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Local fashion boutiques adjust to COVID-19 pandemic

Nicole Lopez
The Prospector

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has approached businesses with, local boutiques in El Paso are making adjustments to in-store and online sales to keep their operations up and running.

Between March and July of 2020, more than 120 businesses in El Paso closed for good, according to data from Yelp.

Gesuina Legaspy, owner of GAL Boutique, understood the possibility of losing her business, just as more than 120 other business owners did in El Paso. Her persistence is what allowed her to keep GAL Boutique afloat.

"I thought to myself, 'I'm not going to go down like this,'" Legaspy said. "There is no way that I'm just going to let this kill my business." Business did indeed slow down for Legaspy at the beginning of the pandemic. It was during spring of 2020 that she took advantage of the spare time she now had, to learn more about how she could help her business grow.

From attending online pop-up sales to purchasing designer gowns, Legaspy got creative. She began to investigate lower price products offering high-quality fashion for customers alike.

"People still need accessories, they still wear sunglasses, jewelry, masks, and now they're wearing loungewear," Legaspy said. "I changed my structure. That way, people could purchase what was available.

Legaspy also considered efficient means of delivering her products to her customers.

"Since we (employees at GAL Boutique) weren't yet allowed to come to the store, I was constantly either shipping or going to people's houses to deliver stuff," Legaspy said. "I did what I needed to do to save myself!"

On Next Sunday, a boutique located at The Fountains at Farah, has approached businesses with more about how she could help her business grow. Owner of On Next Sunday, Legaspy also considered efficient means of delivering her products to her customers.

"I thought, 'If I can sew a soldier's uniform together, then I can make a mask,'" Morado said. "It's super easy for me."

Morado makes masks to double up on fabric for extra filtering and protection, when creating her masks. Each customer can choose from the diverse patterns Morado offers, from Disney princesses, animal prints, and sports teams logos to solid colors.

But people are especially drawn to Morado's masks because of her unique design technique.

"Most masks out there have nose clips," Morado said. "My masks don't need the nose clip because I sew on a piece of fabric that's shaped to

Handmade face masks

The business behind the art and craft

Andrea Valdez-Rivas
The Prospector

Wherever there's demand, there will always be supply, at least that's what local experienced seamsters found to be true as homemade mask businesses boomed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the past year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended people wear a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Seamsters like Maria Teresa Morado, 55, who works in housekeeping at El Paso’s University Medical Center (UMC), took the opportunity to provide an essential product and make extra cash at the same time.

Morado began selling homemade face masks to her coworkers at the hospital when COVID-19 cases were rapidly increasing in April 2020. Before, working at UMC, Morado spent eight years making U.S. Army soldier uniforms.

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Rocketbuster Boots takes the boot capital of the world by storm

Victoria Rivas
The Prospector

Rocketbuster Boots is a locally owned business that has been selling custom handmade boots around the world for 31 years.

The shop is located in a 100-year-old building that used to be a fur trappers' warehouse next to the El Paso downtown train station at 115 Anthony St. It takes pride in being in El Paso, who gained the title of the "Boot Capital of the World," due to its long history with cowboys, boots and ranchers that dates to the 1800s.

There were more boot companies in this town than any other town, and that goes way back," Nevena Christi, who also refers to herself as the "boss lady" and owner of the Rocketbuster Boots, said. "We have a rich history in the making of the American cowboy boot, as far as many companies.

Christi is not originally from El Paso. She studied in Europe and New York at Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Paris and The New School. She had 15 years of experience working as an artist, graphic designer, and fashion designer before moving to El Paso in 1997 with her husband, Marty Snortum, to work together on the Rocketbuster Boots business.

Rocketbuster’s is home to the world’s largest boots certified by Guinness World Records. It makes boots for all major holidays, including the Fourth of July, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, and even U.S. elections.

"This year because we knew the election was going to be insane, we did like a vintage fight poster, so Biden had his dudes up in one side and Trump on the other, and it was 'Go out and vote,'" Christi said. "We did it with Hillary and Trump. It's become something we do every election."

El Paso's borderland culture serves as inspiration for everything.

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Should I get rid of my skinny jeans?

