Mike Bloomberg visits El Paso

More than 300 people were in attendance to greet Democratic Presidential Candidate Michael Bloomberg Wednesday, Jan. 29, during his stop at Downtown El Paso. See story on page 3.

Vaporwave

Sasha Minjarez
The Prospector

Vaporwave is an internet-based microgenre that is characterized by its distinct low-fidelity, or lo-fi, beats skillfully paired with heavy sampling of existing media to produce music that sounds refurbished, post-modernized, retro and futuristic – all at the same time.

Dummy Mag defines the genre as "wholly synthesised or heavily processed chunk of corporate mood music, bright and earnest or slow and sultry, often beautiful, either looped out of sync and beyond the point of functionality or standing alone, and sometimes with a smattering of miscues about it."

Producing vaporwave music is entirely based on being resourceful because it is mixing and mashing songs from different generations, like the '80s and '90s, to create a sound that's brilliantly paradoxical - both retro and futuristic.

"The whole appeal of vaporwave is its use of remaining unknown, that in a world where nothing is private, it is refreshing to find something that feels like it was found in the dumpster of a thrift shop, where it does not matter who it came from or who made it, only that it takes you elsewhere, somewhere distant from reality," vaporwave artist Eco Virtual told music writer Ben Heels in an article titled "History of Vaporwave."

This notion of "remaining unknown" is driven even deeper due to vaporwave artists using pseudonyms like "Blank Banshee" and "Macintosh Plus" to remain anonymous while professionally putting out their work, adding a degree of amorphousness that reinforces the enigmatic quality of the genre.

Chuck Person's 2010 album "Eccojams Vol 1" is thought to be one of the earliest vaporwave albums and is essentially a compilation of sampled '80s tracks with a breath of new life yet still leaving intact the tinge of familiarity that evokes nostalgia.

University of Alabama at Birmingham blazes by the Miners

Michael Covello
The Prospector

The UTEP Miners (13-10, 4-6) lost its second home game of the season to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Blazers (14-9, 5-5) after being outscored by 14 points in the second half. At halftime, the score was tied at 27 points each. At halftime, the score was tied at 27 points apiece, but a 14-point run by the Blazers during a four-minute stretch of the second half put UAB in control of the game the rest of the way.

Both teams came into the matchup with identical records of 13-9 and tied for eighth with 4-5 conference records, UAB won its second straight game and third consecutive road game of the season.

Throughout the first half, both teams played evenly matched with neither being able to assert any type of momentum to take over the game. Both teams shot effectively in the first half with the Blazers shooting 48% and the Miners a solid 42%. The Miners stayed in the game by forcing 10 turnovers in the first half and shooting 39%, only trailing in the rebound battle by one.

About three minutes into the second half, the Blazers took charge after shutting down the Miners scoring for four minutes and taking a 13-point lead. With about eight minutes left in the game, the Miners were trailing by 16 points. UTEP cut the lead in half with about six minutes left in the game off a 3-pointer by sophomore Soul Bown. Unfortunately, over the next three minutes of the half, the Blazers went on an 8-point run to shut the door on the Miners. UAB pushed the lead back to 16 points, junior Eric Villal's 3-pointer with 27 seconds left would make the final margin of loss 14 points.

In the second half, UAB shot a blazing 60% from the field. For the game, the Blazers dominated in the paint, outscoring the Miners 36-16, including 20 points off turnovers. The Blazers' ball movement continually set up easy baskets inside to which the UTEP defense had no answer.

see BLAZERS on page 7

see VAPORWAVE on page 6
Un Super Bowl bien Latino

Terciul Diseo
The Prospector

Después de 54 años conquistados el primer fin de semana de febrero, poco a poco, lo hemos conseguido; este Super Bowl estuvo bien Latino.

Por encima de todas, Miami estuvo a cargo del campeonato de la NFL. La ciudad comenzó a prepararse desde el 2016, después de ser nombradas candidatas oficialmente a través de un comunicado de prensa de los Miami Dolphins.

