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THE PROSPECTOR

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

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Basketball season kicks off

UTEP Miners are loaded with touted talent

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Miners' basketball season is upon us. The men's basketball team has Miner fans excited for the upcoming season with its postseason potential. The Miner's program has a tremendous amount of talent to display this year and the squad to play beyond their conference tournament.

The Miners are loaded with depth at every position unlike last season.

After defeating the Texas Tech Red Raiders last month, the expectations for the UTEP men's basketball team increased ten-fold. With several Division I transfers and returnees from last year's program, Head Coach Rodney Terry's blueprint of creating a team filled with defensive-minded and hard nose athletic players is coming to fruition.

"This is the first step of a marathon and a journey of a season for us and we're playing Oct. 12, but this felt like a regular season game out there," Terry said, following the Miner's exhibition win over Texas Tech.

The electric atmosphere in the Don Haskins Center in the matchup versus Tech was just a

taste of what Miner fans can expect this year. This year's squad features standout junior forward Bryson Williams, who is a blend of skill and power at both ends of the floor.

Williams put up 19 points and nine boards against Texas Tech and provided a dominant presence down low.

see BASKETBALL on page 7



UTEP Athletics

University pushes for attendance

Number of students at games drops by half at midsemester

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

The university's football season started off strong this semester, with more than 34,000 football fans filling up the Sun Bowl Stadium as the UTEP Miners took a 36-34 victory over Houston Baptist.

Since then, the Miners have returned to a losing streak for the past six games, meaning attendance has also dropped, with about 16,000 fans attending the team's last home game against Louisiana Tech.

However, UTEP continues its efforts to increase student participation at athletic events by first understanding the factors that may limit student participation.

"We recognize our students have very busy lives," said Catie McCorry-Andalis, UTEP's associate vice president and dean of students. "You have your academics, research, internships ... We have to regularly remind students 'Hey, you can go to a football game, a basketball game, a softball game, whatever it is.'"

see ATTENDANCE on page 4



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Martian first stories from the Magnificent Parallel

Tenth anniversary, 2038

Editor's note: Héctor Noriega Mendoza is an astrophysicist and astronomy professor in UTEP's physics department. Mendoza recently launched an astronomy research and outreach project at UTEP, "Parallelus Magnificus," ("The Magnificent Parallel"), which includes a science-fiction component centered on the exploration and colonization of planet Mars. Current and former students of Mendoza's Astronomy 1307 class, Elementary Astronomy of the Solar System, collaborated with him in the project. The following is an excerpt of the science fiction portion of the project.

Héctor Noriega Mendoza

The Prospector

Nowadays the Martian air is unbreathable and poisonous. The red planet has a thin atmosphere composed of 95% carbon dioxide (CO₂), the same gas that makes dry ice popsicles so visually attractive.

Being so tenuous, such an atmosphere does not exert much pressure as a whole on the Mar-

tian terrain. In fact, the Martian atmospheric pressure is on average only 0.06% that of Earth; less than 1% of the weight of an entire column of gas our bodies withstand everyday at Earth's ground level.

On the other hand, there's an issue with the transmission of sound in the Martian outdoors. Physically speaking, sound is a wave that can be transmitted through a gaseous, liquid and even solid medium. Sound is a mechanical wave that needs a medium to propagate in, the result of fast compressions and decompressions of the air molecules, for example.

In this sense, sound is a very fast and compact wave that propagates spherically, in all directions, and its speed is given by the elastic properties of the medium, which in turn are determined by pressure and density. It can be experimentally confirmed, for instance, that the higher the gas pressure, the faster the speed of sound in it. In the low density and temperature conditions of the Martian atmosphere, therefore, sound travels more slowly. The Martian sounds are weak and low-pitched.

"Can you guys hear Sarasate?", I asked my two partners as we walked the red, cold terrain on our way back, just past 10 AM local time of this relatively generous summer of 2038 during a short tour by the Magnificent One.

