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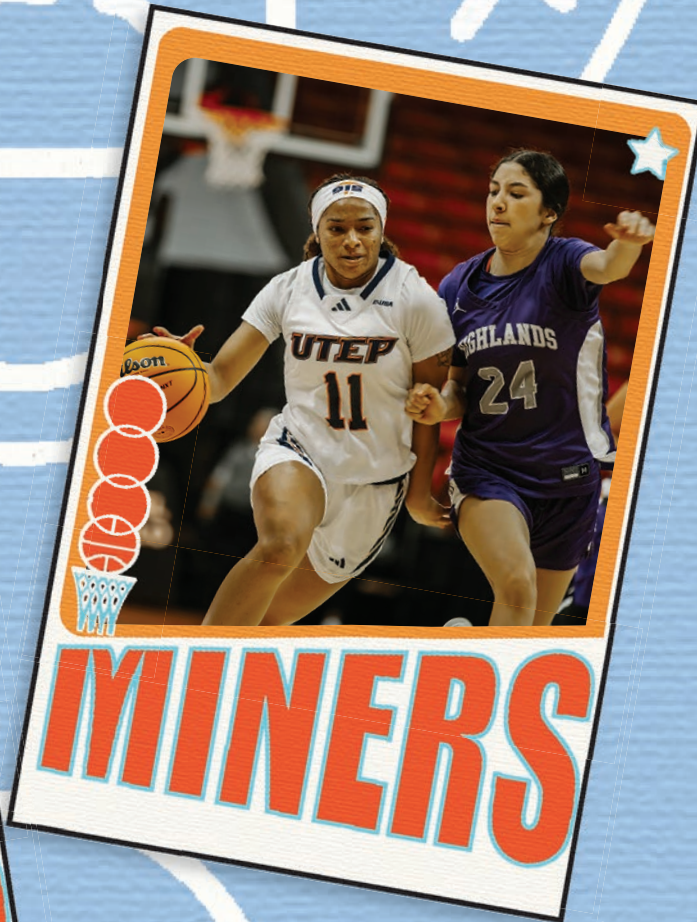


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THE PROSPECTOR



VOL. 109, NO. 6
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Photos by Annabella Mireles and Joel Molina/ The Prospector

Little section BIG news

NBA X SKIMS

The NBA has named Kim Kardashian's clothing brand SKIMS as their official underwear partner. The announcement was made Oct. 30 in New York by Kim Kardashian, Adam Silver and Gens Grede. Kardashian and Grede co-founded SKIMS in 2019, with plans to make a new generation of underwear, loungewear and shapewear.

TEACHER BURNOUT

Within the last year, teachers across El Paso are leaving their positions at a higher and quicker rate. Burnout after the pandemic, mistreatment and lack of funding are a few of many reasons as to why educators are leaving their profession.

INJUSTICE FOR MCCLAIN FAMILY

Nov. 6, a jury found police officer Nathan Woodyard not guilty for the 2019 manslaughter of Elijah McClain. The second trial over the death of 23-year-old McClain died after being wrestled to the ground by police and injected with ketamine by paramedics. Woodyard was the first police officer on the scene.

NMSU ENTANGLED IN LAWSUIT

Reported by ESPN, two former NMSU players and manager filed a lawsuit as teammates reportedly brought guns into locker room where they sexually assaulted players ensuring team remained "humbled." The lawsuit was filed the same day as the season opener for the Aggies' 23-24 season.

Opinion

Itzel Anahi Giron editor-in-chief

Why don't we support women's sports?



BY ITZEL A. GIRON
The Prospector

As basketball seasons come and go, familiar names like Micheal Jordan, LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Magic Johnson, Wilt Chamberlin and more male National Basketball Association (NBA) stars are always brought up when talking about the best of the best, but what about women?

For years, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) has been overlooked for not being entertaining enough or looked at as not able to bring in the same money as many NBA games.