No es un secreto que los Latinos son clave para la estabilidad económica de Miami. En el 2011 la BBC describió la llegada de inmigrantes a la ciudad como un "huracán demográfico que ha transformado la ciudad en un resurgimiento de la metrópoli Latina."

Y tiene razón, porque si piseo en Miami, paseo en el grito y en un gran Latino como Gloria Estefan y Ricky Martin.

El hecho de que el Super Bowl se haya celebrado en la ciudad de un resort adormilado del sur a una metrópoli Latina ha transformado la ciudad de un resort adormilado del sur a una metrópoli Latina."

Gloria Estefan y Ricky Martin.

En un Super Bowl bien Latino ha transformado la ciudad de un resort adormilado del sur a una metrópoli Latina."

La segunda es nada más y nada menos que los Tigres anunciaron por medio de Twitter que estarian presentes en el campeonato de la NFL, no dejando de ser importante para probar orgullo mexicano.

Explicar a dos artistas de talla mundial presentes en una ciudad tan importante para la cultura Latina en los Estados Unidos es solo la primera vez que estuvieron presentes en el campeonato de la NFL, no dejando de ser importante para probar orgullo mexicano.

A pesar de que no contribuyeron musicalmente en la celebración de la temporada 100 de la NFL, no deja de ser importante para probar orgullo mexicano.

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Presidential Democratic hopeful Michael Bloomberg made his first stop Jan. 29 in the Sun City, unveiling a new plan to empower Latinos should he win in November. While many other top candidates, including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, are concentrating in early states like Iowa, Bloomberg chose to open a field office in El Paso, after Beto O’Rourke stepped down from the race. The former New York City mayor also opened offices around the state including San Antonio and Austin.

More than 100 people were in attendance to welcome Bloomberg to the border region and listen to his plans for the country, should he win the race. The evening opened with a look back to the August mass shooting in El Paso that took the lives of 22 people.

“This is not just a case of those 22 people being in the wrong place at the wrong time,” Texas Rep. Cesar Blanco said, before introducing Bloomberg. “This is a case of an unstable president spewing hateful words and giving cover to angry people all the time.”

The alleged shooter at Walmart referenced President Donald J. Trump’s rhetoric in a manifesto he had published online prior to his killing spree. Bloomberg is hoping to help combat the rise of hate crimes, by using his three-term experience as mayor of one of the most diverse cities in the country, in order to help unite the country once again.

Besides being a focal point in regard to immigration, Bloomberg is aware of Texas and the fast approaching vote on March 3, otherwise known as Super Tuesday. Sixteen states will go to the polls that day to help determine a candidate’s national electability and also win over delegates. Eleven Democratic candidates remain as of Jan. 31. The state of Texas holds 238 of the 270 delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination.

In 2018, Bloomberg supported several Democratic candidates throughout the country that won elections to help turn the non-voting state to a blue state by making new voter registration a priority of his campaign. Newly eligible voters will be a big part of that focus. On the surface, it is difficult to see how a self-made billionaire would appeal to millennials. Not long after announcing his candidacy, Forbes listed Bloomberg as one of the richest men in the world with a net worth of more than $54 billion. He has completely self-funded his campaign, spending more than $200 million in the first two months since launching it last November. He is a philanthropist donating billions to causes, including climate change, scholarships at top institutions and gun control. Bloomberg has stated he is willing to spend more than a billion to defeat Trump, whether as a Democratic nominee or otherwise.

For more information, visit TheProspectorDaily.com.
"Dr. Skateboard" teaches physical sciences through comics

Alcino X. Novo Carmona
The Prospector

William Robinson, professor at UTEP's Department of Education, who usually goes by Dr. Skateboard, turned himself into a character in his graphic novel, "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science," first published August 2019. The comic aims to explain physical sciences to all audiences in a format they can enjoy.