Even though a distant descendant of the Spanish violinist Pablo de Sarasate playing outdoors on Mars was a fantastic event per se, the beauty of this first of the tenth anniversary festivities drastically contrasted with my two colleagues' clearly skeptical posture, Canis (Spaniard) and Ramsey (American).

With synchronized skepticism, they both doubted the string instrument's sound waves could propagate in full majesty and sweetness through the Martian atmosphere beyond a few meters, at least with the majesty and sweetness of Eloy de Sarasate's Guarneri violin.

Not to mention the uncertain possibilities of success of the still experimental otic cavities of our helmet, now called auricular helmet. These microcavities were created ex profeso with the goal of making sounds on the planet's surface directly audible without compromising the ex-

plorers' physical integrity. However, from the very beginning, they lent themselves to some controversy (the amplified micropercussion method is nonetheless a viable choice many of us always believed in).

I wear the auricular helmet every day, without fail; it works pretty well for me and I can say I've got used to hear the natural, faint, low-pitched, sometimes even eerie sounds of the Martian outdoors with it, yet inaudible at short distances. Consequently, the optimism of me being able to hear Eloy de Sarasate's violin beyond a limited perimeter was nothing more than that, pure optimism.

Celebrations of the tenth anniversary have also included a delightful initiative by the team of Latin American chemists here: atmospheric and extra-atmospheric fireworks.

Visit theprospectordaily.com to read Noriega Mendoza's full science fiction story.

Héctor Noriega Mendoza is a lecturer in UTEP's Physics Department and may be reached at hnmendoza@utep.edu

Letter to the Editor

Everything is political

To the Editor:

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and we should take opinions lightly.

There was an opinion published in The Prospector on Oct. 22. The opinion contained harmful rhetoric that was insensitive to marginalized communities.

In the opinion, "Swamped with politics in food, sports and Hollywood" by Luis Hinojos, it was mentioned how politics should stay

out of the kitchen, Monday Night Football and our guilty pleasures. However, everything is political.

Hinojos cited a Washington Post article on how the CEO of Chick-Fil-A has openly been anti-gay marriage. There are some contradictions in Hinojos' opinion.

First, he states that boycotting this "chicken giant" does not affect the business, but the consumer. Then he goes on to say that boycotting Chick-Fil-A, in support of LGBTQ+ equality rights, would result in the loss of profits for the company consequently closing its doors.

If boycotting Chick-Fil-A results in the loss of profits that ultimately gets donated to con-

version therapy organizations, then I will seek other alternatives.

Secondly, Hinojos brought up the fact that sport networks, such as ESPN, have experienced a loss of viewers throughout the years due to commentators expressing their political views.

A couple hours of watching the exploitation of African American athletes that gets you excited does not justify the domestic violence or racism that is apparent in the National Football League (NFL).

Personally, these issues are far more important than "friendly competition."

Lastly, Hinojos brings up the fact that Netflix and other parts of the film industry are boycot-

ting the state of Georgia since they passed the "heartbeat" bill. The "heartbeat" bill limits the time for an individual to receive a legal and safe abortion.

The capitalistic standpoint to put business over public health is dangerous.

To be clear, it's not the boycotting that's hurting Georgia's people, it's the inaccessibility of abortion that is hurting Georgia's people.

Dominique Huerta

Senior political science major

Send letters to prospector@utep.edu

THE PROSPECTOR

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After a hate letter, College of Education counteracts homophobia

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

In March 2017, UTEP's College of Education received a hate letter.

The letter, written from the point of view of an anonymous student, targeted three faculty members: Maria Teresa de la Piedra, Char Ullman and Alberto Esquinca. It expressed the alleged thoughts of some doctoral students who felt that gay rights were being imposed on them.

"We have faculty who are making us accept their preferences," the letter's anonymous author wrote. "What is wrong with the college of education in putting people with this agenda in positions of power to intimidate by forcing us to talk and listen to their personal stories about this in every opportunity?"

The letter was sent out to the entire administration and the head of the Education Department.

"In the beginning, I took it really rationally, I said, 'I'm not going to give power to this letter. I don't care about this,'" de la Piedra said. "After a couple of days, it sunk in and it was really hurtful for me."