Anahy Diaz

March 11 marked one year since the United States declared the COVID-19 pandemic. Just like last year, the video-sharing app TikTok continues to be the app many people have turned to during quarantine. The app remains a space where people go to share opinions on various topics, including fashion. Through recent TikToks, those who fall under Generation Z (1997-2012) have been criticizing the style of Millennials (1981-1996), mainly their affection for side-parted hair and skinny jeans.

As a member of Gen Z, I must admit the comments about what is considered to now be an “outdated” style should be taken lightly considering some of our middle school photos. Millennials all around have not been thrilled by the comments. Why? Perhaps these “outdated” trends mark the end of Millennial mainstream influence.

But first, we must give credit where credit is due. Gen Z learned from the best, from its early 90s inspired prints to its obsession with cycling shorts and hoodies, the generation’s style is heavily influenced by Millennial trends. However, Gen Z does it its own way. Yes, we are into tie-dye garments, but specifically pastels and preferably oversized.

In an interview by BBC Style, Gen Z researcher and author Corey Seemiller clarified that the most significant difference in style between Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z, isn’t about a particular garment or look, but rather the ethos of consumption. “Gen Z like to buy used clothing, both for their ability to personalize it, and as a way to demonstrate their environmental commitment in keeping items out of landfills,” Seemiller said.

Gen Z’s own take on the future of the fashion industry is a reflection of the generation’s prominent beliefs. When it comes to fashion trends, Gen Z leans into sustainably sourced fabrics and brands with social messaging. According to McKinsey and Business of Fashion’s State of Fashion Report 2021, nine in 10 Generation Z consumers believe companies have a responsibility to address environmental and social issues. The report addressed the future of fashion, where the recent increase of digital consumption showed fashion companies need to take an active stance on social issues, satisfy consumer demands for radical transparency, and have the courage to “self-disrupt” an old identity of success that no longer works with new generations of customers.

Among this self-redefining change, comes a strong wave of inclusion past sizes, which is gender-neutral clothing. According to Insider, some members of Gen Z look to brands making the definition of “gendered” clothing, opting instead for unisex or gender-fluid options, allowing a person to dress as they please without necessarily conforming with society’s expectations of gender.

Furthermore, Gen Z is making the definition of “gender-neutral” clear: a gender-neutral collection that doesn’t include dresses and skirts is irrelevant.

Although most people dislike being left out of a trend, having style distinctions within generations is a good sign for the future of fashion. So, should you get rid of your skinny jeans? No, because if there’s something you can learn from Gen Z, aside from making TikTok transitions while simultaneously writing to your state representative, is that fashion trends are always changing but never fully ending.
On March 10, businesses near UTEP react to Gov. Abbott’s no mask mandate

Victoria Rivers
The Prospector

On March 10, business across campus and the El Paso area reacted to Gov. Greg Abbott’s implementation of his latest executive order.

With this executive order, we are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny,” Abbott said during a news conference on March 2. “Today’s announcement doesn’t abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it’s a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others.

Businesses near UTEP are doing just that, as some continue to implement safety protocols and limit capacity at their discretion.

The Prospector

“Our business has exploded since the outbreak of coronavirus because we had extra time to focus on perfecting everything,” Johnson said. “We raised the bar on everything we do, and that’s helped us transition our business to the online world.

According to boutiques such as GAL, on Next Sunday, and Dos Femmes, jewelry has been a popular accessory as of late. As an easy way to style and accessorize at home, these businesses decided to sell more jewelry to appeal to more customers.

According to the boutiques, clothing will always be in demand, but with more people at home, earrings, necklaces, and bracelets are on the rise. Dos Femmes is currently working to expand its jewelry line considering how much it has helped the boutique.

“We were very lucky to have our website up and running way before we ever needed to use it,” Johnson said. “We were able to transition our business to home and operate from there.

For 34-year-old Nora Ochoa, who parties, “Might as well make a mask and have them,” Ochoa said. “I try to choose fabrics that I think people will like and wear, “Ochoa said. “Might as well make a mask and have them.”

Denisse Olivas, marketing lecturer at UTEP, emphasized how much virtual services, social media, and websites can help these boutiques and their target audiences, especially during this virtual time.

“Small businesses are learning more about what they can do with technology,” Olivas said. “It’s critical for businesses to become nimble by providing products in a digital way so that they can be found more often online.