"I had this idea of doing something that would be more interesting to young people and that's where the graphic novel came in," Robinson said. "And what I found is that it's really interesting for everybody — young people and older people alike. I think it's just a medium that really speaks to people."

Robinson has practiced skateboarding since he was 13 years old, when he lived in Richmond, Virginia, and has participated in competitions, which took place in a beach that was a couple hours from the town he lived. Skateboarding also allowed him to travel throughout the East Coast and California during his early teens. He was even elected into the Freestyle Hall of Fame in 2010, according to his website.

"It was just something I wanted to do with my friends," Robinson said. "It was just fun, we started doing it and then skateboarding got real big at that point."

Even though Robinson has broken his wrist and ruptured the ligaments of his knee before, he never gave up on skateboarding, which he still does to this day after more than 40 years.

"I had more injuries as a wrestler than I did in skateboarding, I think I've stayed pretty resilient in it," Robinson said. "I think the main thing too is in getting older in the sport. I've had to do things like wear my helmet and things like that now, but I continue to do it."

Using his longtime experience with skateboarding, Robinson has created presentations for middle and high schools since he graduated from college, including motivational presentations and action science demonstrations, according to the Dr. Skateboard website.

"As a young person, I did a lot of demonstrations in fairs and street shows," Robinson said. "I was interested in being a teacher one day and I was thinking of things that could be interesting to do in schools. I thought of this idea of presenting sort of a motivational program using skateboarding."

Another element that he incorporates in his graphic novel and presentations is bicycle motocross (BMX), which is a sport Robinson only knows through second-hand experience since he never gave up on skateboarding, which he still does to this day after more than 40 years.

"I'm not really a BMX rider. I have a bike, but I don't do tricks on it. I'm a skateboarder," Robinson said. "As part of my team under the banner of action science, our demonstration team, we use skateboards and athletes, both on skateboards and BMX bikes. We have people who ride ramps, who do dirtland tricks, who ride rails... for both skateboards and bikes."

In order to create the comic book, Tania Sanchez, a UTEP mathematics alumna, contributed her knowledge of physics, and Robinson was able to publish the first two volumes of "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science," "Simple Machines" and "Forces," in both English and Spanish. The team first made an electronic version which they later printed in different places with money that came out of pocket.

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In order to create the comic book, Tania Sanchez, a UTEP mathematics alumna who Robinson met while skateboarding, contributed her drawing skills and, with the help of Creative Studios, Robinson was able to publish the first two volumes of "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science," "Simple Machines" and "Forces," in both English and Spanish. The team first made an electronic version which they later printed in different places with money that came out of pocket.

"I think the bottom line is, really, to help people who may not be reached by education in traditional ways; to give them opportunities that would interest them. In middle school, it's really important that students are engaged in things that they'd like to do and they're motivated about their learning," Robinson said. "My hope is always that these graphic novels, the videos, the demonstrations, the things we do with teachers, pre-service teachers and in-service teachers, and the work we do in the community can help that process, so that someone who smart, but maybe doesn't learn in a traditional way, maybe be attracted to this and realize that the things they're good at can help them in their education, whether it be skateboarding or not."

"Simple Machines" and "Forces" are available for $7 at DrSkateboard.com

Alcino X. Novo Carmona may be reached at prospecor@utep.edu
Galería Lincoln: a local gallery ran by artists for artists

Jaqueline Martinez
The Prospector

Galería Lincoln is a homegrown art exhibit at 3915 Rosa St., near Lincoln Park created by local artists Tino Ortega and Diego Martinez to showcase talent from various artists, both locally and outside of El Paso.

Martinez grew up in a family of artists and he was always surrounded by art, so he inevitably developed a burning passion for it. Martinez was born and raised in El Paso and graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he majored in education.

"We locked in this place at a good rate and then we were able to put a lot of love and tears into it," Martinez said. "We painted the ceiling, we painted the floors, the inside, and we installed the windows."