This isn't the first time that hostile mail has been sent to the College of Education. De la Piedra was its dean at the moment and knew about the other letters.

This one, however, was different because it targeted LGBTQ staff.

"The dean gave it to me, we talked and she cried with me, so I felt the support of the dean and I felt the support of the chair of the department," de la Piedra said. "We didn't receive any response from any other of the offices of the university, so that was really discouraging."

The department waited months for a formal response to be written, but it never came. The Prospector reached out to another recipient of the letter who did not respond.

A similar situation happened at Spelman College and the president handled it with an open letter to the perpetrator.

"I would've liked for the university to take a stand and say, 'We're not going to permit any hate mail, even if it is anonymous. We support our faculty,'" de la Piedra said. "Those two sentences for me; that would've been it."

Instead, the head of the Education Department held a faculty sensitivity training at the time. The event was sparsely attended with about 15 of the 40 members showing up.

The letter was never printed or written about for fear of giving it publicity, but it was read out loud at the training. The Prospector received a copy of the letter, was asked not to publish it for the same reasons, but was given permission to print an excerpt of it.

"Even though it's not violent itself, it's an act of violence. I think that's a practice that we may find across the university sometimes," de la Piedra said. "We need to talk about these issues; we need to address them because they're real and they're there."

Jason Lilly, a doctoral student in teaching, learning and culture, experienced a similar situation in a course he took when he was in his master's degree program at UTEP.

In an assignment, he mentioned that he was a part of the LGBTQ community. The next time he was in class, the professor made a homophobic comment and Lilly received a bad grade on the paper.

"It made me feel super small and, from that point on, I never felt comfortable in the class. I

“Even though it's not violent itself, it's an act of violence. I think that's a practice that we may find across the university sometimes. We need to talk about these issues ... they're real and they're there.”

- MARIA TERESA DE LA PIEDRA
associate professor at UTEP's College
of Education

never felt like I could have a true voice," Lilly said. "I ended up dropping the class completely."

Lilly struggled to withdraw from the course, even though he had made a complaint.

He ended up taking the same course in the summer with another professor.

"When you're talking about ed-leadership, if you're going to be a principal, you're going to be dealing with bullying. Those are going to be issues in the workplace," Lilly said. "I think the university and the professors with the curriculum need to understand that, regardless of their own viewpoint, they need to address it as a soft skill. To me, it's not about taking a stance, it's about how you work with someone that has a different viewpoint than yourself."

Protections for those in the LGBTQ community are limited depending on the state. Some states grant full protections while others grant them partially. In Texas, there are few cities that provide protections for LGBTQ members from employment discrimination.

El Paso is not one of them.

"I'm still amazed that there are still a whole lot of well-intentioned people who think that LGBTQ people have employment rights, federally," Ullman said. "It's totally state-by-state. That's why I live in New Mexico, way better laws."

Esquinca now works at San Diego State in California because of the full rights and protections there.

see HOMOPHOBIA on page 4

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ATTENDANCE from front page

In an effort to make these challenges easier on students, the university has abandoned any prior ticket registration. Now, all students need to do is bring their Miner Gold Card to get into the football games.

"As a result of that, we've seen more students coming to the games," McCorry-Andalis said.

UTEP has also begun to increase its student body spirit through marketing strategies as the university now has a director of spirit operations who is in charge of hosting events every week before a football game.

The Orange and Blue Spirit Crew also debuted this fall and will continue on to basketball season. The university also began to display a large banner promoting UTEP games and Paydirt Pete has been even more present on campus.

"It's really about visibility and getting out there," McCorry-Andalis said. "You can't take it for granted that anyone knows there's a game. We've got busy lives and lots of things happening in the city. Now we have to make sure we market things."

Although the university is increasing its efforts to promote attendance and student engagement, some students still find themselves not participating.

"I've always wanted to go to a game," said Ana Sofia Santiesteban, a UTEP senior major-



The Prospector file photo

The university's football season started off with an audience of more than 34,000 football fans, only to cut down more than half mid-semester.

ing in psychology. "All my friends and I live all the way on the East Side, so it's kind of an inconvenience to come all the way to the West Side."