However, this season showed new possibilities for the WNBA as the 2023 playoffs had its highest TV viewership in 20 years and its highest attendance record in 13.

Many might not be familiar with the talents of certain players like Sue Bird, who retired last year after spending 19 years with the Seattle Storm, and remains the WNBA's all-time winningest player with an

impressive 333 games.

Some might not even be familiar with top players who are from El Paso like Kayla Thornton who currently plays for the New York Liberty. Thornton who played under the renowned Keitha Adams, who has since returned to UTEP this season and also played in this year's WNBA finals against the Las Vegas Aces.

These are just two of hundreds of talented women basketball players who are consistently overlooked because they don't bring a "wow factor" to the game, according to some who claim to be sports fanatics. The talent is there for many to be entertained, audiences just need to tune in.

A common misconception is the lack of people being interested or even lack of competitiveness when personally, women's basketball has consistently put out intense matches all year round and not just during its playoff season.

For example, this 2023 season the Las Vegas Aces became the first team to win back-to-back

championships, proving the team's consistency and strengths.

The same is accurate for college basketball. Last month the Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball team broke the record for women's basketball single-game attendance record, selling 55,646 tickets for the game, which took place outside at Iowa's Kinnick Stadium. Numbers like these prove that women's basketball has as much entertainment value as men's basketball. Modern times have shown women's sports has entertainment value either equal to or surpassing that of male sports.

Though I do believe a lot of the desire to support women's sports came from the back-to-back World Cup wins by the United States Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) in 2015 and 2019, I believe it is time we support on a deeper level by rooting for collegiate women athletes and other sports more.

From our own UTEP Miners to asking cities to create bigger, better and safe spaces for women sports to

thrive in.

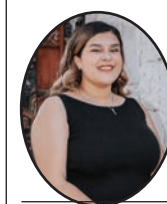
Slowly, certain cities have understood the memo that women's sports are a part of the world of athletics. They are real athletes, and they can also put on a show while showing off their athleticism and skills. Kansas City has announced a stadium dedicated to the Women's soccer club, Kansas City Current, expansion of adding new clubs like the Angel City Football Club in Los Angeles, created by Natalie Portman to support women.

There are no doubt women sports are seeing an increase in viewership and appreciation, but I believe there is still a long way to go, especially here locally.

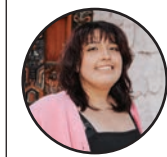
We can always grow, and I hope I get to see that growth in El Paso. Allowing them to get with the times and focus on women's sports and its audience just as much as they did when they wanted to remove Durangito; a historical neighborhood in El Paso, for an entertainment district.

Itzel Anahi Giron is the Editor-in Chief and may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram, and @itzel_anahi_16 on X.

ProsPY Picks: Favorite Basketball team?



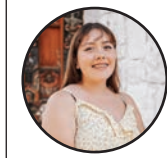
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NBA: Chicago Bulls



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Basketball 'dunks' any other sport



BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

Growing up I never cared much for sports, watching or playing. For the longest time, the closest I had gotten to a field was "manager" for the girls' soccer team in middle school. Baseball took too long, El Paso seemed too hot for hockey and football had too many complicated rules. Despite my pickiness with each sport's entertainment value, there was one that stood out amongst the rest.

Basketball missed every grievance that I had before. It was a fast-paced game, the rules were easy to follow and more than anything, it was fun.

Now, I do not say these things to undermine other sports, obviously, each has a different meaning for the people that play or enjoy them. For me, basketball offers a lot to communities across the country and serves as a form of nostalgia for my

childhood and adolescence.

In terms of what it does for people, basketball is a sport that is widely accessible and acts as a great form of youth bonding. An article by Quality Hoops and Healthline list some of this sport's advantages including how it provides good exercise for those playing as well as a safe space for children, in particular to grow their communication skills and confidence.

