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The Prospector, November 1, 2022

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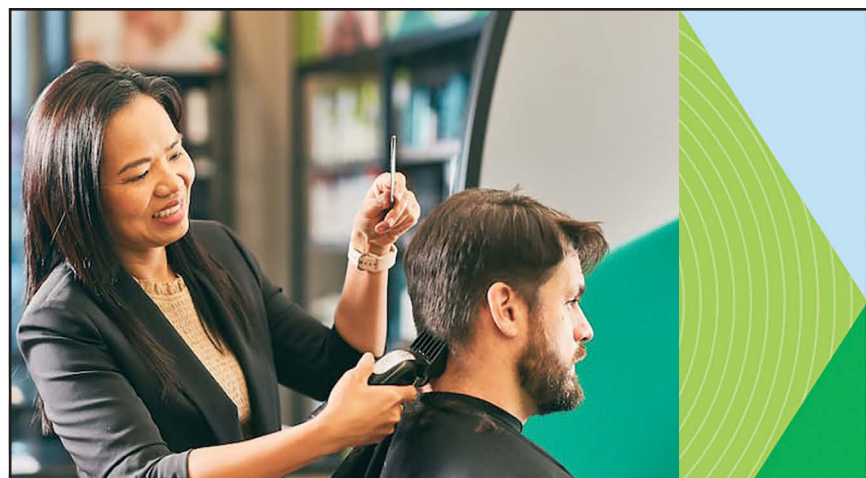


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Opinion

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor-in-chief

Explaining the rush of football over basketball

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

Football has been around for a very long time and there is a reason for that. It has been one of my favorite pastimes for the past ten years of my life, and when I say that I mean it to be more of an addiction than anything.

I got into football when I was 12 years old. My mom had mentioned she would be going to San Francisco to see a game, and at the time, all I saw was a vacation. She refused to bring me along because I did not care about the sport at the time.

Afterwards, it suddenly felt like a challenge to learn everything and anything that I could about the sport in order to understand why everyone around me was so obsessed with it. However, the more I understood about football, the more I began to fall in love with it.

I like to call it my first love, but first loves can be as rewarding as they are frustrating.

Even with that admission, there is nothing that could make me give it up. Football is such a complicated sport, the number of possibilities that can transpire in a 60-minute game is overwhelmingly amazing.

I love the game so much that it



has inspired my choice of career. I spent two years as sports editor in high school, four years covering local high school sports and a year as sports editor at The Prospector.

I have covered a lot of different sports, but not one competes with my love for football, and that includes basketball.

Basketball can be intense and is an incredible sport, but it does not quite give the rush that football does. Basketball is fun for Christmas and when it comes to the playoffs, but when I really compare the two, there is no competition.

Everyone is tuned in every week for football, even if it means skipping church or other commitments. The Super Bowl gets more viewer-

ship than the NBA Finals, and that is with the NBA Finals spanning several games.

Football is iconic, even at the high school level. "Friday Night Lights" is a phrase coined by the idea of the competitive battlefield that Texas high school football is. And at the college level, it is more intense as teams battle to play in a bowl game.

The only time you see basketball compete with football in terms of viewership is when March Madness rolls around or it is time for playoffs. But with football, it is a never-ending obsession, even when in the off-season. Basketball is a lot of the same, running up and down the court in a non-stop motion. Some could argue that football is the same, but what they do not see are the defenders taking the time to read offenses and force turnovers.

They do not see the coaches on the sidelines dialing up flea-flicker plays or fake punts. Everything that you think is going to happen in a play can change in the blink of an eye when it comes to football.

Everyone has their sport that they love. Mine just happens to be football, aka America's favorite pastime.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is editor-in-chief and may be reached at eavelasquez.miners.utep.edu; @byemilyautumn on Instagram; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.

Tips for students living on their own

BY JOSIE AVILA
The Prospector

Living on your own in college can be rewarding. Still, sacrifices must be made along the way, whether you live on campus or not.

In my senior year, I looked forward to moving out of my parent's house. I would dream of finally being able to come and go as I pleased and bring friends over without asking my parents' permission.

But I was most excited about the day I could freely blast my favorite music while putting on the best Super Bowl halftime show performance in the shower.

That day finally came, and suddenly, I asked myself, "Wait a minute, why in the world is my water bill \$90?" Oh, it must have been those hour-long showers, that's right.

During the first few weeks of living on my own, I was terrible at taking out the trash bin to the curb the night before collection day. "Can't they help a good neighbor out? Jeez," I would think to myself when I saw everybody else's trash bins on the curb.

I can admit I was anxious seeing the dishes piling up. I would be too drained from work and school to wash them and promise I would do them the next day.

So, is this the life? Let me be the first to tell you it is, but you have the power to change the narrative, perhaps to the life you dreamt of.

College is fun, memorable, challenging, but most importantly, transformative. At the end, you will not be the same person you were as an incoming freshman.

Therefore, while you are experiencing all the things you looked forward to in college, please remember it comes with responsibilities meant to transform you into an independent adult.

If there are any takeaways from



this story, please let them be the three following tips.

Develop systems. Be honest with yourself about your living situation and assess which areas need improvement. Then, create systems that work for you and your roommates if you have any. For instance, write down a schedule for when you and your roommate(s) will take turns doing the dishes or chores.

Make time for your priorities. Find what is essential to your well-being and prioritize it no matter what. Do you need to exercise to reduce stress? Then go for a run instead of binging on snacks. Do you need to eat well-balanced meals? Then set a day apart specifically for grocery shopping and cooking.

Find balance. I once read somewhere that perfection is not sustainable, which is one hundred percent true. It is okay to say no to tasks that are too demanding on your time and mental health. Set realistic expectations for yourself and those around you. Lastly, allow yourself to have both good and bad days.

Remember you are not expected to know it all and can reach out whenever you need help. Every college offers resources for its students, and you should not feel ashamed or embarrassed to utilize them.

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UTEP acknowledges Breast Cancer Awareness Month with fundraiser

BY SOPHIA VILLALOBOS
The Prospector

Although breast cancer cannot be prevented, it can be detected early to increase the chance of treatment. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which attempts to raise awareness of the disease's early warning signals and motivate women to get mammograms.

A breast cancer awareness fundraiser was held Tuesday, Oct. 25 at UTEP's Union Building. The event was hosted in collaboration of Womxn Empowerment Organization and Girl Power Gym and gave a bodyweight workout session.

