against the University of California, Berkeley, last season in the 86-63 loss. She tied the Cal-State Bakersfield school record for the most 3-point field goals in a game with nine against the Golden Bears. The 5-foot-10 forward will look to continue her shooting streak this season.

Bartee was named second-team All-Conference and was selected to the WAC’s All-Defensive Team last year. The 6-foot-2 Bartee broke the school record for most blocks in a season with 74 in 2016-17, and will look to bring her defensive attitude as her team preps for UTEP.

Tip-off against the Roadrunners is scheduled for 1 p.m.

“
We are focusing on a new defensive scheme that will help us get the stops we need.”

**-Jordan Alexander,
Junior guard and forward**

The Miners will be tested early as they face Arkansas from the SEC in the opener of the sixth-annual Thanksgiving Classic at the Don Haskins Center on Nov. 25. The Miners will then face Texas Southern the following day on Nov. 26, in the second and final game of the classic.

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Harris will lead Miners in 2017-18 with high expectations



Senior guard and team captain Omega Harris has scored 1,041 points in 88 games with the Miners in three seasons.

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

With eight newcomers (five of them being freshmen), the departures of Kelvin Jones and Joey St. Pierre and the loss of All-Conference second teamer in Dominic Artis from last year, the Miners will be looking at one basketball player that has brought consistency and much-needed leadership for the Miners—senior guard and captain Omega Harris.

In his time with UTEP, Harris has scored a total of 1,041 points (11.8 points per game), has made the seventh-most 3-pointers in school history (128 3-point field goals), and has 96 total steals, needing only five more to push him into top 15 in program history.

Last season as a junior, Harris led the Miners in scoring (17 points per game), led them with 29 double-figure scoring games, had nine 20-point games and led UTEP in scoring in 14 games. Due to his reliable scoring, Harris was named to Conference USA's Third team.

But this year, not only will the 6-foot-3 guard from Bethany, Okla., be UTEP's go-to scorer, but will also need to run the offense at the point guard position—

at least until his young teammates are ready and lead by example on the defensive end as well.

Harris said that it's really clear what is being asked of him this year on the defensive side of the ball and that he is going for the Defensive Player of the Year award.

With a lot of added pressure on Harris' shoulders for his final season with the Miners, he has never been more ready to lead a group than he is now.

"You're going to see a more composed guard, see more assists and less turnovers. Of course, everyone is still going to see the scoring from me, too. But the fans are really going to see the leader I can be," Harris said. "Being more vocal, taking over and helping my team to do what it takes to win. All the coaches have been in my ear so I know what they want from me."

If anyone knows what it takes to succeed with the Miners and to help carry on their rich program history, it's Harris. He said he's had multiple conversations with players from the 1966 Texas Western national championship team on what it takes to lead a winning team

on the court, it all starts with practicing winning ways, he says.

"I want to represent the people that were here before me. The '66 team told me how their practices were and how they got ready for the games. They would have blood, sweat and tears in their practices, so by the time they got to the game it was fun for them," Harris said. "That's where I'm trying to get this team this year. We have a lot of freshmen, but what they'll find out soon is that the two to three hours we're in practice every day, it's going to pay off during the season."

In fact, the ceiling and expectations are so high for Harris that he was named

one of the 10 players to Conference USA Men's Basketball Preseason Team—the only UTEP player with the honor.

"I know everybody is going to come at me, but I have to ready for that," Harris said. "I have to go out there this season and destroy it. Everybody knows I was picked for a reason. I think what stands out about my game is my IQ. I like to know all the positions on there as a combo guard. When we run a play, I know what one through five has to do."

Although Harris was the two-guard for the majority of his career at UTEP, with Artis manning the one-guard position, the point guard position is nothing new for Harris. When he was first recruited to UTEP, he came in playing point.

In UTEP's first exhibition game this year against Sul Ross State, Harris had a team-high 10 assists, while the next closest teammate, Trey Touchet, only had three assists.

"I came in as a point guard, so you could say it was my first position. That's what I know best. But being the combo

shots and putting them in positions they can succeed in by showing that in his assists this year.

"I have to average way more assists than last year. For me to only average one assist last year is just unacceptable for me. I also have to cut down on my turnovers," Harris said.

As stated earlier, UTEP has gone through a number of player departures through Harris' career at UTEP, but as a leader, Harris tells his team to keep on going. And although their departures are difficult to forget, Harris sees the silver lining in the recent players deciding to leave the program.

"A lot of players have left since I've been here. They could probably make their own basketball team with the number of players who left so far," he said. "But other players have stepped up and got bigger roles. With Terry Winn leaving last year that helped Paul Thomas grow his game. Kelvin Jones and Joey St. Pierre leaving this year leaving is going to allow Tirus (Smith) as a freshman to come in and play a lot. Him and Trey (Wade) will expand their games now."

In the preseason polls, UTEP was picked to finish fifth out of 14 teams in C-USA. However, Harris has other plans when the end of the season comes around.

"All I can say is at the end of the season, when the conference tournament comes, we will not be fifth," he said.

Harris' main goal for his final collegiate season is to end UTEP's March Madness drought of seven years.

"There is no ceiling for this team. I feel like we have all the talent and the right pieces. We added a senior transfer guard who's a vet with a very high IQ in Keith Frazier, we also have Matt (Willms) down low and Paul Thomas back," Harris said. "I want to win conference and take UTEP back to the NCAA tournament to finish my senior year right."

