Battle of I-10 at the Don Haskins
THE PROSPECTOR
BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

As 11,315 fans filled the Don Haskins for the UTEP men’s basketball team’s (0-1) home opener and “915” game, New Mexico State University (NMSU) (1-0) came in ready to compete. The UTEP Miners are coming off a loss against No. 12 Texas, Nov. 7 at the brand-new Moody Center. Meanwhile, the NMSU Aggies obliterated the New Mexico Highlands University 101-52 to start its season.

With the tip-off officially starting at 7:03, Head Coach Joe Golding’s starting five consisted of: junior guard Taee Hardy, sophomore forward Otis Frazier III and junior guard Ze’Rik Onyema and senior guard Xavier Pinson.

NMSU junior forward Mike Peake and guards Deshawndre Washington and senior guard Xavier Pinson combined for 38 of NMSU’s 64 points. Frazier III and junior guard Malik Zachery both led the Miners in assists with 3. The only technical fouls came off the bench after a member of Golding’s coaching staff stepped onto the court with 2:37 left in the first half.

The Miners ended the game with 16 points off turnovers, 12 points off second chances, 24 points off the bench and 34 points from the paint. UTEP managed to complete 44.6 percent of field goals by going 25 of 56. The Miners committed 13 personal fouls but ultimately drew a bol of a family reunion. They must step onto the court with 2:37 left in the first half.

The Aggies relied heavily on its midcourt steal putting the Miners behind for more than 38:39 of the first half and ended the period with 13. The Miners would gain the lead back at 17:27 and would never relinquish it going into the half.

Hardy ended the half with an explosive jump shot that came from a midcourt steal putting the Miners up 59-53 at the half. Hardy led the Miners with 10 points followed closely by Onyema. UTEP strength turned into assists with 3. The only technical fouls came off the bench after a member of Golding’s coaching staff stepped onto the court with 2:37 left in the first half.

The Miners stumbled out of the locker room to start the half after being outscored 10-8 by the Aggies five minutes into the half. NMSU scored eight second chance points, recovered four offensive rebounds and three defensive rebounds.

NMSU managed to close the lead for UTEP 49-41 before a Miner timeout. After the timeout at minute 13:34, UTEP found its footing extending its lead to 55-43 with 11:42 left in the half. Hardy led the team in points with 10 points and points off turnovers (12). The Miners also drew six fouls along with two technical fouls from NMSU junior forward Mike Peake and junior guard Deshawndre Washington.

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Christmas has a charm that Halloween lacks

BY ELSINA MURÉZ

As tree leaves fall, people’s favorite holidays begin. Halloween marks the beginning of the busiest time of the year and prepares people for the holidays most love to celebrate. Only in a span of two months, Halloween and Christmas, which are arguably the two most recognized and celebrated holidays of the year, are constantly compared and debated. Some say Halloween is better than Christmas, and some say it is the other way around. There is a lot to consider for both holidays, from good costumes to opening gifts, but with that and much more taken into consideration, I have concluded that Christmas is better than Halloween.

First, let us start with some customs. On Halloween, many people take the opportunity to dress up as their favorite fictional character, Santa hats, red and green outfits, and clothes with reindeer antlers or mistletoe on them, can only be worn during this time of year. If you were to wear these during any other time of year, all you would get are confused looks. Besides, there are hardly any other opportunities for you to wear these holiday clothes outside of the Christmas season. Next, we move on to some more familiar traditions, which both involve giving. For Halloween, trick-or-treating is a common practice when kids, and even teens or adults, go around neighborhoods and get candy from people. Now, sure it is fun to go get free candy from people you may or may not know, but there is always a possibility of something dangerous being put into your bag, and I am not referring to the razor myth.

It is very possible for people to steal another substance into someone’s bucket or bag during trick-or-treating, and it can also give creeps the opportunity to lure unsuspecting people into their house, just listen to Mr. Nightmares’ Halloween videos, Not only that, but you can go and buy candy from the store any time of the year, brand new.