I especially appreciate how people do not necessarily have to be a part of a team in order to play. Of course, there are city-based teams and those that are school sanctioned, some parks and school yards provide proper equipment for anyone to come together and shoot hoops in a casual way.

While I greatly appreciate these things, they are not the main reasons that I love the sport. I cannot claim to be a dedicated fan of any team or passionate about the sport in that professional league way.

However, I do not think that in any way discounts my admiration for the sport.

I love basketball above all other sports because it is something I played, although clumsily, as a little girl with my loved ones.

When I was a child, my grandpa bought me a basketball and set up a small board and hoop for me in the backyard. He taught me how to hold the ball and where to aim on the board in order to make a shot. As soon as my brother was big enough to play, I helped my grandpa teach him the same tricks.

Then I was old enough to play more childish versions of it with friends at school.

None of the coaches expected a bunch of third graders to follow the rules of the actual game, so we ended up playing variations of it. Whether it was "around the world" or "sharks and minnows," I remember it bringing out everyone's innocent competitive nature.

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Tensions rising in Southeast Asia cause U.S. intervention

BY R. VENUS URQUIZA
The Prospector



As tensions rise in Southeast Asia, United States President Joe Biden says he has committed to aiding the Philippines if China decides to attack the country over the disputed South China Sea. President Biden's comments come days after two collisions between Filipino and Chinese boats in the disputed waters.

Countries have disputed these areas for centuries, but tensions have built up only recently due to China's claims, which include sovereignty of such disputed waters. These comments have angered countries like Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei who have contested these waters. These countries have contested islands and various zones in the sea, such as the Paracels and Spratlys.

China backs up its claims by island-building and naval patrol, while the US says it does not interfere with a territorial dispute. Although the US says it will not interfere in this dispute, it has sent military ships and planes near disputed islands in what it calls "freedom of navigation" operations.

But exactly why are these countries disputing these waters? Money.

In 2016, The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development estimated over 21 percent of global trade happens through the disputed area. This percentage of global trade equals about \$3.37 trillion transiting through these waters.

The area of Paracels and Spratlys may be uninhabited but might have reserves of natural resources around them. Although there have been little detailed explorations in these areas, it is estimated they are largely extrapolated from the mineral wealth of neighboring areas.

The area is home to rich fishing grounds that have provided for millions of people across this region as more than half of the world's fishing boats operate in this area.

After the two collisions between boats from China and the Philippines happened, President Biden issued a statement reiterating his commitment to defend the Philippines in case of an attack over the disputed areas.

"I want to be clear The United States' defense commitment to the Philippines is ironclad. The United States' defense agreement with the Philippines is ironclad," President Biden said in a statement via BBC News

The Mutual Defense Treaty was signed in 1951 and binds the US

and Philippines to defend each other in the event of an armed attack. This is Biden's strongest statement since tensions have risen in Southeast Asia.

"Any attack on the Filipino aircraft, vessels, or armed forces will invoke our Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines," Biden added to his speech at the White House, Nov. 1 with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese present.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning states the US has "no right to get involved in a problem between China and the Philippines."

Spokesperson Mao Ning warned the US that if they should defend the Philippines such actions "must not hurt China's sovereignty and maritime interests in the South China Sea" in a statement to reporters in response to a question.

As tension continues to grow all over the world, there is a huge possibility that society must be prepared for a new era of war in US history. As times get scarier and scarier it is important to remember to stay informed and preach for peace during these times of possible war.

R. Venus is a contributor at The Prospector and can be reached at rurquiza@miners.utep.edu

PETA and their continuous issue: Is there a safe space left for animals?

BY ANGELICA GUITIEREZ
The Prospector



euthanized in masse by experimenters like Chris Boehm, who works in El Paso.

In a discussion thread dated March 22, 2020, Boehm admitted to euthanizing approximately 80 percent of his training colony during the laboratory restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. This revelation led PETA to demand a comprehensive investigation into these practices.