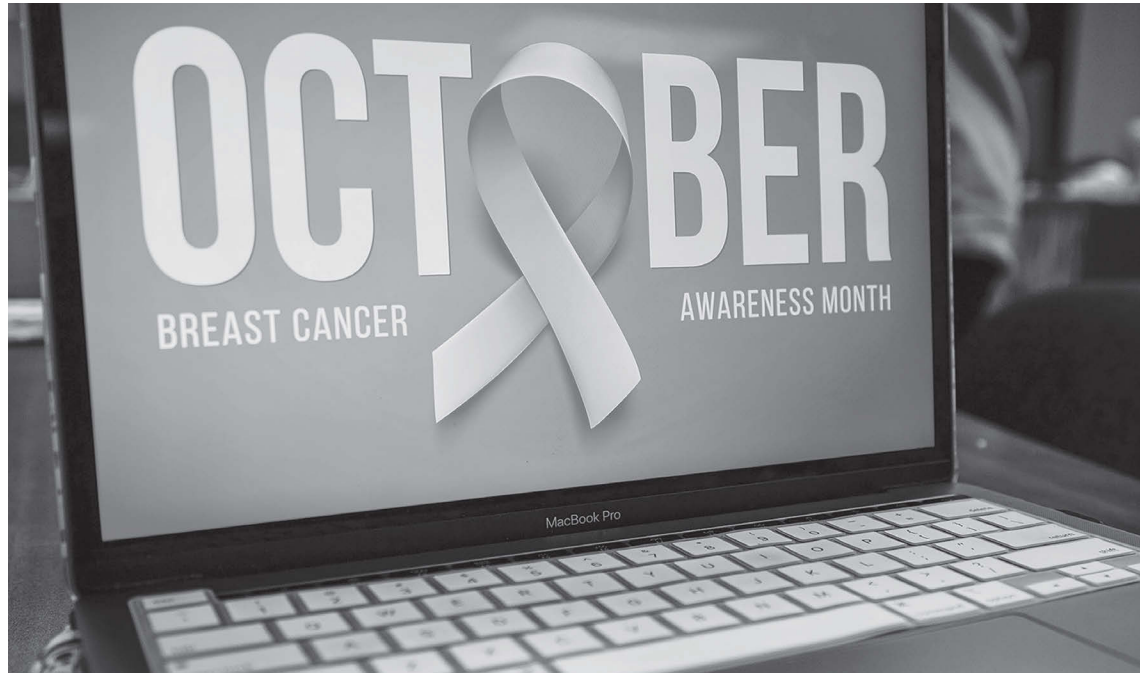
This event not only raised awareness on the importance of the early detection of breast cancer, but it also served as a space where women could enjoy working out together and feel part of a community. The entrance fee was \$5, and all proceeds went to support the Rio Grande Cancer Foundation.

Breast Cancer awareness is fundamental, reported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), 12.9 percent of American women born today will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives. Breast cancer affects women over 45 at higher rates. Detecting breast cancer at an early stage increases the chances of survival of the patient and ensures treatment. For this reason, self-examination is critical.

“Early detection and treatment are essential in the fight against breast cancer, and we want to encourage everyone to get the care they need,” said Dr. David Harmon, Chief Medical Director at Superior Health Care, in a press release.

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF), all adult women are advised to conduct breast self-exams at least once per month. Correct self-examinations can be conducted in three different ways; in the shower, in front of a mirror, or laying down. NBCF explained the correct way to conduct self-examinations. In the shower, examine the entire breast and armpit region by applying increasing pressure with the flats of your three middle fingers. Every month, feel both breasts for any lumps, thickening, knotting that has become rigid, or other

breast changes. In front of a mirror, visually inspect your breasts with your hands to the side and look for any changes in the nipple's shape, skin swelling, or any alterations that do not seem normal. Lastly, when laying down, place a pillow to support your right shoulder and right arm. Use your three middle fingers of your opposite arm to apply pressure in your armpit and breast area and feel for lumps or discharge. You shouldn't rely on self-examinations for breast cancer. It is encouraged to get mammograms to detect tumors beforehand.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness month as there are fundraisers that happen throughout the month to raise awareness. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**

“Early detection and treatment are essential in the fight against breast cancer, and we want to encourage everyone to get the care they need.”

Dr. David Harmon
Chief Medical Director at Superior Health Care

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You shouldn't rely on self-examinations for breast cancer. It is encouraged to get mammograms to detect tumors beforehand.

Hosting events that spread awareness of breast cancer and provide information on early detection is crucial because breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women and the second greatest cause of death in women.

Schedule an appointment with your doctor if you feel a lump. Whenever you have concerns, call your doctor for additional assurance of your health.

For more information on breast cancer visit www.breastcancer.org.

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Climate-change activists behind the attacks

BY MARIA L. GUERRERO DURAN
The Prospector

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on the reasoning and the impact of climate change protests through attacks on art.

Recently, videos of protesters throwing paint at artworks and gluing themselves to the walls of museums have been circulating around social media gaining millions of views. The minds behind these protests are those from the coalition “Just Stop Oil.”

According to their website, juststopoil.org, the coalition is seeking to have the UK government end all licenses and consents for the use of fossil fuels in the UK. Despite the noble cause of the protests, the movement has raised harsh criticism not only around the art aficionados, but the general public.

The coalition has been protesting throughout the entire month of October with the slogan “Occupy Westminster.” Not only are they protesting at art museums, but they also blocked several roads around London, defied gravity by climbing the QE2 Bridge, threw soup at the government building and spray-painted high-end buildings.

The video that went viral was of two young protesters at the National Gallery throwing soup over Vincent Van Gogh's “Sunflowers.”

“What is worth more? Art or life? Is it worth more than food? Worth more than justice?” said Phoebe Plummer, 21-year-old in the video.

One of the few arguments people have said in response to these protests is, “why are they attacking the paintings? What's the point?”

An article by the New York Times says protesters tried blocking oil terminals, but they didn't get enough coverage, not until they started attacking museums.

“Are you more concerned about the protection of a painting or the protection of our planet and people?” Plummer said. “The cost-of-living crisis is part of the cost of oil crisis. Millions of people are dying in Monsoon wildfires and severe drought. We cannot afford new oil and gas. It's going to take everything we know in life.”

In response to the on-going protests, the UK passed a new bill that targets “criminal, disruptive and self-defeating guerrilla tactics.”

According to The Guardian, this bill was specifically passed to aim at groups such as Just Stop Oil and Insulate Britain. However, no statements from the government have been made on whether they will stop the new license to explore for oil and gas in the North Sea.

The same article by the Guardian shared a statement by Cameron Ford, Just Stop Oil spokesperson.

“Until they put the death sentence as the repercussions for what we're doing, it won't deter us,” Ford said.

While the protests around the UK spread to the rest of Europe, we can rest assured that the historic paintings were not harmed, since they are all encased in protective glass.

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Netflix set to launch ad-supported plan

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

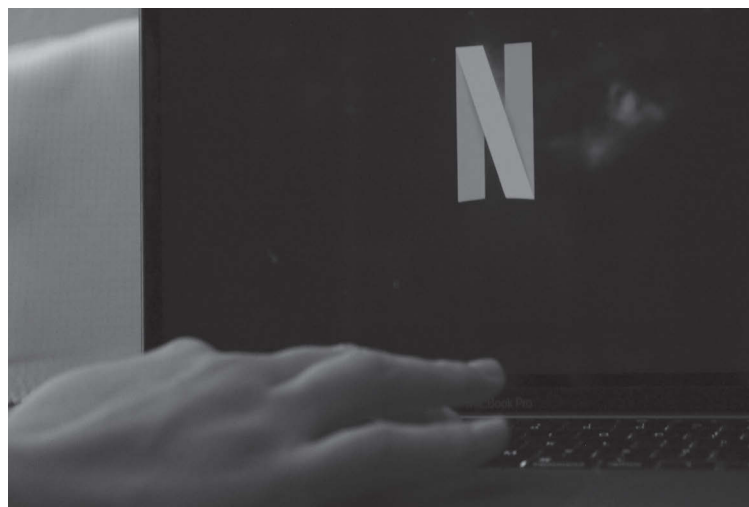
One of the most popular streaming service platforms in the modern era, Netflix, has announced the addition of ads to its service.