Others find themselves consumed in school assignments, making it difficult to attend games or engage in school spirit.

"I'm a little bit more focused in getting through this program," said Yoko Kato, a senior enrolled in UTEP's nursing program. "This program is very demanding and it sometimes feels separated from the entire school."

Still, the university will continue to promote student participation in order to equally see

the success of its sports teams, like it has done in the past through the successful "Every Person Makes A Difference" fundraising campaign launched by Director of Athletics Jim Senter.

"I think it's important to attend," said Jordan Dominguez, a biological sciences major. "These sports players are students too, so, as students, we need to support each other in whatever way."

UTEP will face off the University of North Carolina at Charlotte at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at Sun Bowl Stadium.

Anahy Diaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

HOMOPHOBIA from page 3

"We're losing out on talent. We lost Alberto's talent, we lost his expertise, we lost his dedication, but we continue to lose," said Katherine Mortimer, associate professor of bilingual and biliteracy education at UTEP and friend of the professors.

Following the situation, doctoral students created Queer(in)g Our Classrooms, an annual event looking to educate the community on LGBTQ-related problems. The College of Education has created programs to teach students how to better work with young members of the LGBTQ community in schools. UTEP's Student Engagement and Learning Center (SELC) started the Rainbow Miners Initiative, which works toward building a culture of inclusion. Title IX also extends its protection to those who are part of the LGBTQ community.

"I take the position that the vulnerabilities of faculty are important to be resolved. They're integrally connected to the vulnerabilities of students. Whatever makes us unsafe, makes the students in those same experiences unsafe," Mortimer said. "If we really want to serve our students, which is the mission of the university, faculty need to be safe."

Exadis Ward may be reached at prospector@utep.edu


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Locals observe Día de Los Muertos at historical Concordia Cemetery

Sven Kline

The Prospector

Locals gathered to observe the traditional Mexican holiday, Día de Los Muertos, Saturday, Nov. 2 at the historical Concordia Cemetery to honor loved ones who have passed away.

The cemetery opened at 2 p.m. allowing visitors to enter for a \$5 donation benefitting the Concordia Heritage Association, a nonprofit that works to preserve and maintain the historical cemetery.

Visitors were able to walk freely around the cemetery and enjoy live performances, check out vendors and have their faces painted.

The event's live performances began at 3 p.m. with Ballet Folklorico Quetzales displaying their skills with traditional dances.

Aztlan Dance Studio followed with a performance at 4 p.m., then the Academy of Aerial Fitness concluded with a flowy aerial performance at 5 p.m.

As the sun set, the performances concluded with a fire dance by M.O.B. Tribal Group.

Vendors displayed and sold various items and accessories such as handcrafted jewelry, pieces of leather clothing, holsters, Mexican candies, pastries and even superhero comics.

Visitors also learned bits of historical information about the cemetery, its buried residents, and the holiday itself from the cemetery's staff and event volunteers.

Patricia Kiddyney, president of the Concordia Heritage Cemetery, stood before the grave of jailed southwest outlaw, John Wesley Hardin, lecturing visitors about his legacy.



Sven Kline / The Prospector

Dancers perform before an audience at the Día de Los Muertos celebration Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Concordia Cemetery.

"To honor the traditions of the Southwest, it is to honor those lives who made El Paso what it is," Kiddyney said. "So we are here to honor them, but to also to preserve the legacy and history of El Paso."

Currently, more than 65,000 graves are located in Concordia. Within this sea of graves are a dozen members of Alicia Martinez's family members who were buried but not kept track of.

"I've been able to locate six (of them)," Martinez said. She has made it her goal to find the remaining unmarked relatives.

Martinez told her story at her own booth, displaying an altar with the traditional three layers and an additional section showcasing the ashes of her pets that passed away.