Olivas also mentioned how creating advertisements, working on search engine optimization, and understanding where your target audience is at, is what has helped these boutiques not only keep up with the struggles of the pandemic but also grow.

“At this point, going digital or having that presence in addition to in-person services, is the best way to connect with a consumer,” Olivas said.

On March 10, Morado expects demand for masks to decline. After a few months, in July, she added. “We know people are going to start wearing them, so we have to keep our social distance and face masks.

New safety measures. Same great haircuts.
Julian Herrera

Title: UTEP officials address network shutdown

UTEP President Heather Wilson and university computer science professors give insight to campus operations following a site-wide outage that affected every facet of the university.

On March 5, students lost access to the MyUTEP banner page and, consequently, all information and services accessed therein. Blackboard, payroll, library services, financial aid, enrollment, and email, among others, were rendered completely inaccessible by what UTEP’s Information Technology (IT) team later defined as a “potentially malicious incident.”

UTEP’s social media accounts became the primary avenue through which the University connected with students and staff to provide updates on the outage.

With a number of upcoming midterm assignments and tests due before spring break, students were apprehensive about the inability to contact their professors. While the University stated professors should be flexible with students, this did not quell all concerns.

Ashley Rodriguez, professor of political science at UTEP, said, “I was happy to communicate during the periodic UTEP announcements on social media, along with the main hope in names that her students would see her. If "any of my pals 2310/2311 students see this, please rest assured you will be able to be realized for this weekend’s assignments," Rodriguez posted on UTEP’s Instagram account.

Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., professor of computer science at UTEP, expressed his gratitude towards UTEPs IT team and their persistent efforts to restore the University’s technology. "I am relieved along with insightful opinions and observations surrounding the event. The fact that—as all of us learn from the news—government and government websites are periodically hacked, and sometimes, successfully hacked just by young kids, this fact shows that it is not possible to completely avoid such attacks,” Kreinovich said.

In January alone, UTEP analytics indicated Information Resources mitigated 22,000 attacks. Kreinovich praised IT for being prepared for the attack and acknowledged the resiliency of UTEP students and their ability to adapt to complex situations at a moment’s notice.

"Such situations are not a pleasant experience, but they show that students have the skills and the drive to survive and excel in the real world, where ups and downs happen all the time,” Kreinovich said.

Deepak Tosh, Ph.D., professor of computer science and director of the UTEP Solar Center, appreciates UTEP and its response to the outage.

"Attacks such as the one UTEP experienced are especially typical of result by highly skilled adversaries that navigate laterally towards our systems until they find vulnerabilities in the system, Tosh said. He explained that while most organizations in the University included, operate to ensure any vulnerabilities in the system are patched up quickly, sometimes a hacker can find the area first and exploit it.

"Our least incident was of this kind, where the malicious actor found a security bug in Microsoft Exchange Server (email) and then exploited additional vulnerabilities to create a backdoor remote access. Tosh said: "The cyber threat landscape is quite vast and difficult to keep up as the state-sponsored attackers are constantly targeting to exploit weaknesses in the applications.”

Other than that, said that while the outage was a manageable inconvenience, UTEP’s infrastructure and programs have security at their top priority and IT exercised their protocol commendably. Although UTEP has yet to go into the technical details of the intrusion, according to University officials, there is no evidence that any sensitive information has been compromised. Wilson addressed faculty and students in an email regarding the site outage during a virtual town meeting Friday, March 12, including its cause and the measures being taken to disseminate the information.

Wilson said the standard procedure in the event of unauthorized intrusion is to shut down the system and request assistance. However, according to Wilson, the cabinet had performed the immediate shut down within the last three months and coordinated a planned practice attacks, which they did not anticipate another university to give system administrators experience about how to handle similar situations.

After UTEP became aware of the cyber-intrusion, according to the university, they prepared and procedures and helped receive from one of the top 10 companies in the country to whom the University focuses on subsequent recovery actions.

"The intrusion happened at 4:30 am in the morning, and the last time the University management systems were backed up was up to four years ago, only a gap of about four and a half hours,” said Wilson. "The backup serves were running fine. We have looked very carefully to see if personal data was found or compromised, and we have found no evidence of that and no evidence of information leakage."

One of the immediate near-term, Wilson said, was to focus on the management system and remote request the university is taking to prevent such a disruption from occurring again.