He realized back then that his passion would be a full-time artist at the property he invested in with Ortega. "My approach to art has always been a giving approach. I like to welcome all artists. I don't hesitate to collaborate," Martinez said. "I feel fortunate and I joy to share the platform. This gallery is doing everyone else's art."

"We painted the ceiling, we painted the floors, inside, and we installed the windows," Martinez said. "This place, this location and this area is the heart of El Paso. It's really a beautiful area that a lot of people forgot about. It's a reallow-income part of the town, so we are trying to establish some life." The artist said he plans to expand his exhibit by collaborating with the nearby Old Sheep Dog Brewery across the street from the gallery.

The gallery will also host workshops this year led by local artists. "The exhibit's official grand opening will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, featuring emerging artist Ingesa "XO" Camara in "XO Rituals."

The artists hosted a soft opening exhibition dubbed "20 artists for 2020" on Dec. 31, which featured 25 artists from the local art scene, including UTEP student Matthew McIntyre who is working both in painting and ceramics.

"Working with them was great. They're all about supporting local artists and giving artists more opportunities here in El Paso," said McIntyre, who submitted two pieces into the show, including a slip-cast, ceramic bottom-up shirt and an oil-based painting.

The soft opening also included low riders and kegs sponsored by Deadbeach Brewery, seeing a total of 150 guests.

Booked artists for this year include "PILO" from the Jellyfish Collective, El Paso native Erik Pena, Laura Torre, who is widely recognized for her "Paradox" traveling art school, Diego Medina and Gabriel Gaytan.

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Jaqueline Martinez may be reached at jmartinez@udem.com.

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**Take Care of Your Water. Keep It Clean**

Do not dump waste, chemicals, paint, custodial waste, and general rubbish items (tires, old car parts, shopping carts, etc.) into storm drains, channels, or ditches.

No tire basura, aparatos electrodomésticos, muebles, barriles, y carrozas o canales y alcuitlas del sistema de drenaje pluvial.

- Properly dispose of hazardous wastes, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- Call UTEP EH&S to schedule waste pickups.
- Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas, y fertilizantes.

Alcantarillado de aguas pluviales es identificado con anuncios de "NO DESECHAR DESECHOS AQUI"

Storm drains are easily identified with "NO DUMPING" decals at stormwater drains.

- Storm drains are easily identified with "NO DUMPING" decals at stormwater drains.
- No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura.

Recicle aceite, anti-compuestos y lubricantes o disponga de ellos de manera propia para prevenir contaminación del sistema de drenaje pluvial, mantas acuíferas y el Río Bravo.

- No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura.
- Deseche correctamente basura vegetal (cabezas, ramos, y hojas) así como basura de construcción.

Keep material out of the stormwater conveyance system (carbs, gutters, picketwails, streets, drains, culverts, and arroyos).

- Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas, y fertilizantes.
- Llame al departamento EM&S en UTEP y agende fecha para recoger los desperdicios.

Recycle oil, antiwaxes, and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of the properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the Río Grande.

- Disponga de gras, leves, yard waste, and construction debris properly.
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Leve naturaleza vegetación in place where possible to prevent erosion.

Si es posible, deje crecer la vegetación en forma natural para evitar la erosión.

- Disponga de gras, leves, yard waste, and construction debris properly.
- Deseche correctamente basura vegetal (cabezas, ramos, y hojas) así como basura de construcción.

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**The University of Texas at El Paso**

**Environmental Health & Safety**

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VAPORWAVE from front page

Editor’s note: A microgenre is defined as a subgenre of music characterized by its specificity and niche nature. "Microgenres" is a special seven-week series by The Prospector that will showcase a different microgenre each week, publishing every Tuesday from Feb. 4 to March 24.

Following Perusini’s pioneering lead was James Ferraro, who drew inspiration from the concept of 21st century consumerism to create the album “Far Side Ritual,” released in 2011.

Then came the release of the successful vaporwave album "Floral Shoppe" in late 2011 by Macintosh Plus, which currently has more than a million views on YouTube.