Martinez celebrated the holiday in remembrance of her ancestors, including her famous uncle Silvestre S. Herrera, a WW2 veteran who was discharged after losing his legs in a mine field. Herrera was awarded the Medal of Honor by U.S. President Harry Truman on Aug. 23, 1945.

Nearby, Frank Varela, who is a Mojiganga dancer, wore a skeleton costume typically mounted onto the person's shoulders. It is used to celebrate the holiday and give spectators a taste of Mojiganga culture.

"They originated from Spain and were brought into Mexico around the 1600s. They were introduced to give a little cheer and liveliness to religious festivities," Varela said. "Then Mexico took it a step further and started using them for funerals and death processions."

Jeff Harris, site manager for the Magoffin Home, stood before an altar commemorating Joseph Magoffin, the pioneer and constructor of the historic site. Harris offered a take on the Magoffin Home regarding the celebration.

"We're celebrating Día de Los Muertos, and the Magoffin Home is here because Joseph Magoffin is half Irish and half Mexican," Harris said. "He was born in Chihuahua and was one of the early mayors of El Paso."

Sven Kline may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Where to shop for oddities and unique clothes

Teddy Baylón

The Prospector

Members of the community who like oddities, curiosities, goth novelty items and dark clothes can shop at these unique mom-and-pop stores in El Paso.

The downtown curiosity shop, Tooth and Veil, is where all sorts of novelty items, unique pieces of bizarre and macabre furniture and fashionable clothing can be found.

Shop Owner Michelle Bocanegra, also known as "Deady Page," initially opened shop August 2018 in a location on Virginia Street, then moved to its current location in March 2019.

"I've been collecting the curiosities and oddities for 11 years now, so I have three storage units. It was a lot of stuff," Bocanegra said.

She then added that she buys a lot of oddities herself to recreate them, knowing others might find them interesting. Bocanegra saw the need in El Paso for a shop like Tooth and Veil, so she took matters into her own hands.

"My store does feature a lot of local artists. We have everything from antiques, we've got curiosities, we've got oddities and, of course, when you're dealing with these kinds of things, you're usually going into the occult, so we have a lot of occult items as well," Bocanegra said.

Bocanegra also mentioned that a lot of the items are reused to be unique and one of a kind.

Visit theprospectordaily.com to read Baylón's full story.

Teddy Baylón may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Student deciphers cultural inertia through Newton's laws of motion

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

The UTEP Student Engagement and Leadership Center (SELC) hosted an engaging and insightful discussion titled "The Good Old Days" where facilitator Angel Armenta used the theory of cultural inertia to further explain why some groups present hostility toward other cultures Wednesday, Oct. 30, in UTEP's Union East.

The session was part of SELC's This Matters series of discussions meant "to engage attendees in meaningful conversations that will lead to progressive, inclusive actions," according to SELC's description online.

Armenta is a graduate psychology student with a research background focused on prejudice. In his presentation, he discussed how the perceived "otherness" of a certain culture is a reliable indication that prejudice against another culture also exists.

"It is the cultural change in and of itself that leads to hostile and aggressive intergroup relations between majority and minority groups," Armenta said during the talk.

According to Armenta, cultural inertia borrows heavily from Newton's laws of motion in



Margaret Cataldi / The Prospector

Angel Armenta lectures a crowd on the social phenomenon of cultural inertia using Newton's laws of motion.

order to define the three main principles that the theories encompass.

Using Newton's first law, "objects at rest will stay at rest," Armenta explains how this concept applies to culture.

"We can think of culture as an object," Armenta said. "Cultures that are not used to change and don't welcome change, those are static cultures."

Armenta then explains that the second principle of Newton's first law, "objects in motion will stay in motion," can be used to define dynamic cultures, which are the opposite of static cultures.

"These are cultures that are used to change, that embrace change, that enjoy change," Armenta said.

For Newton's third law of motion, "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction," Armenta said that it can be applied to the outward reaction that some groups have in response to cultural change.