Wilson took responsibility for the lack of communication but explained that there was a significant issue behind the silence. Wilson said, “We had limited communication channels and we didn’t know initially what we had, so we had to assess that, Wilson said. "The strong advice from one of the top companies in the country was, ‘Do not overcommunicate early, because the criminals are watching you!’ We don’t want to tip them off in a way that could cause more damage to our system and could prevent our ability to recover.”

According to Wilson, the goal was to strategically let people know there was a network outage of some kind, but not say where the University was in the process or any steps being taken. "I take full responsibility for making the decision not to fully communicate publicly on Sunday to all of you because I did not want to simultaneously communicate and potentially report in order to impede our operations and steal things from you,” Wilson said.

"I believe UTEP handled the breach well since our information was protected. The security of our social security numbers is much more crucial. If someone saw a credit card number, it could be waivered,” Hargen said.

"Students need to be mindful that the majority of the online websites are going down due to circumstances of our control, in order that we have to work. Students were encouraged to access cybersecurity and special expertise in cybersecurity are encouraged to offer their help, as the University is open to suggestions as to how to reduce the likelihood of this occurring again.

"If you can do this, you can do to protect our network to be cyber-aware yourself,” Wilson said. Wilson said that if the University got caught one more event has been restored, while UTEP continues to recover central systems and applications as well as beginning to check every computer on campus. Students resumed classes after Spring Break on March 22.

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Professor receives NASA research grant

Julian Herrera

UTEP professor of mechanical engineering, Amelia Greig, Ph.D., has been awarded two successful NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) grant to fund the development of technologies and water extraction technologies. "With a research funding dedicated to developing significant concepts predicted to benefit NASA’s space exploration programs and every facet of its future research."

"A lot of research grants tend to focus on the immediate near-term, they want to see immediate results, whereas these grants are more for technology development that may come in possibly 20 years’ time,” Greig said.

The central focus of Greig’s project is to develop and test water molecules from other elements and matter unconsolidated rocks and soil, making it difficult to get anything off the surface of the Earth. If we could find water there, we’d have to carry a lot less,” said Greig. "We have limited communication channels and we didn’t know initially what we had, so we had to assess that, Wilson said. ‘The strong advice from one of the top companies in the country was, ‘Do not overcommunicate early, because the criminals are watching you!’ We don’t want to tip them off in a way that could cause more damage to our system and could prevent our ability to recover.’"

Greig explained the functionality of her project would increase the ability to find undrinkable water, useful for the people of the moon’s surface. Rather than excavating the moon’s surface for water, Greig’s team was extracting water from rock samples collected by putting the molecules in a mass spectrometer and can provide funding to further develop the idea over the course of multiple years.

The second phase begins after this period, when Greig will have an updated version of the project. Greig described the first phase as a "insubstantial study," essentially small tests to find the feasibility of the technology for them to determine if the project is viable and can provide funding to further develop the idea over the course of multiple years.

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Ever Clay expands sale of handmade accessories

Valdez said. “It gives me that motivation to keep going and to keep creating. Right now, my goal for this year, I would like to put my pieces out there, maybe to open a small boutique.”

Valdez participated at the 1st Ave. Artisan Market, showcasing her accessories and selling her products in downtown El Paso. She loved the experience of meeting her followers and business supporters, she hopes to continue participating and meeting other local vendors and small businesses.

“Throughout this journey I’ve made good friends from other vendors and artists that have their small business. I love it. This year, I did my first market already, with the Upper Valley Market. It was a different experience because it was an outdoor Market,” she said.

Valdez currently has new designs up on her website celebrating spring and Women’s History Month. Everything is handmade and she also offers custom made orders. You can contact Ever Clay via Instagram at @ever.clay.

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Old family practice inspires new company

The company specializes in crafting handmade and customized purses and accessories online.

The company was founded on Instagram two months ago by a family of three after Malena Melgoza, from whom the company is named, was forced into unemployment as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her two daughters, Lucia and Karla Rodriguez, sought ways to occupy their mother’s free time, and drew inspiration from a childhood memory.

“We were looking at pictures of us when we were kids and my mom used to make us do purses like this because we had a lot of energy,” Lucia said. “When we saw the pictures, we thought it was a great idea because it’s not only making the purses but it’s also a stress reliever for us.”