This new option will become the fourth plan offered, joining its basic, standard, and premium plans, allowing users to access the platform at an affordable price to watch their favorite and popular shows such as Stranger Things, Squid Game, or the Crown.

Subscription prices vary, Basic: \$9.99/month; Standard: \$15.49/month; and Premium: \$19.99/month, all of which are ad-free.

According to a statement from Netflix chief operating officer Greg Peters, a total average of four to five minutes of ads will now be spread out to viewers before and during their favorite programs each hour.

“Basic with Ads represents an exciting opportunity for advertisers — the chance to reach a diverse audience, including younger viewers who increasingly don't watch linear TV, in a premium environment with a seamless, high-resolution ads experience,” said President of



Netflix has announced the addition of ads to its service. New subscription plans vary from \$9.99/month to \$19.99/month. **Photo by SalmaPaola Baca/The Prospector**

Advertising of Netflix, Jeremi Gorman, in a press conference.

The company also announced it would not accept any political advertisements.

Gorman declared Netflix would partner with Integral Ad Science and DoubleVerify to help ensure ads are delivered appropriately.

Another addition Netflix announced is that ad-supported subscribers will not be able to download shows and movies to watch

when their devices are offline.

Similarly, a limited number of shows and movies on the three current subscription plans wouldn't be available on ad-supported versions because of licensing restrictions.

The video quality offered is up to 720p/HD, which will be available for basic with ads and basic plans.

Since the beginning of 2022, subscriptions have been dropping steadily, and the ad-supported option is intended to reverse that.

Netflix reported that in the first quarter and the second quarter of 2022, it lost approximately 200,000 subscribers after raising monthly subscription prices in the U.S.

The price for Netflix's new advertising-supported tier will cost \$6.99 a month, three dollars less than a no-ads basic option in the U.S. Every user has the option to change or cancel their plan at any time.

“We're confident that with Netflix starting at \$6.99 a month, we now have a price and plan for every fan,” according to a press release.

Other streaming services such as Hulu, Peacock, and HBO Max have already launched their own ad-subsidized subscription.

Disney+ is expected to launch its own ad-subsidized subscription in December, facing stiff competition from streaming rivals.

The ad-supported tier will be offered in 12 additional countries for \$5.99, beginning with Canada, Mexico, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, the UK, and France Nov. 1, while it will become available in the U.S. at 9 a.m. PT., Nov. 3.

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CVS says bye-bye to the “pink tax”

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

With bodily autonomy and equality being a massive issue in the U.S. right now, people are looking for better accessibility for contraceptives, maternity care and period products. One company trying to combat the disparities in health care for those with periods is CVS.

For background, Alliance for Period Supplies says there are currently 22 states that charge a sales tax on period products.

In Indiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, the sales tax ranges from four to seven percent. There are only five states within the U.S. that do not charge a tax on these products, but there is still an issue of cities charging a local sales tax.

These taxes are commonly referred to as a “pink tax” or a “tampon tax.” The use of the term “pink tax” refers to the extra taxes or higher prices on female hygiene products.

This spans from items like razors and shaving cream, to deodorant to pads or tampons. The only difference compared to men’s products is the colorful packaging and floral scents used to market goods towards women.

CVS wants to fight this by lowering the prices on company brand period products by 25 percent and paying the pink tax. The states this will effect are Arkansas, Georgia,



Due to the higher prices on feminine hygiene products, CVS is lowering their prices down by 25 percent. Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

Hawaii, Louisiana, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Items that will be reduced in price and met in sales tax are tampons, pads, cups and liners.

According to the Journal of Global Health Reports, in the U.S. alone, there are 500 million people with no access to menstrual products and 16.9 million people living in poverty who menstruate. This means that at a base level these hygiene necessities are inaccessible to large populations. Some are happy about CVS’ decision as it may help

with the financial burden.

“It sucks that it’s even necessary that we have a pink tax. But it is encouraging to hear that CVS is picking up that slack for its consumers,” said UTEP senior Samantha Garcia, who is majoring in history and minoring in women and gender studies. “Because it is a company, it can definitely take the cost more than an individual person who needs these products can.”

While this might be considered a gender exclusive issue, women are not the only people who menstruate. Period poverty affects groups of

all ages and gender identities.

“Gender is very expansive, it’s much larger than this dichotomy would have you think,” Garcia said. “Also, within that dichotomy, there are men who have uteruses and who need these products.”

Some individuals are glad about this news as they feel it is a basic first step in healthcare accessibility. One UTEP student said that she feels it is necessary to lower the price on what would otherwise be considered medical equipment for a bodily function.

“I’m really happy with this. I

believe that healthcare should be cheaper if not free for everyone, but it is not,” said senior Robbie Vazquez, majoring in metals and a minor in sculpture. “This is a tiny step, but it is a good step for women and other people that have periods. I myself don’t have a period, but the fact that half of the U.S. is going to get this is really big.”

Other people are excited about how this will affect the school systems, especially regarding public education and children in middle and high school. While she commends the progressive steps that CVS is taking, Pebble Hills High School teacher Sandy Romo still thinks there is work to be done.

“Working within the school system, I have seen firsthand the benefits of providing our young ladies access to free period products,” Romo said. “It alleviates stress, embarrassment, and assists in building reliability regardless of financial backgrounds. To help curb the discrepancies that we see within the community at large, free access to these products would be ideal.”

While it may seem like a small change, CVS is working to help close the gaps of inequality for menstruation products.

For more information, visit the [company website at cvs.com](https://www.cvs.com).

Meagan Garcia is the arts & culture editor and may be reached at megarcia19@miners.utep.edu.

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El Paso runners raise money for future engineers

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

El Paso runners got together and raised money for scholarships for future engineers.

The El Paso chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) hosted the Future Engineers 5K and 1 mile walk 8 a.m., Oct. 29.

The race started and finished at Up and Running located at 3233 N Mesa St. Registration fee was \$20 for students and \$25 for the general public before Oct. 27.

On the day of the race, the registration fee was \$30 for all last-minute participants.

“The race today benefits our TSPE endowment in engineering that we have here at UTEP,” said Alejandra Gallegos, one of the race coordinators. “So far, we have raised over \$76,000 that we will be able to contribute to that endowment. It’s all thanks to different events that we have hosted, including this 5K.”

Participants of the race woke up bright and early Saturday morning to run through the west side.

Runners were dressed in their best Halloween costumes to show off their spirit during the race.

One couple was dressed as a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.



“We are here to support the community because it is a great event,” said Michelle Gonzalez who participated in the race with her husband dressed as one half of a PB&J. “My run went great and it was a lot of fun. We heard about this event on race adventures, we’re always participating in local races like this one.”

Participants ran through Sun Bowl Drive., made a right on Stanton, and a left on Kansas street.

After, runners made their way on Rim Road., made a left on North Campbell and a left on Blacker Street.

To finish the 5k, runners ran back on Kansas Street, then made a right on Stanton and finished at the Up



TOP: Up and Running hosts many racing events and decided to host a future engineers run for the community of El Paso at 8 a.m. Oct. 29.