"If you're in a static culture, and you think that groups of individuals are going to come in and change your environment, you're going to react in a way that is opposite of that, right? I might pass policies, or I might riot in order to continue my way of life," Armenta said. "If you're in a dynamic culture, you're used to change. If you think maybe a group of politicians are going to come and make this dynamic culture more static, where nothing is going to change, then you might again react in a way to continue the dynamic."

Armenta then broke down the results of a correlation study he helped conduct under Michael Zárate, a UTEP professor of psychology and Chicano studies and researcher in social cognition and prejudice.

In order to justify the theory of cultural inertia in the study, Armenta worked alongside other researchers in Zárate's lab to collect data from participants in Iowa and Minnesota, two cities considered to have static cultures, and from New York City, a city with a dynamic culture.

The study's findings supported the following proposed hypotheses: "1. White people led to believe that American culture is expected to change due to an influx of immigrants will express greater fear and greater anger; 2. Greater fear would be associated with greater in-group protection noted; 3. Greater expression of anger would be associated with greater out-group derogation."

Although promising, Armenta laments that the study only scratched the surface of the research needed to be done on the cultural inertia phenomenon.

Visit theprospectordaily.com to read Cataldi's full story.

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Miners look to rebound from injury plagued season

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The Miners are coming off an injury-plagued season where Coach Kevin Baker was down to a seven-person rotation with his lineup by season's end.

In Conference-USA's preseason guide, the Miners are predicted to finish 12th, which is one spot lower than UTEP finished last year. Conference USA also has no Miners listed as a preseason All-Conference candidate.

The Miners will return three starters from last season after Jordan Alexander's graduation and Zusanna Puc and Alexa Hoy's transfers.

The top returning player is senior forward Katarina Zec, who averaged 10.4 points and 4.4 rebounds a game last season while shooting 42 percent from the field. Zec is a four-year starter for the Miners and will be the undisputed team leader for the team this year. In two exhibition games this season, Zec has averaged 20.5 points a game. Zec would need to be a top contender to make all-conference this season.

"Zec is unquestionably the leader of the team this year and wants to win," Baker said.

Returning from foot injury will be senior guard/forward Ariona Gill after missing half of last season. Making her first appearance in a game since last year, Gill seems to be fully recovered from injury and ready to contribute. Gill averaged 8.9 points and 4.4 rebounds per game last season. In the exhibition versus St. Mary's, she had 9 points, 10 rebounds and 2 steals in 24 minutes of action. Defensively, Gill gave an effort that will be needed this season for the Miners if the team is to have success.

Sophomores Ariana Taylor and Sabine Lipe also return for the Miners. Taylor, as a freshman, was forced into playing a lot of minutes for the Miners last season and responded with a hard-nosed effort adding 5.9 points a game. Taylor has worked hard in the offseason trimming down by 20 pounds with a concerted effort to improve her game. Her presence will be needed as the Miners have opted to go with skill over size this season. Lipe averaged 13 minutes a game last season with 3.2 points average.

Seniors Jada Rochelle and Neidy Ocuane return to add depth for the Miners this season. Both players averaged 4 points a game and bring needed experience to a very young team. Rochelle played a key reserve role for the short-handed 2018 Miners team. Ocuane is currently struggling with an injury and has not played in either exhibition game this season.

Coach Baker has brought in three top 100 junior college players to the program this off-season. Juniors Tia Bradshaw and DeJaNae Roebuck were part of a Hutchinson team that



Michael Cuvillo / The Prospector

Miners' freshman guard Arina Khlopova drives past St. Mary's University (San Antonio, Texas) Rattlers' defender in first quarter of 59-47 exhibition win Saturday, Nov. 2.

won 33 games last season and made the national junior college semi-finals. Roebuck averaged 14 points and seven rebounds last year as she was named a junior college All-American. Bradshaw averaged 6.9 points and 2.7 assists per game. Rated as the 55th best junior college transfer, Bradshaw brings needed experience to the guard spot. Both players should be significant contributors this season.

Junior forward Michelle Pruitt from Miami Dade College is a force under the basket with her tenacious rebounding and is a good three-point shooter hitting 36.2 percent of her shots from that area.