Crafting purses together has brought back many nostalgic emotions for the family. What was once used as a means of keeping the kids busy, purse making has become an activity that is engaging and profitable. It’s brought the family closer together and sparked inspiration in the process.

While the purses Lucia and Karla made as children were large and not intended for sale, the company’s purses are made of higher quality materials, modelled after popular

Sunny Folds El Paso Thrift encourages up-cycling

Thrift shops have become popular in recent years. It not only helps local businesses, but it also helps the environment. According to experts, by buying recycled clothes, shoppers reduce waste in landfills. Mimi, a UTEP senior majoring in education, started her own online thrift shop in November 2020 called “Sunny Folds El Paso Thrift.” She was inspired to create her store because of her love for upcycling.

“I tend to hoard things that I am emotionally attached to, but I know that I need to let go. Sunny Folds has helped me part with clothing items and other objects in order to make room for new things or to clear up my living space,” Mimi said. “I also know some things that I have that I want to get rid of can be useful to other people for them to upcycle.”

Sunny Folds El Paso Thrift sells all sorts of items. There’s clothing in all different styles and sizes, even for children. The price of items ranges between $1 and $55. There are more luxurious, vintage items, but customers usually buy the trendy clothing items.

Mimi not only has to deal with the challenges the pandemic brings, but she also competes with larger and more well-known thrift shops. In all honesty, I try not to worry about what everyone else is doing; I’m happy doing trial and error and learning from my mistakes or ideas that didn’t work out so well,” Mimi said. “If I had the money to purchase items on its Instagram at @sunnyfolds.shop. For now, Mimi runs her store virtually from her own home and only takes online payments. A potential customer interested in purchasing an item from Sunny Folds can look on the company’s Instagram. There, one can find items posted for sale along with a picture of the item, the size, and the price. When shoppers find something they like, they can direct message the account.

Those interested can find out more about Sunny Folds El Paso Thrift or purchase items on Instagram at @sunnyfolds.shop. Additionally, Mimi’s small business is growing and gaining more customers from each social media post. She recently just shipped a couple of clothing items to New York.

See Malenlli page 6

Sunny Folds El Paso Thrift is an online thrift store on Instagram. Mimi, the account owner, runs her business with the help of her husband from El Paso.
In Review: Machine Gun Kelly is a rennaisance artist in 2021

Ishaa Ramirez
The Prospector

A constant criticism in music is staleness or saturation, in that all music may sound the same. Machine Gun Kelly is not the case. Throughout his career, he has proven that musicians can evolve and expand their artforms as time goes on. Machine Gun Kelly, born Colson Baker, is a Cleveland, Ohio, native. His work includes his Billboard chart-topping album “Tickets to My Downfall,” which is a testament to how an artist’s authenticity truly is due to his ability to venture exceptionally well into multiple genres.

Kelly broke into music through the rap genre by creating his own platinum, career-rocking single “Wild Boy.” Kelly started out with a recording contract with Bad Boy, founded by music mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs and Interscope Records in 2009. His career direction slowly began turning into a more pop/punk/funk feel with the release of his fourth album “Huntn Kill.”

One of the most notable tracks off the album is “I Think I’m Okay,” featuring English artist Yungblud and legendary Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker. The track is filled with classic pop-punk harmonies and punk-up aggression that complements Kelly’s ability to translate well in the genre. Fast forward a year later, Kelly generates one of the best pop/punk albums of the decade with Barker being featured on the entire album. “Tickets to My Downfall” is an album that is full of storytelling. The single “Lonely” describes Kelly’s feelings of loss and despair due to the death of his father, who died just days prior to the release of the album, or “Play This When I’m Gone” which is the last single of the album that is a message to Kelly’s daughter that details Kelly’s struggles with addiction and suicide.

Kelly went from a rap to a pop-punk style in 2020. Considering his past work, which includes a dark track and negative comments towards rap icon Eminem, some people feel that Kelly caused Kelly to move over genres, leaving the rap game. “I wanna start out by saying that I would like to correct the misconception that I think about doing multiple types of music,” Kelly said in a cover story for Kerrang. “I didn’t switch genres; I’m versatile; the wall isn’t broken.”