PETA's letter to NIH goes beyond a mere demand for an investigation. It also urges the agency to stop wasting taxpayer money on animal experiments that are proven to be futile and cruel. This plea follows prior complaints made by PETA regarding similar animal killing sprees in 14 other universities. The letter stated the death toll of animals in these laboratories amounted to at least 25,000 and \$9 million in NIH funding misused during this period.

To read more visit our website at theprospectordaily.com

Angelica Gutierrez is a contributor and may be reached at agutierrez29@miners.utep.edu

Recent revelations sparked outrage and concern as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) exposed a mass killing spree of animals, Oct. 26 in universities, including here at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, PETA is calling on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate and take action on newly obtained public records.

PETA's mission is to oppose speciesism and draw attention to industries that exploit animals where they suffer the most in industries like the fashion industry, food, laboratories and entertainment business.

Records obtained by PETA unveiled the shocking practices of several universities during the pandemic, including Texas Tech-El Paso campus. Evidence suggests animals, considered nonessential to experiments were

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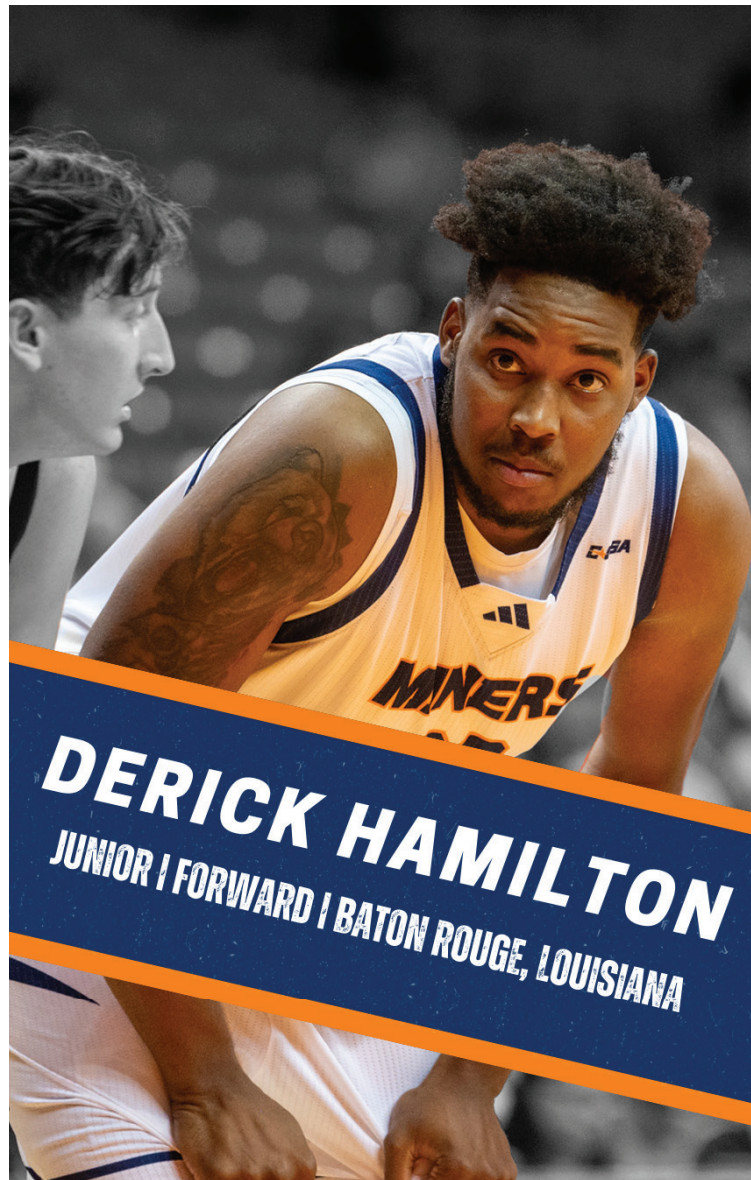