Now, everyone is familiar with the concept of giving presents on Christmas, and while it is true that you can do this during other times of the year, like birthdays or other special days, this truly is one of the only times of year where people gift things to each other. You can also ask for what you want, and have gift exchanges with friends or family. For a little addition to the list, I would like to incorporate a food factor. Okay, so Halloween is a time for parties and small get-togethers, which means it is time for the usual chips, pizza, and maybe some other snacks or fast foods, along with the candy. For Christmas though, it is an amazing time for food, with all the delicious cookies and sweets, especially those of children, are 43 percent higher on Halloween. Not only that, Halloween is one of the third most dangerous nights of the year for drunk driving or DUls. Property and violent crime are also characteristics of Halloween and have been for many years as well, due to people being away from their homes, and the whole idea of pranking on Halloween. For Christmas, most of the dangers to people are health-related, and involve the weather, work-stress, along with other seasonal factors. However, these causes are perpetuated by individuals to themselves, whereas the dangers on Halloween are between people. Overall, Christmas is a unique time of year that has many traditions you will not get to see for the next couple of months, while Halloween traditions can be done anytime. Not only that, but Christmas also has variety when it comes to food, and is a time where less crime is committed, which is why Christmas is ultimately better.
Same-sex marriage becomes legal across Mexico

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER

The state of Tamaulipas voted for same-sex marriage legalization in Mexico, Wednesday, Oct. 26. There were 23 votes in favor of legalization while there were 12 who voted against it and two abstentions.

With the approval of the city’s Congress of the Civil Code, this marked Tamaulipas as Mexico’s 16th state to legalize same-sex marriage, 15 of which have already embraced this law.

“I am a deep thinker but when I wake up, I am going death cons 3 ON JEWISH PEOPLE,” Ye tweeted Oct. 8. This caused a reaction from many of his Christian co-supporters.

According to The Washington post, following the tweet and after�� the Governor of Tamaulipas decided to drop the rapper Oct. 25 releasing the following statement: “Adidas does not tolerate anti-semitism or any other sort of hate speech. Ye’s recent comments include controversial statements that favor his political views, including his ‘Make America Great Again’ tour and his SNL performance in support of former President Donald Trump. Having a noticeably large audience has influenced many people to agree with the anti-semitic remarks including a situation in Los Angeles, California, where fans hung a banner along the freeway stating, “Kanye was right about the Jews.” The Holocaust Museum in LA got hate mail shortly after the damage Ye had created began.

What had been a once in a lifetime occurrence became a daily occurrence with around 10 hate emails or comments the museum would receive. The museum reached out to Ye to offer a tour so he would be able to “learn from firsthand witness where hate and prejudice can lead when bigotry goes unchecked,” according to NPR.

Students on-campus have made it a habit to stop promoting Ye by no longer listening to him, including sophomore Andrea Ramirez. “He is a very controversial person, and I believe that he, as a person of color, should not be going another community that has had hardships as well. He should instead be using his platform as a place where he can make peace not cause hatred,” Ramirez said. “He should be held accountable because he is a very well-known person, and he can rub people off in the wrong way. Just because he is a role model to some, could lead to his fans in ‘thinking’ the same way.”

This has brought up a very long-awaited question of why Ye has not been held responsible for a long time up until now. The rapper has apologized to the Jewish community and families he may have hurt for his remarks in an interview with Pierce Morgan. “I’m sorry for the people that I hurt with the death-con, the confusion that I caused,” Ye said.

Ye continued by, explaining that his attitude was caused due to his trauma, stating that “hurt people hurt people.”

After the controversy, his net worth dropped from $2 billion to $400 million in loss of brand partnerships, according to Forbes.

PROTECT YOUR BIKES & SCOOTERS

After responding to an increase in bicycle/electric scooter thefts, the UTEP Police Department would like to remind students, faculty, and staff of steps they can take to help protect their property.