BOTTOM: Up and Running hosted a future engineers 5k run and 1k walk.

Photos by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

and Running establishment. “It’s going a little slower than other years, but we’re getting back into it. It’s been three years since we’ve put one on due to the pandemic and everything that has been

going on,” Gallegos said. “So, we’re getting our feet wet again and we’re trying to start back up our annual 5K we used to have before 2019.”

Besides the 5K race, there was also a one-mile future engineers’ race.

The future engineers race started on Kern Street and turned right on Sun Bowl Drive.

After the Sun Bowl, runners took a turn on Stanton and then made their way back to Kern to finish off.

Kids participated and it got them interested in becoming an engineer if they attend UTEP in the future.

“The money is used for the TSPE endowment, which provides scholarships for high school students pursuing a degree in engineering at any university in Texas,” Gallegos said. “80 people participated in our race today.”

The organization hold different events in order to gain more traction towards the engineer major.

“We hold events like this to try to make people aware of the engineering profession. We want for there to be more engineers here in El Paso,” Gallegos said.

To find more information on the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, visit their Facebook or Instagram.

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

Problem within the National Women’s Soccer League

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

Earlier this month, a probe into The National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) by former acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates, was released revealing a “systematic problem” of sexual misconduct and emotional and verbal abuse in the league.

The investigation came after allegations by former NSWL players Sinead Farrelly and Mana Shim came forward in September 2021 against the former coach of the North Carolina Courage, Paul Riley.

Riley was fired in 2015 by the Portland Thorns FC but was still hired by the now defunct team Western New York Flash, despite the piles of complaints against him that kept growing.

It was not until 2021 that he was fired again by the North Carolina Courage and had his coaching license suspended. The investigation also found that five of the 10 coaches either stepped down or were fired for allegations of misconduct according to NPR.

Former NWSL Commissioner Lisa Baird, who was hired only 19 months prior to these allegations coming out, stepped down for her handling of the allegations as well as not prioritizing players.

This created a conversation among not just the Soccer community, but how toxic women’s sports can be.

“The players are not doing well. We are horrified and heartbroken, frustrated, and exhausted,” said Becky Sauerbrunn, current United States Women’s National Soccer Team (USWNST) and

Portland Thorns player, during a USWNST Training Camp Press Conference. “We are angry it took a third-party investigation. We are angry that it took an article in The Athletic and The Washington Post and numerous others. We are angry it took over 200 people sharing their trauma to get to this point right now.”

Many among the league have come out to speak about their firsthand experiences as well as their experience trying to report these individuals. Along with Sauerbrunn, big names like Alex Morgan,

Christen Press, Abby Wambach and others have come out to speak up against the misconduct and mishandling of these allegations.

Allegations such as these are seen not just in soccer at the professional level but are equally seen in the collegiate level, high school level and in city league teams.

It was also in 2021 that former coach Cameron Newbauer of The University of Florida was fired for allegations of physical, mental, and racial abuse in the women’s basketball program.

But why is it that women’s sports

face such allegations and struggle to find a non-toxic environment? Or is it hard to find coaches who have no toxic behaviors?

It is not just a problem in the United States but across the globe as many teams find themselves faced with allegations of all sorts.

So how does the women’s sport collective change the narrative on toxic behavior?

Since the Yates Investigation, there has been no distinct set of rules or punishments rolled out to prevent allegations like this from happening. However, the USWNT

Players Association released a statement in hopes of improving the league and how people are hired.

“All players and employees deserve to work in an environment free of discrimination, harassment, and abusive contact. The USWNTPA commends the courage of the survivors, current players, and former players who came out to speak against abusive practices that have become far too normalized in the NSWL and women’s soccer generally.”

Itzel Giron is the multimedia editor and can be reached at itzelgiron@miners.utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

EXPERIENCING THE BOSQUE

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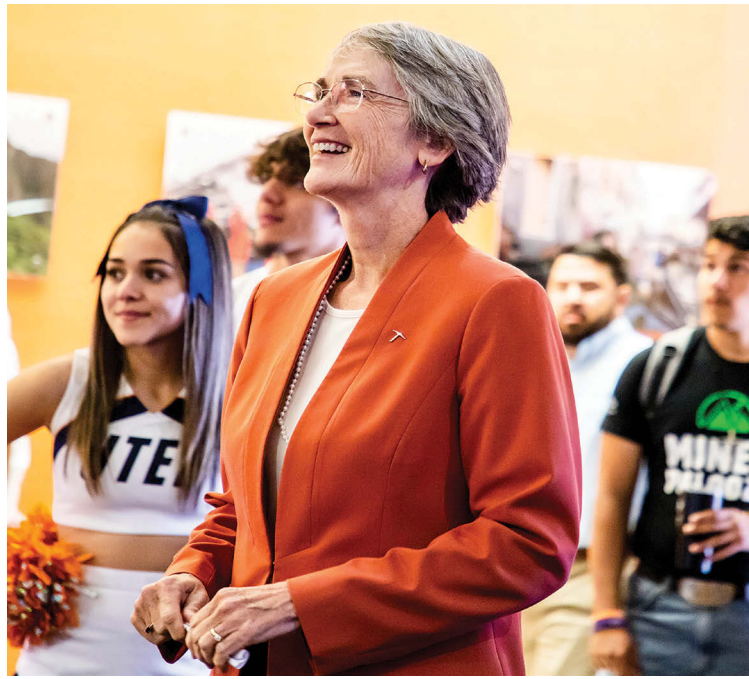
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A glimpse of Masquerade

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

Homecoming is an annual tradition that involves uniting distinguished alumni and students.

Homecoming kicked off Oct. 21 with the homecoming pageant where students competed to be part of the homecoming court.

The parade took place Oct. 27 in the Union where students, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate. This involved appearances from this year's court, the spirit squad, and President Heather Wilson, Ph.D.

UTEP softball hosted their "Dingers for Dollars" Home Run Derby Oct. 29. Seven student athletes, UTEP legend Cami Carrera, Colin Deaver of KTSM and Rachel Phillips of KVIA, all participated in the event where people were asked to pledge to support the number of dingers participants could hit during the competition to raise money.

The UTEP Miners football team took on Middle Tennessee State University Oct. 29. Unfortunately, the Miners lost this game 13-24.

This year's theme for UTEP's homecoming was masquerade and allowed for people to incorporate it into some of the events.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at eavelasquez@miners.utep.edu; @byemilyautumn on Instagram; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.