The lead album of the single, “Bloody Valentine,” features Kelly’s girlfriend and actress Megan Fox in the music video. It is one of the most reviving pop punk singles with lyrics that can resonate with the causal listener. “I’m overstimulated and I’m sad I don’t expect you to understand/ It’s nothing as true romance or an just a making a mess.”

Regarding one number on the Billboard Top 200 Albums is not an easy feat to accomplish, but “Tickets to My Downfall” succeeded at doing that with five of its songs reaching top ten Billboard singles. Kelly’s talents span further than the music scene. In the film “The Dirt,” Kelly appeared as Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee. In the Netflix production, viewers and fans can see that Kelly is much more than just a rapper.

With a budding acting career appearing in films such as “Bed Font,” “Project Power,” and “Big Time Adolescence” alongside his real-life best friend Pete Davidson, Kelly is a multi-dimensional artist that can succeed in both spectrums of the entertainment industry. This album has added more diverse layers to his career, proving Machine Gun Kelly is just scratching the surface.

“Machine Gun Kelly | 30/08/2019 | O2 Institute Birmingham” by Aliina S. is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Photo courtesy of Aliina S.
Michael Cuviello

Following its second consecutive first-round conference exit, UTEP Miner basketball has completed its uninspiring third year under Head Coach Rodney Terry. The Miners are 12-12 COVID-shortened season.

In year one, Terry had a very young roster but had convinced his top big man at Fresno State. The Miners are now returning UTEP’s Bryson Williams, to transfer along with 6-11 Eric Vila. Terry also consulted Fresno bound recruits Efie Odijke and Deon Stroud to come to UTEP. Adding to the mix were transfers, Kroneitect from Xavier and Anthony Tarke from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. With the exception of Odijie, all of these players would have to sit out for what would seem like a breakout year two.

On Jan. 25, Terry added one of the top prospects ever to set foot on a UTEP campus in Kaden Archie, a four-star recruit transferring from Texas Tech. Archie had previously had multiple scholarships offers from basketball powers Kansas, Illinois, Virginia, Texas Tech and Arizona.

While Terry’s first season ended with a 12-20 mark and a first-round exit in Conference USA (C-USA), the future looked bright with UTEP set up to be a contending team. Terry was title contender and possible NCAA invitee in his second season. In the conference tournament, UTEP wasranked fourth in the conference.

Starting year two, the Miners beat NCAA Championship runners-up Texas Tech 70-60 in a charity game at the Don Haskins Center, which pushed the team to the highest mark since previous glory days. The Miners started 8-1, but issues arose with multiple injuries to the team and one current player missing a team flight. After a promising start, the Miners finished the season 9-14 and missed the NCAA tournament. Terry struggled with his shot all season at point guard, shooting only 37% from the floor.

Unfortunately, the Miners would be unable to carry the momentum of that win into C-USA play as the team started 2-4 conference play and found its record sitting at 5-9, after 12 games. Current NCAA Tourney and C-USA champion Arizona State embarrassed the Miners with a 63-33 blowout that was the low point of the season.

From that point on to the rest of the season, the Miners were an up and down team but were able to finish the conference season with four straight wins to salvage a tournament berth. The Miners now sat at 12-10 and were able to work out an extra game with perennial Big 12 powerhouse Kansas on the road. UTEP outhustled Kansas in all the team could handle, leading by 14 points at the half. Leading for 56 minutes of the game, the Miners saw the slipper fall off Cinderella in the last minute of the game as UTEP came up short 67-62.

After this game, fans were optimistic that UTEP was much better than its record as it headed into the C-USA Tournament. Once again, the C-USA tournament showcased UTEP’s inconsistency as the team lost a hard-fought game in Houston. Atlantic 76-70. For the season, the Miners finished 12-12 in another frustrating year for the Miner faithful.

UTEP junior guard Souley Boum drives to the basket in traffic versus Florida International, Feb. 13.

UTEP has had some dominant rebounding losses, the team will need to shoot for Fresno State. It lost all-conference selection, “We’ve said purposefully that we have seen a winner on the court. The team needs to find an offensive identity and not continue to play down to its opponents. With Williams’ probable loss, the team will need to shoot much better from the arc and will not win shooting in C-USA’s bottom range.