• Always lock your bicycle/electric scooter. Thieves look for unlocked bicycles or scooters. Always lock yours, even if you only plan to leave it unattended for a few minutes.

• Use a high-quality lock: A heavy-duty U-lock connected through the frame and wheels provides more protection than a chain lock.

• Record your serial number: It is easier to recover a stolen bicycle or scooter when owners know the serial number.

• Register your bicycle or scooter with the UTEP Police Department: This free service allows UTEP Police and other law enforcement agencies to locate you if your stolen bicycle or scooter is recovered. Visit this page to download the registration form: www.utep.edu/police/police-services/bike-registration.html

• Engrave your bicycle or scooter: Engraving your bicycle or scooter with a set of identifiable letters can be an anti-theft deterrent. UTEP Police offers a free engraving service. Call 915-747-6640 for details.

• On-Campus Housing: When accessing your dorm, stay vigilant and don’t allow unauthorized guests into the housing area.

Art historian reacts to the attacks on art museums

**BY MARIA L. GUERRERO DURAN**
The Prospector

Editor’s note: This is the second of a three-part series on the reasoning and the impact of climate change protests through attacks on art. News has spread around the world regarding a series of attacks on various invaluable art pieces by the Just Stop Oil coalition and other climate activists, such as Van Gogh’s “Sunflowers,” Johannes Vermeer’s “Girl with a Pearl Earring,” and most recently Edvard Munch’s “The Scream.”

Although protests at art museums are not something new, they still spark a discussion amongst people and raise the question, “are these protests actually effective?”

Art history professor, Anne Perry expresses her opinion about the situation, saying she is completely for protests and supports the cause, yet she feels that they are attacking the wrong target. Acknowledging the point these coalitions are trying to show, about how in the future if our planet is dead this artwork will not matter, she explains how it might be more effective to target art that belongs to those who profit from the destruction of the planet.

“Why go after these works of art that are famous, to get attention?” Perry said. “If they really wanted it to be about art why not go to the Metropolitan and go to various collections that were purchased by robber barons? I’m talking about the Rockefellers, actually. They made huge donations of art (to the MET).”

The situation has become a political statement and Perry points out the fact that when campaigns come around, candidates pay more attention to gas prices and not so much about climate change, wishing they would do more about it.

“We get so oblivious, right now everyone is worrying about the economy and couldn’t care less about the climate,” Perry said. “Everything is so political, we don’t have each other’s well-being in mind at all, it’s just about politics. I think we honestly could bring about the destruction of this planet and are willing our way in doing it. The point these protests are trying to make is valid.”

Despite the protests gaining media coverage after the attacks on museums, there is still no accurate data proving these are effective in making a difference in the decisions big oil companies take.

“Anybody in their right mind with any awareness at all is absolutely sympathetic to the cause, and yet my first impression is, are (these) actions really gaining enough support and interest for difference to be made? And I don’t think we have enough data to really answer that question,” Perry said.

Thankfully, for art aficionados, Perry said the activists do research the work they target and choose those protected by glass, such as the “Mona Lisa,” which is behind bulletproof glass, ensuring no major damage happens to these artworks.

“Art history professor Anne Perry says she agrees with the notion of protests and supports the cause towards global warming but disagrees with them using art as the medium to do so. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

If that was not the case, these attacks would push museums to protect these invaluable artworks which have transcended history. “In terms of the art I have mixed feelings, of course I support these people who are trying desperately to make a difference and I admire the fact that they are doing something,” Perry said. “But as an art historian I can’t possibly condone what they chose to do. I am invested emotionally in these artworks.”

Maria L. Guerrero Duran is the web and copy editor and may be reached at mlguerrerod@miners.utep.edu; @bymariaguerrero on Twitter and Instagram.
This holiday season, participate in the ‘Spirit of Giving’

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

This Christmas season, El Pasoans are invited to open their hearts and participate in the spirit of giving. The El Paso Community Foundation is partnering with several local nonprofits to give back to the community living in El Paso.