TOP PHOTOS BY JASMIN CAMPOYA
BOTTOM PHOTOS BY JOEL MOLINA



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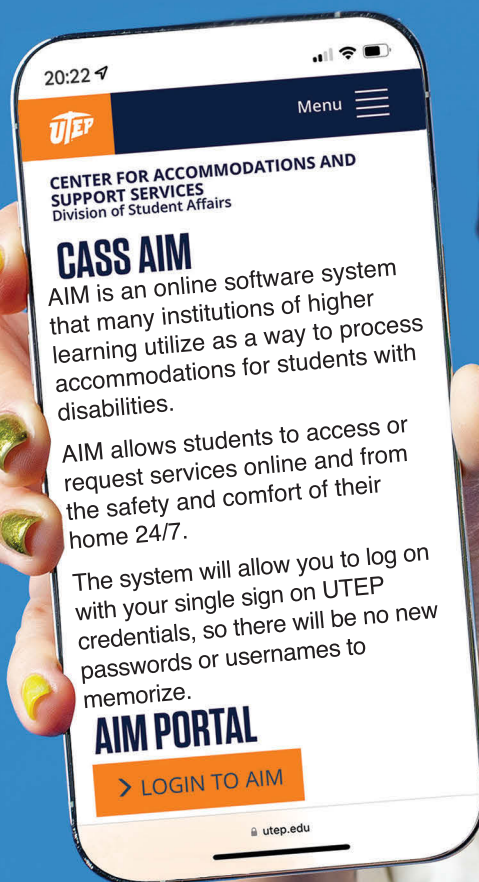
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Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor

Dean of Health Sciences, 'Dr. Skateboard' teaches physics through skateboarding

BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ
The Prospector



Robertson has been skating since the 1970's and developed his skills in freestyle skating in his hometown of Richmond, Virginia. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series on professors who skateboard at UTEP.

When skateboarders get on their board and push forward, they are actively engaging in motion physics. Whether they are aware of it or not, skateboarding is a great way to visualize this academic subject.

William "Bill" Robertson Ph.D., otherwise known as "Dr. Skateboard," is the Dean of the College of Health Sciences at UTEP and is using skateboarding to get young minds interested in science.

Robertson, who is originally from Richmond, Virginia, has been skateboarding since the '70s. This was during a time where skateboarding was still developing and was known as freestyle skating.

Although very uncommon to see this style of skating today, Robertson says that he loves that skateboarding is always evolving.

"As I've gotten older my skating has changed because I have to adapt to what I'm able to do, but what's cool about skateboarding is that's welcomed," Robertson said. "The community is always open to the people who skate. It doesn't matter if you're a beginner, if you're someone like me who is a professor, that's the thing I've always been drawn to."

Before Robertson earned his five degrees, including a bachelors in Spanish here at UTEP, he was a professional skateboarder who began competing around the U.S.

As he graduated high school, skateboarding lost popularity in mainstream media and less competitions were being held.

While Robertson was still inspired to become a professional skateboarder, he knew it would be a difficult task to accomplish. During this time, Robertson held skating demonstrations at schools and

the teachers he met during these presentations are what pushed him towards becoming an educator.

"I had a wife and I was trying to figure out what I was going to do in my life and I thought being a teacher was a happy medium," Robertson said. "So I would have my summers off and I can still continue skating. I started to realize that when I used my skateboard to teach my class changed, they were totally into it. I would try to explain physical science concepts and I would use my skateboard and the kids that were really difficult suddenly were really into school."

With the idea in mind of using skateboarding to teach science, Robertson took on a new approach to get younger generations interested. He created a comic book series titled "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science," which is written in both English and Spanish. Robertson explains having the content in both

"I had people say 'hey if you applied yourself to school the way you do to your skateboard, you'd be a really good student. And I took that to heart.'"

William Robinson
Dean of Health Sciences

languages gave him the opportunity to not only connect with students across the border, but all throughout Latin America in places like Peru, Chile and Argentina.

Robertson sees his skateboarding not only as a tool he can use to help young minds learn about physics, but also a way to express himself. To him it is more of an art form rather than a sport; it is his passion he has for skateboarding which helped him apply himself to academics.

"It helps me to feel connected to me as a person and it's a way that I can express myself, which is kind of unique and personal in so many ways," Robertson said.

Skateboarding has become Robertson's driving force for the past four decades.

Whether it's doing handstands on his board or a hang 10 manual, this is what makes him happy.

"Skateboarding has always fueled success in my life and that's why I continue to just enjoy it. (It) is a driver in my life even as I've gotten older," Robertson said. "I can go freestyle and have fun with it and really that's the bottom line. Skateboarding is fun and it makes me happy, that's a good part of my life and I want to stick with it."

Alberto Silva Fernandez is a staff photographer and may be reached at asilva36@miners.utep.edu; @albert.sf08 on Instagram; @albertosilva_f on twitter.

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El Paso is a second home for UTEP basketball guard

BY ANGELICA GUTIERREZ
The Prospector

UTEP basketball guard Shamar Givance, has been playing basketball since he was five years old. He is from Toronto, Canada, and has been away from home for six years.

He has been in the U.S. ever since his high school basketball career.

"I miss home a little bit," Givance said. "But I'm pretty used to it by now."

Givance is no stranger to El Paso. He had visited the city a couple of times before because he has friends here. He felt like he fit in and fell in love with the community.

Givance is majoring in leadership and is excited to add his business degree to his resume. He believes it is the best fit for him. He is also looking forward to getting a master's degree.

Because Givance saw his dad and cousin play basketball while growing up, he decided to play that sport too. They are his biggest inspiration, his role models.

Givance mentions that his biggest achievements so far are being a Missouri Valley All-Conference player and beating the number one team in basketball, Kentucky.

Coach Joe Golding went all the way to Canada to meet Givance's family and offer him a position at UTEP's basketball team. Golding is also the main reason why Givance opted to join the team and come to El Paso.

"I feel like he is a genuine guy," Givance said. "I wanted to feel a connection and felt like coach Golding was perfect, the right guy."

One of Givance's goals is to be part of a winning team, therefore he

joined UTEP's team.

Since he knows people from the city, they told him about the basketball program at the university, so he believed it was the perfect fit for him.

"I just want to have the accomplishments of winning a conference title and going to the tournament," Givance said.

Coach Golding and Assistant Coach Earl Boykins have helped Givance improve his basketball skills. He has been learning tips from them to add to his everyday routine and strives toward his ideal of what makes a great player.

"A great player is a great leader, somebody who gets everybody involved," Givance said.

When it comes to basketball games, Givance takes advantage of his speed to get to his spots and be faster than everybody in the game.

The UTEP basketball team feels like a great family to Givance.

He loves all of them, from the players to the coaches and managers.

"Our goal is to be the best in the conference, just fight every night and win every game possible," Givance said. "We want to prove everybody wrong."

Givance encourages the UTEP community to support the basketball team and attend as many games as possible.

The men's basketball season tips off at 7 p.m., Nov. 7, at Moody Center against the Texas Longhorns.

For more information on dates and ticketing visit utepminers.com.

Angelica Gutierrez is a contributor and may be reached at agutierrez289@miners.utep.edu

Guard leans on teammates

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

Entering her second year as a member of the UTEP women's basketball team, guard Grace Alvarez explains that she has built a close relationship with her teammates.

Alvarez is a sophomore criminal justice major and is originally from Houston. She has been playing basketball since she was five years old and explains that her inspiration to play basketball stemmed from seeing her sister play. Alvarez is inspired by her sister and her parents to continue to take the court.

"That's kind of the reason I play basketball," Alvarez said. "They don't play anymore, but it's just more like making my sister proud, making my family proud."

Alvarez was recruited when COVID hit, and she decided to bring her talents to UTEP because of the relationship she was able to build with head coach Kevin Baker and the coaching staff. Alvarez mentions that those she works with have always made her feel welcome. All the relationships that she has

been able to build with her teammates, coaches and the people they get to meet is what makes playing basketball her favorite thing.