With such momentum, the album made the microgenre more approachable to new audiences with its most recognizable track "Lisa Frank 420; a slowed down rework of Diana Ross’ "It's A Sunday Morning," which went viral, racking up more than nine million views on YouTube.

Vaporwave has an extremely distinguishable aesthetic characterized by its use of vintage computer imagery and its satirical appropriation of old media and the romanticizing of '80s and '90s consumerist culture. Common computer imagery reflective of the time and desired design include Artesia Iced Tea, Fiji Water and video game cover arts, an example being Perusini’s "Eccojams Vol. I" album cover featuring the Dolphin.”

... bright and earnest or slow and sultry, often beautiful, either looped out of sync and beyond the point of functionality or standing alone...

- ADAM HARPER
Dummymog

box art from the Sega Mega Drive game "Ecco the Dolphin."

The videos are recognizable by their production and editing vintage VHS video quality, superimposed static lines with the movie synced over a dependent backdrop. Greek imagery such as the use of Greco-Roman statues, berserk

Traditional and ‘Chuco’ style poke graces the borderland
A Hawaiian dish discovered by pop culture

Sven Kline
The Prospector

Poke. You’ve seen it, probably eaten it and maybe even assumed you know all there is to it, but there is a lot more to poke than just a different take on sushi.

Origins
Poke is a dish residing of ancient Hawaiian origin. In an article written by Mari Taketa for the Hawaiian Airlines website, she says "Poke's come a long way from its origins in pre-contact times, when ancient Hawaiians feasted on fresh, caught fish massaged with sea salt, seaweed and crushed limu or kukui nuts."

What is poke?
Poke is Hawaiian but it is also influenced by Asian culture. In a sense, poke can be thought of as "deconstructed sushi," where much of its ingredients are also found in sushi like white rice, seaweed and raw cuts of various fish.

Poke can be found in almost every decent sized urban place with plenty of small food chains abundant in large cities like El Paso.

Where can I find poke?
Poke locations have popped up all across town and a simple Google search can direct you to the nearest one, but being a student at UTEP, you perfect for that in-between class lunch.

In the mood for a mix of Mexican cuisine in your poke? El Poke sits just a block further up from Poke on Mesa Street around the corner of Sun Bowl.

Also, near UTEP is Pokeworks, which has two locations, one outside one on George Dieter Drive and another on the westside along Mesa Street. There is also the choice of Poke Bar also with two locations both west and east.

There are a variety of different poke shops to choose from with their own unique taste and aesthetic from which to decide.

Variations
As one might expect from the description of deconstructed sushi, poke comes in a variety of forms depending on location.

Poke is a deconstructed raw fish served either on an appetizer or in a main course and is one of the main dishes of Native Hawaiian cuisine.

There is an array of adaptations of poke that have emerged throughout the years, but most notably to the "bowl" the more traditional form found in Hawaii. Any and all poke locations you visit will most likely serve it this way.

In Chico Town, as any local resident will probably know, food always comes served "Chuco style." The burrito, a staple food for many Latinos, has made its influence on poke. As you may have guessed, poke can be served in a burrito form, making it an easy on-the-go meal when in a hurry.

El Poke brings a Mexican twist to poke, serving various forms and ingredients relating to that of Hispanic cultural foods such as tacos, like "shrimp tacos" and "spicy tuna tacos." Their poke bowls on the menu consist of the "La Poke" and the "EZ Poke TX," all with ingredients of Hispanic ingredients mixed in.

With popularity — fads and globalization — poke has been altered from its original native form to meet a local customs preference of taste, such as El Poke, which alters the original taste to consumers’ preference, for better or for worse. But let’s be clear, poke is not new. It’s been around longer than anyone alive today, but only recently discovered by pop culture.