The Spirit of Giving Project was first created in 1988 by an El Paso Community Foundation donor. This will be the 34th year of the holiday season campaign that benefits children, individuals with special needs, survivors of domestic violence, senior citizens and other vulnerable people in the El Paso and Ciudad Juárez community.

“It was started by an El Paso Community Foundation donor 33 years ago,” said program officer, Stephanie Acosta. “We are so happy to continue this campaign even through the pandemic.”

People who are interested in participating can do so by visiting the Spirit of Giving website and selecting a tag of the virtual tree. The El Paso Community Foundation will then shop for the gift with your contribution.

The second option is to select a tag off the virtual tree, buy the gift yourself, and then drop off the donation at the Sunland Park Mall, at the designated space in front of the Greenery Restaurant. There are also live Christmas trees at Sunland Park Mall, Cielo Vista Mall and both Alamo Drafthouse locations for people to choose tags from. The dates to drop off the donation are Dec. 12-15.

The name of the individual as well as their age, interest, sizes, preferences and gifts are written on the tag. Another option is buying either one gift or both gifts listed on the tag. The last step on the tag is to choose whether to purchase, wrap and deliver the gift yourself or to purchase the gift using a credit card, then the El Paso Community Foundation will buy the gift from a local vendor, wrap and deliver it. A 10 percent surcharge will be added. Some of the tags include ten-year-old Ricardo who loves “Thomas and Friends” and would like toys or pajamas from the show.

Another tag has the name of a little girl named Tinker who is one-year-old and is described as the toughest little girl with the sincerest smile and love for others. She would like building blocks for Christmas and her favorite colors are pink and purple. These are just a couple of the many people in need of help this holiday season.

“Each tag has a story of a person from El Paso or Juárez who is in need,” Acosta said. “It gives a little bit of background on that individual and tells their story of resilience and their wishes. The ages range from babies to older adults who need our help.”

The El Paso Community Foundation has partnered up with The Great Khalid Foundation, The Hospitals of Providence, Alamo Drafthouse and many others who are supporting this worthy cause.

“We couldn’t do this project without our community partners that really help to make this possible,” Acosta said. “Without them it wouldn’t be possible to donate over 2,000 gifts each year. You can really make a difference in someone’s life anonymously; this is a great way to connect with a person in need during the holiday season.”

To learn more about the project visit spiritofgiving.epcf.org/.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.
Celebrate X-mas with the best traditions

BY WEGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

Although it is a widely celebrated holiday, Christmas can look vastly different for each person who participates in the festivities. Depending on things like culture and ethnicity, it can affect the way people decorate their homes, the gifts they give and even the days they choose to honor the season. While traditions are usually made within individuals’ households, there are a few popular practices that are great for bringing loved ones together for quality time. Here are some things you can do to up your Christmas game if they are not a part of your routine already, even better if you can find ways to tweak these suggestions to fit your style.

Making food together
This may seem like a basic tradition but preparing a meal with loved ones is a tried-and-true bonding method which extends across multiple cultures. The act of making food with others encourages people to spend quality time with those around them and challenges individuals to practice patience when tasked with working together to create something delicious.

Certain cultures also have specific food items that are made during the holidays. For example, in many Mexican households a popular food that is prepared for the winter is tamales. The way it is made varies from person to person, but it is a long-standing tradition that remains significant for millions of families. There is even a book called “Too Many Tamales” by Gary Soto that speaks to this. Making meals with the important people in your life can be a major connecting experience and act as a way to pass down practices that have gone through generations. Even if you are not cooking or baking something that has been within your family for decades, it can still serve as a good way to have fun with those special to you and allow for you to experiment with food.