"I put in all the hard work over the years," Alvarez said. "Going to the gym with my sister, my dad, my brother and just making it to this level, it's a very big deal. I can't wait to see what I do after."

On the days when Alvarez feels unmotivated, she leans on her teammates for support. Although it means a lot to her to be a member of the UTEP women's basketball team, there have been moments when it was hard to balance school and athletics. Alvarez explained that she has been able to find stability between the two.

"They're probably the ones I lean on (during) my bad days, they don't happen often, but I lean on them a lot," Alvarez said. "They're really good at picking up my energy. It's a great culture, family, everybody's there for you."

When it comes to local support, Alvarez explains that it is important for the community to come out to

support the UTEP women's games because they are a women's team. Alvarez mentions they feed off the energy in the arena.

"It's probably not the biggest sport that people would come to see, but we really feed off that energy that comes from the community. Pack the Don!" Alvarez said.

With a few fresh faces to the UTEP women's basketball team, Alvarez is excited for the upcoming season as she explains that the end goal is to win a championship.

"We're building great chemistry here every day, going at each other every day, competing every day," Alvarez said. "Just excited to see what this season holds for us. We kind of didn't make it where we wanted to be last year, but we're definitely going to bounce back this year."

The UTEP women's basketball team is set to kick off its season with a home opener against the University of New Orleans at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 7.

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu



UTEP women's basketball guard Grace Alvarez finds support and stability in her coaches, teammates and God. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**



UTEP guard Shamar Givance learned basketball from watching his dad and cousin play. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**



On the inside of the Glory Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage, at the intersections of Glory Road and N Oregon Street, are works of art that you would expect at a museum. The two murals at the entrance and in side of the garage are two giant mosaics, depicting an important time in UTEP's history.

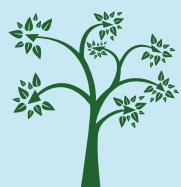
Read more about the murals at theprospectordaily.com

Photo by SalmaPaola Baca/The Prospector



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Sports

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor



The top basketball courts in the city of El Paso

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

Mission Hills Park, Pavo Real Park, Ranchos del Sol Park, Arbor Park, and Lincoln Park are all parks found in El Paso where UTEP students can get a change of scenery by playing basketball. Photo by Roman P. Carr/The Prospector

As the weather starts to cool down and autumn brings color to El Paso, outdoor activities begin to feel more appealing. For many, playing a game of basketball can unload a lot of unwanted stress while also providing a way to meet and bond with friends in a new environment.

Below are five different parks that students can access within the City of El Paso to play basketball.

Mission Hills Park

Mission Hills Park, 3800 O'Keefe Drive, just about three minutes from the university. The park is surrounded by a quaint neighborhood with a view of the iconic Franklin Mountain Range.

Mission Hills features several amenities like a playground, a canopy, a tennis court and a volleyball pit.

The main attraction of course is the basketball court. The court itself is a painted cement concourse with designs reminiscent of parks from the early 1980s.

Mission Hills could be a great option for students living on or near campus after a long day of classes.

Pavo Real Park

Pavo Real Park is a great option for students living around the Socorro area as the park is at 9301 Alameda Ave., right by Presa Elementary School.

Aside from the basketball court, the park offers a baseball field, a multi-purpose field and most notably a spray park. There is also a library right next to it. The park is also labeled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.

The basketball court is a bit older than other courts on the list, but the surrounding amenities make the Pavo Real experience worthwhile for friends and family.

Ranchos del Sol Park

Ranchos del Sol Park is found in El Paso's Lower Valley right off Joe Battle Blvd. and Gateway West Blvd. at 1100 Ted Houghton Drive. Ranchos del Sol offers a playground, multipurpose field and picnic shelters while also being ADA Compliant.

The court is isolated for those who play too intensely for a general crowd. Only a four-minute drive from the SISD Student Activities Center, Ranchos del Sol Park provides a great option for students living by Texas Highway Loop 375.

Arbor Park

A small park off Texas Highway 62, Arbor Park offers a small and quaint environment for basketball aficionados. The park is at 3141 Manny Aguilera Drive across from The Hospitals of Providence.

The park has a playground and a basketball court. Arbor's simplicity is easily the park's strong suit. As the sun sets, the court turns into a warm and inviting environment.

Lincoln Park

Rooted in El Paso's Chicano heritage, Lincoln Park, is found under Interstate 10 and Texas Highway 54 at 4001 Durazno Street. The park has become a staple for the El Paso community as it hosts events like markets and car meets.

The thing that makes Lincoln

stand out from other parks around the city is the murals local artists have painted on the columns that hold the freeway up. The artworks are influenced by Mexican murals to promote both Mexican and Chicano heritage.

The courts are minimalist, only consisting of pavement and white paint, but the back boards feature artwork in a similar style to that of the rest of the park.

Aside from the basketball court, the park offers picnic shelters, handball courts, a volleyball court and a playground.

Lincoln Park offers the most unique playing experience along with other activities that can keep students busy for hours at a time.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and may be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu; @rivasesmanuel2 on Instagram

Intercepting cancer in the NFL with Crucial Catch

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

The month of October in the National Football League (NFL) is a time to bring awareness to different forms of cancer through its Crucial Catch initiative, with the idea being to bring awareness.

October used to be when the NFL would focus simply on bringing awareness to breast cancer, but after realizing how many other forms of cancer there were and how they could use their platform to bring awareness is when they switched to the Crucial Catch initiative.

Crucial Catch was officially implemented in 2017.

Former defensive end Devon Still was one of the biggest advocates for the shift after his daughter was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma, a journey he documented publicly while his daughter was battling the cancer before eventually becoming cancer-free.

Crucial Catch is an initiative that the NFL takes part in collaboration with the American Cancer Society.

"The league, its clubs, players, the NFL Players Association, and the American Cancer Society are

committed to providing individuals with the tools they need to help them better understand early detection and ways to reduce their cancer risk," according to the official NFL website.

The NFL not only creates exclusive merchandise every year to raise money toward the initiative but also has game-worn Crucial Catch gear, worn by the players, that people can bid on to also support the cause.

According to cancer.org. "Since 2009, Crucial Catch has raised more than \$24 million and im-

pacted over one million people in communities that need it most."

The money raised by Crucial Catch goes toward the Community Health Advocates implementing Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity program, which promotes health equity and funding community-based cancer prevention programs.

The initiative encourages people to get early screenings as a preventative method to catch cancers early and give people a better chance at surviving the disease.

According to a video made in

collaboration between the two organizations, the five-year survival rate for many cancers is over 90 percent when detected early.

The NFL also does things outside of Crucial Catch such as sending athletes to different hospitals to visit people battling cancer or hosting children battling cancer at their facilities to keep their spirits lifted while fighting to survive.

For more information on Crucial Catch, visit www.nfl.com/causes/crucial-catch.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at evelasquez@miners.utep.edu; @byemilyautumn on Instagram; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.

UTEP loses the crown on homecoming night

BY **KATRINA VILLARREAL**
The Prospector

UTEP football (4-5, 2-3 Conference USA) hosted Middle Tennessee State University (4-4, 1-3 C-USA) for homecoming night Saturday, Oct. 29 at the Sun Bowl.