See online menu at prospectordaily.com

Sven Kline may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Check out "IN REVIEW: 'Death Stranding' addresses the need for human connection" online at TheProspectorDaily.com
Miners’ tennis drops two matchups at home over weekend

Michael Cuviello
The Prospector

Playing on back to back days, the UTEP tennis team lost matches to the Abilene Christian University (ACU) Wildcats and the New Mexico Lobos. Neither match turned out to be close as they only scored one point in each.

On Saturday, UTEP stretched out a trio of singles matches to three sets while coming up short in all of them versus the Wild Cats. In the doubles opening matches, the Miners lost all three sets and started off in a 1-0 hole as singles play began.

The No. 1 doubles team of senior Vanessa Valdez and junior Maria Aviega were very competitive in their set 7-6, but the rest of doubles matches were one-sided affairs.

Valdez as the No. 1 came out strong in her first set winning 6-2 but faltered in the second set 6-3. The third and deciding set was a hard fought 7-5 loss to ACU’s Sarah Adams. Junior Erandi Martinez, after losing her opening set, stretched her opponent to three sets, winning the second set 6-4, but came up short in the final set losing 6-4 in the battle of No. 2 singles.

UTEP’s lone victory of the day was accomplished by junior Lina Sachica in straight sets 6-1,6-3 in the No. 3 singles. No. 4 sophomore Kathleen Perezoga pushed her match to a seventh point in both sets but fell 7-5 in each.

No. 5 singles player freshman Eve Daniels forced a tiebreaker in the first set but lost 7-6.

Daniels never recovered from that close set and lost the second frame 6-2.

Aviega the No. 6 was the third UTEP player to go to three sets and come away with a setback. After winning the first set 6-2, Aviega lost the final two sets 6-2,6-3.

“We know that it was going to be a tough battle coming into this match,” UTEP Coach Ivan Fernandez said. “Abilene Christian has already played a few matches this semester, so they’re coming in a little bit more seasoned than we are. But I really enjoyed watching our girls compete. This is probably the closest 6-1 score that you’ve ever going to see. So many matches went to three sets. I’m really proud of how the girls fought. If this is a sign of how we’re going to compete this season, I think there are a lot of good things ahead for us in the future.”

The second match of the weekend was versus longtime rival New Mexico Lobos.

After dropping the first two doubles matches once again, the Miners found the team in a 1-0 deficit heading into singles.

Valdez the No. 1, was blitzed in the first set 6-1 but came back to force the second set to 7 points losing by two. Martinez lost her match in straight sets 6-1, 6-3 setting the Miners back to an 0-3 deficit.

Sachica came through with her second match win of the weekend and is currently 3-0 as the No. 3 singles player. With a dominant 6-3,6-0 victory, Sachica is undefeated as a Miner in solo play.

Daniels came out strong forcing her opponent to a seventh point in the first set of her match but failed to score a single point in the second set, losing 6-0.

“It was another tough day,” Fernandez said. “We are fighting on every court and we’re up on many courts and just couldn’t close it out. We are young and learning with every match. I’m extremely proud of Lina (Sachica), who was able to close out her matches both days. She is showing great energy, and I hope the rest of the team can match that in the matches to come.”

The Miners go on the road next weekend to play two matches in Logan, Utah. UTEP plays at noon Feb. 6 versus Idaho State and noon Feb. 7 against Utah State.

The Miners go on the road next weekend to play two matches in Logan, Utah. UTEP plays at noon Feb. 6 versus Idaho State and noon Feb. 7 against Utah State.

“Those guys out willed us and we were more physical in the paint. Players got to play, they have to compete, and we did not compete for whatever reason tonight and that is the disappointing and embarrassing part of it,” Terry said.

The Miners go on the road Feb. 6 to play against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (12-9, 6-4).

Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Freshman transfer Dean Stroud shoots a jumper versus the UAB Blazers Saturday, Feb. 1.

Four UAB players scored in double digits led by senior forward Will Butler with 17 points. Over the past two games, Butler has been on a tear with 35 points combined while shooting 69% from the field.