UTEP also brought in four promising freshmen, including Franklin graduate Katie Gallegos who garnered all-state recognition. Gallegos is expected to contribute right out of the gate at the point guard spot and has looked very composed in both exhibition games. Guard Avery Crouse is a two time all-state player from Sachse High School who averaged 13.8 points as a senior. Forwards Arina Khlopova and Tatyana Modawar round out the impressive freshman class.

"It's truly a lot of fun to coach this year's team with the depth allowing us to be creative with our lineups," Baker said. "This is a special group of kids that will be very competitive. The team has tremendous depth this year."

The Miners as a whole have much more depth and added key pieces to make them competitive

in the conference. The conference prognosticators somehow have rated the team worse than last year, which, based on health alone, would be a hard task. At the very least the Miners should be a .500 team and should be in the mix for conference tournament play.

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BASKETBALL from front page

Another skilled piece in Terry's blueprint includes graduate transfer guard Darryl Edwards.

Coming off the bench against Texas Tech, Edwards provided six three's and a game-high 24 points against the 2019 national runner ups.

Redshirt junior forward Eric Villa looks to provide a unique blend of an inside out game with his ability to score down in the post or drag defenders out to the three-point line. The Northwest Florida transfer put up 10.8 points per game for the Raiders and knocked down 28 threes. The Spaniard also provided nine double-

doubles for the season and led his team to a number one seed in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament.

Several players from last year's team that will be essential assets to this year's campaign include high-scoring sophomore guards Jordan Lathon and Nigel Hawkins. Another force for the Miners is 2019 all-conference USA freshman team sophomore forward Efe Odigie.

UTEP's men's basketball regular season begins against New Mexico Highlands at 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Don Haskins Center.

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UTEP soccer secures C-USA bid

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

With a 1-0 win over The University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners on "Senior Night" Friday, Nov. 1, the UTEP soccer team (10-6-3, 5-4-1) earned its first Conference-USA tournament bid in three seasons.

Freshman forward Tessa Carlin scored past UTSA goalie Jil Schinder in minute 82 to seal the win over the Roadrunners. Carlin finishes the regular season tying a team-high with five goals and leading the Miners with six assists.

Freshman goalkeeper Emily Parrott secured her seventh shutout of the season against UTSA, stopping three shots on goal for the Miners.

First-year head coach Kathyryn Balogun has led the Miners thus far to its most wins as a program with 10 since 2016. At her previous head coaching position, Balogun led Texas Southern University to a combined 31-13-6 record over five seasons.

"I can't be happier for the team," Balogun said. "The girls not only showed up, they've been bought in all year and they were rewarded with success tonight. It's a full team effort from the back to the front. I can't be more excited for them."

This year's Miners led by senior Lauren Crenshaw and sophomore forward Jojo Ngongo have had a resurgence in Conference USA making the tournament.

Crenshaw is currently tied for a team-high with five goals, is second on the team in points with 13, and leads the team in minutes played with 1,557.

Ngongo is second on the squad in assists with five, points with 13, and goals with five. The athletic and talented Canadian recorded a season-high two assists in the Miners 3-1 win over Florida International University earlier this season.

The next matchup for the Miners is against reigning Conference-USA champion North Texas University (12-5-1, 7-2-1) in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament. UTEP is set at the number seven seed with North Texas at the second seed.

The Mean Green has 36 goals made in the regular season tied for third-best in Conference-USA.

Junior forward Berklee Peters leads North Texas with 11 goals ranking her third best in Conference-USA and amongst the top 40 in the nation.



Jorge Salgado / The Prospector

Miners' freshman forward Tessa Carlin celebrates after scoring the only goal of the night in a 1-0 win over UTSA Friday, Nov. 1.

UTEP last played against North Texas Oct. 6, 2017, in a 3-1 loss.

The quarterfinal game for the Miners takes place at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 in Denton, Texas. The game will be streamed on the ESPN + app.

The winner of the UTEP versus North Texas matchup will face the winner of the Rice versus Middle Tennessee State matchup at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 in Denton, Texas.

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