Buying family ornaments
Some traditions may present as more materialistic, such as buying family ornaments and growing a collection over the years. Much like the last idea, there is not a specific science to this practice. The objective is to pick out Christmas ornaments with those close to you so that if you put up a tree for the season, you will have a tangible memory to tie it to. Whether you buy the ornaments separately or pick out a joint decoration to commemorate an anniversary, the year or some type of personal achievement, this tradition is a great experience for loved ones to share. If you would like to personalize the practice even further, making ornaments and decorating the tree with those works just as well.

Making food together, buying family ornaments, and making a Santa list are among just a few Christmas traditions you can do with family. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

By Elisha Nunez
The Prospector

You might have already heard some Christmas songs on the radio station, through someone else, or maybe you are the one who is already getting in the spirit. As November is almost halfway done, this means that the Christmas season is getting closer. That being said, the music and tunes you hear once a year are coming back again, and before Christmas comes, let us rank some songs of the holiday season.

“Santa Baby” by Easher Kitt
Starting the list is an iconic song of the holiday season. Released in 1959, “Santa Baby” found success inside and outside of the U.S., topping charts in multiple countries. Initially, the song was deemed too suggestive for Christmas by certain critics, and was even temporarily banned from radio stations in the Southern U.S. However, it has been covered by multiple artists since then, including Madonna and Ariana Grande, and is recognized as one of the best Christmas songs of all time. Kitt’s light and playful voice, set with an orchestra background, combines to make it one of the most memorable songs. “Last Christmas” by Wham!
It would seem impossible if you went up to someone and they did not know this next song. A synthpop hit from the 80’s, “Last Christmas,” not only brings the Christmas feeling, but also brings heartache. Even though it just made it to the number one spot on the UK’s top singles chart in 2020, it has always been an unforgettable song of the season. Lyrically, it is probably the saddest song on the list, but that should not discourage you from listening. If you are going through tough times with a loved one during the holidays, then this is the song for you.

“Feliz Navidad” by José Feliciano
The only entry on this list with a phrase in another language, “Feliz Navidad” is not only something commonly said during the holidays, but it is also one of the catchiest songs made for Christmas by a member of the Latinx community. Released in 1970, Feliciano, a Puerto Rican musician, wrote the song with his family in mind, as they were in New City while he was in Los Angeles. A tune wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, this song would become one of the most download and played Christmas songs in the United States and Canada.

“White Christmas” by Bing Crosby
It is featured in dozens of Christmas movies and was originally for the musical film, “Holiday Inn.” “White Christmas,” or the version sung by Bing Crosby at least, is a staple of the Christmas season. Written by Irving Berlin, this song is the oldest on the list, with its first performance by Crosby being in 1941 Christmas Day, a few weeks after the Pearl Harbor Attack. Crosby’s version is the best-selling version of the Christmas song, having estimated 50 million copies sold worldwide.

With a calm voice and soothing background vocals, this song makes you want to cover up with a warm blanket and sip hot chocolate.

“A Holly Jolly Christmas” by Bud Ives
Now, this Christmas song ranking would not be complete without this iconic track. Released in 1965, “A Holly Jolly Christmas” was the title track in Ives Christmas album, released at the same time. With a mixed-gender chorus and, quite literally, a holly jolly vocal performance by Ives, this song makes you feel like a kid again waiting for Christmas day. Before we get to the best song on this ranking, we have some honorable mentions. People who responded to polls posted by The Prospector on Instagram said Chris Brown’s version of “This Christmas,” “Jingle Bells,” and “Doughnut,” by K-pop girl group Twice are perfect for the season.

“I’ll Want for Christmas is You” by Mariah Carey
You knew we would reach this point in the list, and here it is. It is a household name, and one that you should know by heart. Having something like a “big gift” section and a “little gift” section can also help people make estimates based on budgets. All in all, there is no “right” way to do Christmas. Traditions are born from the groups that nurture them and adapt them to fit their standards. The ideas listed are just suggestions to possibly make the season more special.