The night honored various alumni, UTEP's legendary coaches and the 2022 homecoming court. The Miners lost to Middle Tennessee 13-24 in a penalty filled game for the Miners.

Middle Tennessee struck first with a 23-yard field goal made by sophomore kicker Zeke Rankin with 12:14 left in the game.

The first quarter was where the flags began to fly for UTEP with a pass interference penalty on UTEP freshman cornerback Ilijah Johnson, which allowed for the Blue Raiders to get down field.

After the field goal, UTEP received the ball but were unable to convert. Junior quarterback Gavin Hardison was sacked on two back-to-back plays. On the first sack, Hardison received a penalty for intentional grounding. In the next possession, the Miners began to gain momentum, but a dropped pass by senior tight end Trent Thompson, would have resulted in a 75-yard touchdown, slowed the Miners down.

Nearing the end of the first quarter, Middle Tennessee continued to make plays as it was able to convert on a fourth and one. Middle Tennessee was able to keep the lead after a 17-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Jermei Tate Jr., which brought the score to 10-0.

The second quarter was when the Miners began to pick up slightly. Despite a few incomplete passes by Hardison and another sack, the Miner offense was able to set up senior kicker Gavin Baechle for a 47-yard field goal, bringing the score to 10-3.

Baechle set a new school record



for consecutive field goals made in a season with 17.

The Miners defense was able to put a stop to the Middle Tennessee offense with a fumble recovery by junior defensive tackle Tevita Tafuna, his first career fumble recovery of the season. Towards the end of the second quarter, Hardison found sophomore wide receiver Tyrin Smith for various first downs.

Due to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Middle Tennessee, Hardison found Smith in the endzone for a touchdown. At the half, the score was tied 10-10.

Hardison finished the game 19-of-34 for 177 yards and an interception. Sophomore running back Deion Hankins led the run game with 68 yards. Smith recorded a career best of 10 receptions for 117 yards, and a touchdown.

On the defensive side, junior linebacker Cal Wallerstedt led with a

game-high of 14 tackles and a total of 5.5 tackles.

Senior defensive end Jadrian Taylor recorded eight sacks; he currently leads C-USA in quarterback sacks. Senior linebacker Tyrice Knight recorded 11 tackles, a forced fumble, a pass breakup and a quarterback hurry.

Middle Tennessee led the Miners 17-10 after the interception. The Miners offense continued to push as it was able to convert for multiple first downs.

Going into the fourth quarter, UTEP decided to go for it on fourth and 10 with Hardison rushing for the first down, but he was unable to reach the marker being just a few yards short. With one of the longest plays in the game, the UTEP Miners offense was able to set Baechle up for another 47-yard field goal, bringing the score to a manageable 17-13.



LEFT: Junior linebacker Call Wallerstedt sacks the quarterback during the game against Middle Tennessee on Oct. 29.

TOP RIGHT: In the homecoming game, junior safety Tyson Wilson and senior safety Ty reke James celebrate after a tackle was made.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Senior running back Ronald Awatt lowers his shoulder in order to gain extra yards.

Photos by Joel Molina/The Prospector

With 7:20 left in the game, Middle Tennessee quarterback senior Chase Cunningham completed a 75-yard touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Jaylin Lane. The Miners offense tried to put more points on the board but were unsuccessful.

The final score was 17-24. "It was one of those games that was really a hard-fought game that we didn't make enough plays or do the things well enough that we needed to do to win a football game," UTEP Head Coach Dana

Dimel said in a press conference after the game. "They're a team that's No. 7 in the country in turnovers and some of the things that we talked about all week came to fruition."

UTEP will be traveling to southeast Texas to take on Rice University for a Thursday night showdown at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3 at Rice Stadium Houston, Texas.

All stats provided by UTEP Athletics and Middle Tennessee Athletics.

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.

Soccer loses to UTSA to wrap up season

BY **JOEL MOLINA**
The Prospector

The UTEP soccer team came into its final game on the road Oct. 28 against conference rival the University of Texas at San Antonio (9-5-4, 4-3-3 C-USA).

The game itself proved to be another close matchup as it came down to a single goal where UTSA scored in minute nineteen AND went on to win the game 1-0.

Miners' senior goalkeeper Maria Scott had four saves while graduate student forward/midfielder Sophia Lewis had three shots with two of them being on goal. The Miners season stretched a little over two months and consisted of 18 games with two exhibitions. Coming into the season with 16 new players and 12 returning players, the Miners went 4-11-3 overall, with a 1-7-2 record in conference play. Their four wins came against the University of Las Vegas, Wyoming, the University of Incarnate Word and their sole conference win came over Middle Tennessee. UTEP's three draws this season was an example of the team's resiliency.



The Miners soccer team breaks their huddle at the beginning of the second half. **Roman P. Carr/The Prospector**

Junior forward Tessa Carlin led the team with 6 goals on the season, while freshman forward Mina Rodriguez had two goals, each of them game winning. Sophomore forward Tay Lopez additionally had two goals and graduate student Sophia Lewis, sophomore Justice Tillotson, and junior Emerson Kidd each had one goal on the season.

Tessa Carlin led the team in total points scored with 10, while Mina

Rodriguez led the team in assists with three. Senior goalkeeper Mariah Scott led the team in saves with 80, placing her at second in Conference-USA.

Freshman goalkeeper Alaina Gilbert contributed one save in the two games she played.

Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics and UTSA Athletics.

Joel Molina is a contributor and may be reached at jmolina16@miners.utep.edu

Next five UTEP basketball games

MENS	WOMENS
7 p.m. MT/Nov. 7/ @Austin, Tx VS. UT AUSTIN	7 p.m. MT/ Nov. 7/ @Don Haskins Center VS. NEW ORLEANS
7p.m. MT/ Nov. 12/ @Don Haskins Center VS. NMSU	12 p.m. MT/Nov. 13/ @Kansas City Mo. VS. KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY
7 p.m. MT/ Nov. 15/ @Don Haskins Center VS. SUL ROSS STATE	7 p.m. MT/Nov. 16/ @Don Haskins Center. VS. TEXAS SOUTHERN
7 p.m. MT/ Nov. 22/ @Don Haskins Center VS. ALCORN STATE	7 p.m. MT/Nov. 19/ @Texas State. VS. TEXAS STATE
7 p.m. MT/Nov. 23/ @Don Haskins Center VS. CSU BAKERSFIELD	7 p.m. MT/Nov. 13/ @San Luis Obispo, Calif. VS. SAN JOSE STATE

What should fans expect this upcoming basketball season?

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

UTEP men's and women's basketball officially kicks off its 2022-2023 season in November against some notable opponents.

Men's basketball is going to kick off its season on the road against Big 12 affiliate the University of Texas at Austin at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Moody Center.

This will be the first time the Miners will face off against Texas since the 1991-1992 season.

UTEP will be back at the Don Haskins Center for the Battle of I-10 to take on rival New Mexico State University at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 in El Paso.

The game against NMSU will be "915" night as the Miners are seeking to sellout the Don.

The Miners begin conference play against Louisiana Tech at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Don Haskins Center for "Holiday Hoops." UTEP will also be hosting the WestStar Don Haskins Sun

Bowl Invitational before it continues conference play.