Time is running out for excuses as why the Miners cannot be at least an upper-tier team in C-USA. Terry seems confident of where the team is going and the team is head and having overcome the turmoil of this past season with no players at this time in the transfer portal, although that could change quickly in the next month. In this time, Terry has brought some tremendous recruits on campus but none of that matters if UTEP can continue to play at C-USA. At some point, results are what matters and to this point, the Miner faithful have not seen improved expectations significantly.

Michael Cuviello can be reached at mcuvie@utep.edu
UTEP soccer loses at Oklahoma State

Heriberto Perez and Michael Cuviello

The UTEP Miners (3-4-1) were unable to generate any offense Saturday against the 15th ranked Oklahoma State Cowgirls (OSU) (10-2-1), conceding five goals in a 5-0 shutout loss to the Big 12 power in its worst loss of the season. Taking a huge step up in competition, the Miners acquitted themselves well in the first half after giving up a goal at the eight-minute mark to OSU’s Grace Youchum on an assist from Morgan Charm. For the rest of the first half, the Miners were able to keep the Cowgirls off the scoreboard and were down only 1-0 halfway through the match. Youchum now has nine goals on the season.

UTEP’s defense became quite porous quickly as the Cowgirls scored less than two minutes into the second half to take a 2-0 lead on a goal from OSU’s Kim Rodriguez. At the 32:44 mark of the match, OSU once again stuck a shot past UTEP sophomore goalkeeper Emily Parrot on a kick from OSU’s Megan Haines assisted by Hannah Webb to expand the Cowgirl lead to 3-0. Continually pressing the Miner defense, the Cowgirls broke through with back-to-back goals within seconds of each other at the 61-minute mark from Shyann McCary and Olivia Dowell to increase the OSU lead to 5-0.

While trailing by a wide margin, the Miners were able to keep OSU from scoring for the final 29 minutes of the match. UTEP, at no point during the match, gained any momentum on offense as the team only took three total shots with none on goal. On the other hand, OSU shot early and often with 18 total shots, 11 on goal and five reaching the UTEP net.

UTEP’s Kristen Prevelt was able to get two shots for the Miners and Vic Bonhan got the Miner’s only other shot on the day. Miner goalkeeper Parrot ended the game with six saves and allowed five goals on the 18 total shots from OSU.

The Miners were also unable to get a corner kick for the entire match while the Cowgirls had eight kicks.

Softball loses three games, wins its first at Lubbock

Heriberto Perez

The UTEP softball team went on the road to Lubbock, Texas, to play three games against Texas Tech and one against Tarleton State, in which they lost one and won the last one against Texas Tech.

On day one, the Miners lost both games against Texas Tech and went scoreless at the Jeannine McHaney Memorial Classic at the Rocky Johnson Field. Both games on Friday afternoon ended 8-0 in favor of the Red Raiders and left UTEP 4-10 and 0-0 in C-USA.

In game one, Texas Tech had nine hits and scored six runs against pitcher Isabella Kelly who had the Miners loaded the bases with its first three batters, and recorded a 5-1 lead in the first inning. UTEP’s first three batters were junior infielder Pate Cathey, redshirt sophomore Idalis Mendez and sophomore utility Zaylie Calderon. Junior infielder Kasey Flores gave the Miners its second lead of the game at the top of the sixth inning and with two runs in the following two innings to make the game 6-4.

The fourth and last game of the weekend was the good one for UTEP and recorded the win over Texas Tech (now 14-9, 0-0 Big XII), 9-8 on Saturday afternoon, and it was the first win of UTEP in Lubbock, Texas and the first win over a Power-5 and Big XII for since 2015.

The Miners now recorded nine hits in its first win of the weekend, loaded the bases with its first three batters, and recorded a 5-1 lead in the first inning. UTEP’s first three batters were junior infielder Pate Cathey, redshirt sophomore Idalis Mendez and sophomore utility Zaylie Calderon. Junior infielder Kasey Flores gave the Miners its second lead of the game at the top of the sixth inning with a solo homerun. Freshman pitcher Mackenzie Collins sent down the first two Texas Tech players that were against her in the seventh inning. Then Head Coach T.J. Hubbard brought sophomore pitcher Isabella Kelly who had the final out after she sent a groundball out to Cathey to win the game. Kelly allowed two runs before on the first three innings.

The next game for the Miners will be on the road once again, 1 p.m. March 27, traveling to San Antonio to face UTSA before returning to University Field to play the team’s final home game against North Texas.

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