All in all, there is no “right” way to do Christmas. Traditions are born from the groups that nurture them and adapt them to fit their standards. The ideas listed are just suggestions to possibly make the season more special.

Making meals with the important people in your life can be a major connecting experience and act as a way to pass down practices that have gone through generations. Even if you are not cooking or baking something that has been within your family for decades, it can still serve as a good way to have fun with those special to you and allow for you to experiment with food. Whether you buy the ornaments separately or pick out a joint decoration to commemorate an anniversary, the year or some type of personal achievement, this tradition is a great experience for loved ones to share. If you would like to personalize the practice even further, making ornaments and decorating the tree with those works just as well.
The Prospector’s Student-Athlete of the Month: Rodgers Korir

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ

Senior cross country captain Rodgers Korir says his favorite part about being captain is to see his team improve every single day. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Cross country is not only a physically challenging sport but also mentally demanding. UTEP senior cross country captain Rodgers Korir understands that fully, but he does not shy away from a challenge.

Korir was born and raised in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. He grew up from humble beginnings as one of eight children. His parents did not have jobs and they had to rely on family in order to survive. Everyone is a farmer in his hometown, but Korir is the first in his family to attend college and to receive a degree in civil engineering.

“Where I come from, it is a place where athletes come from,” Korir said. “When I was a kid, we used to have to run 15 kilometers in the morning to get to school at 5:30 a.m. and then I ran in high school and that’s how I got a scholarship to UTEP. It kept me motivated since I began running when I was young, and I still run now.”

After graduating this fall, Korir plans on getting a master’s degree and pursuing a career in structural engineering. He is currently applying to jobs here in the U.S. in order to gain experience. His dream is to return to Kenya and help advance structures and technology there.

“In high school, I was the best in mathematics and physics,” Korir said. “I realized my passion and interest for civil engineering when I would watch the construction in my home country, and I realized I wanted to be a part of that.”

Korir’s biggest inspiration to run cross country is his own father, who used to be an accomplished athlete himself. He had heard many stories of his father’s races, which gave Korir the epiphany that he could become a great runner as well.

Since I came here five years ago, UTEP is a cool place,” Korir said. “I like the people and the climate here. My classmates are the best and I really like all of my professors and instructors. I feel welcomed and comforted here in El Paso, more than I had felt in any other place.”

In his running career, Korir’s biggest accomplishment is being the UTEP cross country team captain for the past three years.

“I like to make sure everyone is close on the team and to listen to his teammates’ ideas on how to improve the team.”

“My favorite thing about running is when I start to feel the pain in my legs,” Korir said. “It pushes me to run faster. I want to outdo that pain and use it to make me better. My favorite part about being team captain is to see all of my teammates improve every single day. I love it when my teammates come to me for help and advice, I love to help everybody.”

Korir and the UTEP cross country team recently won second place at the 2022 Conference USA Cross Country Championship Oct. 29, in Denton, Texas. Korir placed 19th.

“I would like to thank UTEP for my scholarship and for providing the team everything that we need,” Korir said. “We would not be able to compete without them. I am also thankful to all of the coaches who have helped me perfect my running skills and my teammates and friends as well.”

Most recently, the team went to New Mexico for the NCAA Mountain Regionals where it placed 13th out of 17 teams.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

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Which holiday sport is the best to watch?

**BY ITZEL GIRON**

The Prospector

As the holiday season nears, many questions may arise like what side dishes are you making for thanksgiving dinner? What Christmas movie are we watching? Or if you find yourself to be a sports fan: Am I watching basketball or football? Well, this year you can add another sport to the watchlist. For the first time, the FIFA Men’s World Cup will begin Nov. 20 and end Dec. 18, meaning this year’s Thanksgiving and Christmas parties could look a little different.

The reason for a third holiday sport? Well, the soccer tournament will be held in Qatar, a place known for reaching temperatures of up to 122 degrees in the summer. To keep players safe and reduce the risk of dehydration, the World Cup was moved to a cooler climate. With soccer being a summer sport, for some it might be on the bottom of the watchlist but, if you love the fast-paced energy of a soccer match, it is perfect to keep you sitting on your couch and not at the dinner table on Thanksgiving.