The UTEP men's basketball team will have a whole new look as it welcomes 13 newcomers to the team and three returners including 2021-2022 starter sophomore forward Jamari Sibley.

Women's basketball will officially kick off its season with a home opener against the University of New Orleans at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, at the Don Haskins Center; this is the first time New Orleans will play in El Paso, Texas.

The Miners will then travel during Thanksgiving week for the Holiday Beach Classic hosted by Cal Poly. UTEP will kick off the classic against San Jose State at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25 and at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26 against Sacramento State University.

NMSU will make a trip to the Sun City to meet the Miners in the Battle of I-10 for the final non-conference game at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the Don Haskins

Center in El Paso, Texas.

"We are so excited to tip off the 2022-2023 season," said UTEP women's head coach Kevin Baker. "As always, we like for our non-conference schedule to be challenging in order to prepare us for the gauntlet of league play. Our non-conference lineup boasts four home games, three road games and a Holiday Beach Classic in San Luis Obispo, California."

The Miners will begin conference play when it travels to the bayou to take on LA Tech at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at The Thomas Center.

The Miners will be back at the Don Haskins to continue conference play against the University of Alabama-Birmingham at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 in El Paso, Texas.

Seven players will be returning this season including sophomore forward Elina Arike, as they will be joined by eight new players this season such as and North Texas transfer Jazon Jackson.

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.

Head coach guides women's basketball

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospector

This year marks the beginning of Kevin Baker's sixth season at UTEP. Baker's a veteran coach for the sport, and is entering his year 16 in his college basketball career.

Although he considers the City of Austin his hometown, Baker says he was a bit of a military brat who's been virtually everywhere.

He attended Stephen F. Austin for his bachelors of science and his master of education. Baker began his career in Lufkin, Texas in 1994 at Hudson High School.

Later, he would get his first gig as a head coach in 1997 at Commerce High School. From here, his career spanned between high school and college teams.

"I really, really enjoyed being a high school coach. There are certain aspects about it. I love teaching in the classroom. I loved mentoring 40 young women. Here, I only get to mentor 15, but I do enjoy just being able to focus on coaching and that's what you get to do in college," Baker said. "You just get to focus on recruiting and coaching. When you're a high school coach, you've got to focus on a million things."

Baker first got into the sport at 12 years old after playing mostly soccer growing up.

He says that basketball felt like the only sport he could play. Once he graduated high school, he decided he wanted to become a coach.

As the Miners enter the season, Baker is preparing his team for another tough campaign. He says that he has a great team and seems

eager to see how far this team will go. He says many coaches are currently working with the National Collegiate Athletics Association transfer portal, and a lot of coaches have a lot of new faces.

"So, the challenge is how do you mold those new faces into a chemistry-latent team?" Baker said.

Baker is the first coach in the UTEP program to have three winning seasons within their first four years at the university. He has also guided the most wins by any Miner coach throughout their first five years at 73.

Prior to coaching at UTEP, Baker coached at Angelo State University, a Division II school, and he has also coached at University of Texas at Tyler, a Division III school. Among many things, Baker has succeeded in doing, he is also an eight-time Coach of the Year.

Baker encourages people to come out and see this year's team.

"This is going to be a really fun team to watch. I think a lot of people are really enjoying coming out and seeing the team run down the floor and do what they do," Baker said. "I think people will get their money's worth when they buy their ticket at the door."

The Miners open the season against the University of New Orleans at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7 at the Don Haskins Center after hosting an exhibition game against Western New Mexico State at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Don Haskins Center.

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TOP: Sophomore forwards Jamari Sibley, Kevin Kalu and Ze'Rik Onyema prepare for the 2022-2023 season which starts November with the year starting at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at the University of Texas at Austin.

BOTTOM: Sophomore forward Elina Arike, junior guard Avery Crouse and junior guard N'Yah Boyd are ready for the 2022-2023 season starting at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7 at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas.

Photos by Annabella Mireles/
The Prospector



This year is women's head coach Kevin Baker's sixth season at UTEP and he is the first coach in the UTEP program to have three winning seasons within their first four years. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

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Basketball coach ready for the new year

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

As UTEP men's basketball ramps up for the 2022-2023 season, men's basketball head coach Joe Golding prepares his brand-new roster.

Golding is coming off a remarkably successful first season where his team won 20 games, a task the men's basketball team has not accomplished since 2015.

Thanks to those 20 wins, the Miners won its first postseason game in over 13 years. Golding believes his team can do even more this year.

"We obviously got out of the gate pretty good with 20 wins but we still didn't really do anything, in my opinion," Golding said. "We were beat in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament and finished middle of the pack, but I like where this team is at."

Golding's squad lost several key pieces in the offseason with star players like guard Jamal Bieniemy and power guard Souley Boum not found on the roster this season.

The only carryovers from the 2021-2022 season are sophomore forwards Jamari Sibley, Kevin Kalu and Ze'Rik Onyema.

Golding maintains that his team is headed in the proper direction this season.

"We've got a brand-new team who has a lot going on right now. We're trying to figure each other out and trying to form a unit with a lot of



Men's basketball head coach Joe Golding faces a new team this year, with only three returning players.
Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

different pieces, but I like where this group's at and I'm excited to coach them," Golding said.

Prior to his tenure at UTEP, Golding was at the helm of the Abilene Christian University (ACU) basketball program.

In his time with ACU, Golding took the program to two different National Collegiate Athletics Association tournaments where he upset No. 3 Texas back in 2021.

Before all the glitz and glamour of playing on a national stage,

Abilene Christian was a Division II program before making the leap to Division I for the 2013-2014 season.

Golding did not have a winning season until 2019 when ACU went 27-7 punching the team's ticket for the NCAA tournament.

Looking ahead, UTEP faces the Texas Longhorns on the road. This being UTEP's first matchup against Texas since the 1991-1992 season

Texas is currently ranked No. 16 in college basketball, has been to

25 NCAA tournaments since the 1991-1992 season and is coming off five winning seasons.

Similarly, to UTEP, Texas has a young head coach in Chris Beard, who is also coming off his first season with the Longhorns where he posted 22 wins and an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

None of this phases Golding as he is pushing for the roster to play through the adversity.

"We're going in with our backs against the wall. I just look forward

to competing. Playing in a hostile environment, I think, will help us down the road," Golding said. "I tell my guys not to play the scoreboard...play hard for 40 minutes, and we'll look up at the end of 40 minutes and see where it stands."

One aspect of the game Golding wants to see grow is fan interaction. This past football season, the UTEP Miners football team sold out its season opener against UNT for the school's "915 Night." Golding hopes to emulate that same success for its first home game.

"Our New Mexico State game, we're trying to sell out and to do that, we have to have students," Golding said. "I thought the North Texas (football) game was great, but we got to continue to grow. When (The Don) is packed and loud, there's not a better place to play in the country. It helps us win games and helps us continue to recruit good players."

The UTEP Miners first face the Texas Longhorns at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, at the brand-new Moody Center in Austin, Texas.

The Miner's first home game will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, for "915 Night" at the Don Haskins Center, in El Paso, Texas against I-10 rival New Mexico State University.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and may be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu; @rivasemmanuel2 on Instagram

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