Freshman guard Jalen Benjamin continued with his impressive first season, putting up 15 points on 4-8 shooting, including 3-5 from the 3-point line.

Leading the way once again for the Miners was junior Bryson Williams with 26 points and eight rebounds. Fourteen times this season, Williams has led the team in scoring and he is currently second in Conference-USA with 19 points a game as well as fifth in rebounding with seven a game.

Hawkins did not attempt a field goal and Lathon was 0-2 from the field.

Before entering the transfer portal, Lathon was the starting point guard and was averaging 6 points a game. Coming off the bench, Lathon is 0-17 from the field and has six points in those eight games, all from free throws. Playing time for Lathon has fallen from 27 minutes a game to 15.

Sophomore forward Efe Odigie, coming off a double-double performance against Middle Tennessee State played 17 minutes making his presence known with 6 points, five rebounds and three steals.

“We did not play with the kind of urgency or defense that you need to have this time of year in conference play?” Head Coach Rodney Terry said. “We have not had consistent guard play from game to game those guys have to play better.”

Those guys out willed us and we were more physical in the paint. Players got to play, they have to compete, and we did not compete for whatever reason tonight and that is the disappointing and embarrassing part of it,” Terry said.

The Miners go on the road Feb. 6 to play against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (12-9, 6-4).

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Women's basketball facing tough road trip

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The Prospector

Facing two of the top five teams in Conference-USA (C-USA) was a tough task for the UTEP women's basketball team this past weekend.

The Miners failed to muster a comeback win against Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and a rough shooting outing doomed the squad against the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Blazers.

Now the Miners look to rebound during a two-game homestand against Charlotte and second-place Old Dominion. After the road trip, the Miners are tied for sixth place in conference.

After falling 31-10 against MTSU, the Miners battled to get within seven points (65-58) in the fourth quarter but couldn't rally past the final stretch to pull off the win. Senior forward Ariona Gill put up a solid double-double performance, posting 20 points and 12 rebounds.

"We were playing our 'B-level game' instead of an 'A-level game'," Head Coach Kevin Baker said. "There's a lot of reasons for me to be frustrated right now because we didn't play well, but more reasons for us to be excited with the kind of character we have shown."

Three players posted double-digit scoring performances for UTEP in the Miners' second game of its road trip against UAB, but the Blazers lived up to its status as a great three-point shooting team, going 45% from downtown. The Miners were cold from the field, shooting 29% and 28% from the three. Over its last two games, the Miners averaged shooting 33% from the field.

"We held them to 63 points, but as luck would have it, in the first half, we couldn't throw it in the ocean. That's how it's been for our team lately," Baker said.

The first matchup in the Miners' two-game homestand features the team it is tied for sixth place in C-USA with the Charlotte 49ers. The 49ers are on a three-game winning streak and have one of the best defenses in Conference-USA, allowing a third-best 60 points per game.

Charlotte is led by redshirt senior guard Jade Phillips' 15 points per game, which is eighth best in Conference-USA. The 49ers also have two more reliable playmakers in junior guards Mashir Linney and Christian Hithe, with both players averaging nine points per game.

Last season the Miners fell to the 49ers by 23 points in Charlotte where UTEP had only six active players due to injuries.

UTEP finishes off its homestand against second-place Old Dominion, a team that is on a seven-game winning streak and is talented on defense. Old Dominion can provide pressure on its opponent throughout the game.

The Monarchs rank first in Conference-USA in scoring defense, field goal defensive percentage and three-point field goal defensive percentage. Old Dominion also places the league in scoring margin, winning its games by an average of 13 points.

Old Dominion has a balanced scoring attack with four players averaging double digits in points led by sophomore guard Aijah Wynn's and senior guard Taylor Edwards' 11 points per game.

For the Miners, the hot hand on the offensive end is Gill, who has posted back-to-back double-digit scoring performances and has averaged 12.2 points per game in her last five games.

The Miners kick off its two-game homestand at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 against Charlotte and finish off at 1 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Don Haskins Center.

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