Soccer is not perfect, as some matches can exceed the 90-minute period and can even be scoreless the entire time. However, this being the biggest stage in soccer, the pros are likely to keep the games entertaining with questionable calls, fouls and a few goals here and there. Sadly, there will not be a game on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, but you can catch the final World Cup match Dec. 20. For some, tradition might be more to your liking as the NFL has had a Thanksgiving game since its inception. This year, games include the Bills and Lions at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Cowboys and Giants in a divisional game at 2:30 p.m. and the last game of the night being the Vikings and the Patriots battling it out at 6:30 p.m. A month later during Christmas, the NFL will have three games on Christmas Day, and most of that week’s games will take place on Christmas Eve. If you find yourself wanting to watch basketball, a series of games will take place the day before Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, and the day after, Nov. 25. For Christmas, there will also be a series of games to keep you flipping back and forth between the channels to keep up with the NBA and the NFL.

Now which one is the best? With soccer being played around this time on such a big stage, the World Cup is sure to be a nail-biter from beginning to end. It is also reported that it could be some star players last time on the big stage. The World Cup only happens every four years whereas football and basketball happen every year. Although football and basketball might be closer to home and more manageable to even attend in person, soccer has a way of not just bringing families together, but nations.

BATTLE OF I-10

For the first time, the World Cup will be held from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18 to protect players and attendees from dehydration. 32 nations are taking the biggest stage in soccer. It is possibly the last time anyone will get to see big names such as Argentina forward Lionel Messi, Mexico goalie Guillermo Ochoa and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo at the international level. It is an entertaining set of group matches. The World Cup is broken into the Group Stage, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals then the Final match Dec. 18.

It is hard to determine what teams are powerhouse, especially when most nations have not released their roster. However, some teams look like they will be missing key players to materialize a successful run. For the United States 26-man roster, familiar names such as forward Christian Pulisic is sure to be vital to the advancement out of the group stages. However, the U.S. men’s team will be without striker Ricardo Pepi. The youthful legs will not make his international debut leaving a hole in speed and opens up the possibility of goals. Also missing from the roster is long-time goalie Zack Steffen, a pivotal player when it comes to penalty kicks.

Mexico is one team to keep an eye out for. Although their roster is not out yet, stars like goalie Guillermo “Memo” Ochoa are sure to be out on the field. However, big name Javier “Chicharito” Hernandez will not be on the roster due to “tactical reasons” and could cost Mexico a chance to return to the World Cup. Brazil comes in highly favored to win the World Cup, especially with a force like Neymar making a comeback in what could be his final World Cup. Brazil has won the past seven games and shown strong dominance against their opponents. Other notable players on the roster include forward Rodrigo and defender Thiago Silva who make up the strength needed to make a deep run in the tournament. A favored nation to win the final is Argentina, as it could be Lionel Messi’s final international appearance and if able to win, it could mean his first World Cup.

While Argentina has five Premier League players on the squad, the key to a successful run in this World Cup is communication and a flow process to mend together. Losing a couple of players due to injuries, it could be possible that Argentina is not able to find a well enough rhythm to move past the Round of 16 or the Quarterfinals. The first match in the group stages is set for 9 a.m. Nov. 20 against Qatar and Ecuador and will be live streamed on FOX Sports, Peacock and Telemondo networks.

Expectations for the “World Cup in Qatar”

For the first time, the World Cup will be held from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18 to protect players and attendees from dehydration. 32 nations are taking the biggest stage in soccer. It is possibly the last time anyone will get to see big names such as Argentina forward Lionel Messi, Mexico goalie Guillermo Ochoa and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo at the international level. It is an entertaining set of group matches. The World Cup is broken into the Group Stage, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals then the Final match Dec. 18.

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