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal.

You're going to see a more composed guard, see more assists and less turnovers.

-Omega Harris,
Senior guard

guard is where I score at best," Harris said. "I'm still only 6-foot-3, so I have to play point guard at the next level."

What Harris really wants to improve on is getting his teammates the right



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Miners stay on road against UNT



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP football team has beaten North Texas in two consecutive seasons.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Miners hope to set aside a ‘rough weekend’ as they go against UNT

At 0-9, there’s not much left to resurrect from the Miners’ crucifixion of a season.

Here’s a stat for the books: UTEP is one of just two winless teams in all of FBS. The only other team is Georgia Southern, the Sun Belt-affiliated team that actually has been in arms’ reach with their league opponents, giving them some hope at a win down the line.

UTEP’s chances at a win, on the other hand, look slim as the team takes on North Texas (6-3) this Saturday, then LA Tech (4-5) at home and UAB (6-3) to close off the year.

“Not a happy camper right now. Not going like we thought it would be,” interim head coach Mike Price said.

First, the Miners have to shake off a 30-3 loss to Middle Tennessee that Price called a “rough trip.”

Against the Blue Raiders, the Miners gained just 137 total yards of offense and just put up a field goal in the game. To make matters worse, starting running back Quadraiz Wadley, who just returned to the gridiron from a knee injury, suffered a clavicle injury to his neck and is out for this week against North Texas.

Quarterback Ryan Metz also has a sore shoulder and the coaches will be “analyzing” who will be starting at quarterback this week, according to Price.

“Rough weekend, rough trip,” Price said. “I don’t think we moved a step ahead. I think we took a step back as a team. A loss we want to forget as soon as possible.”

The loss and lack of offense set the Miners back to the worst team in the country for total offense, averaging just 213.0 yards per game. They’re the second-worst team in scoring, averaging 11.4 points a game, and the third-worst team in FBS for rushing yards, with only 86.9 a game.

“This is a highlight for me,” Price said when asked if this was his most challenging offensive team to work with. “I don’t have the magical powder I used to have.”

One positive takeaway from the game was freshman Joshua Fields hitting his second consecutive career high after rushing for 87 yards on 17 carries. On their lone scoring drive, Fields ran the ball for 61 yards on eight attempts.

“Josh Fields is the guy now,” Price said. “Played very well in

two games. Very pleased with him. He’s only a freshman.”

Now the Miners will have to set the loss aside and focus on a North Texas road trip that will look entirely different than when the Miners played them before.

North Texas is vying for a spot in the Conference USA championship game and will clinch their place with a win over UTEP. They are currently the C-USA West Divisional leaders, partially due to their offensive explosiveness.

“Touchdown Tommy (defensive coordinator Tom Mason) has a big load this week,” Price said.

Indeed, the North Texas offense requires much defensive attention because of their air raid attack. They are led by sophomore quarterback Mason Fine, who is second in C-USA for passing yards per game (288.8), passing yards (2,599) and is tied for first in passing touchdowns (18).

“

I don’t think we moved a step ahead. I think we took a step back as a team.

”

-Mike Price,
Interim head coach

“He’s a sophomore, but he’s a really good player,” Price said. “You have to stop Mason Fine.”

This North Texas team also likes to score points. They currently average 35.9 points per contest, which ranks them second best in the league.

Their defensive pressure will also be an issue for the Miners as they like to bring up safeties close to the line and aggressively attack their opponents.

“Defense is different than anything we’ve seen,” Price said.

While North Texas is hunting for their program’s first-ever spot in the C-USA championship, the Miners will fight for their first win of the season.

Kickoff will be at 3 p.m. MT and will be televised on ESPN 3.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus.

INBRIEF
WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL CONCLUDES SEASON THIS WEEK

The UTEP women’s volleyball team (5-21, 2-11 C-USA) will conclude the 2017 season on the road this Sunday, Nov. 12, against New Mexico (14-13, 6-8 MWC) in Albuquerque at 5 p.m. The Miners met the Lobos earlier this season in the Glory Road Invitational, falling in straight sets (3-0). UTEP will close Conference-USA play on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at home against Louisiana Tech at 6 p.m.

UTEP RIFLE TRAVELS TO TAKE ON TEXAS CHRISTIAN

The UTEP women’s rifle team (1-4) will take on TCU (5-1) this Saturday, Nov. 11, in Fort Worth. The Miners are coming of a 4,685-4,583 loss to Ohio State in Columbus, while TCU is coming off their first loss of the season at West Virginia (4,727-4,717).

RHINOS LOOK TO STAY PERFECT AGAINST SPRINGFIELD

The El Paso Rhinos (12-0) will hit the road this weekend to take on Mid-Western division foe, Springfield (8-2). The Rhinos are coming off a three-game sweep of the Superior RoughRiders this past weekend at the Hospitals of Providence Events Center. The Express have won four-straight games and are coming off a three-game sweep of the Dallas Snipers on the road.

UTEP HOCKEY CLUB TO BATTLE WITH TCU THIS WEEKEND AT HOME

The UTEP hockey club (7-8) will take on the TCU Horned Frogs (2-8) this weekend (Nov. 10-11) at the Hospitals of Providence Events Center. The Miners have lost three-straight games since winning five in a row, while the Horned Frogs are coming off back-to-back losses to Texas on Oct. 27-28. Friday’s puck drop is at 7 p.m.



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