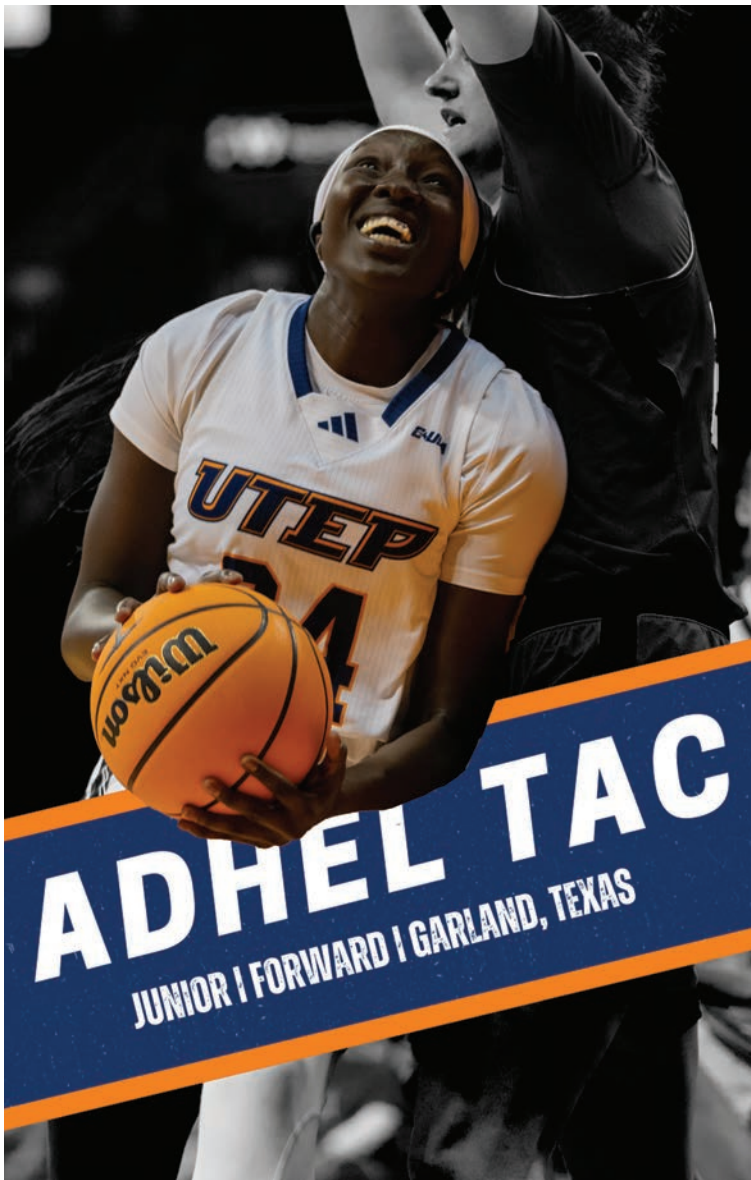
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Sports

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor



LEFT: Junior forward Adhel Tac strives by in majoring in health promotion while playing basketball for the UTEP Miners on a full-ride scholarship.

Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

RIGHT: Senior Derick Hamilton, majoring in multidisciplinary studies, has found a new home in El Paso, moving from his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector

Breaking barriers and scoring dreams: The inspiring tales of Adhel Tac and Derick Hamilton

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ
The Prospector



Basketball is one of the most popular sports in America, and there are many young hopefuls who are working to be the next big thing in the industry. Some can even be found right here at UTEP. From adjusting to an unfamiliar environment to keeping in touch with loved ones back home, these two UTEP basketball players are on a mission to make their names in the world of sports.

Aiming for national championships is a common mission for some collegiate basketball players, but for others, basketball is the continuation of a lifelong dream. For Adhel Tac, a junior player for women's basketball at UTEP, it is both.

Tac remembers watching her older sisters play outside in her hometown of Garland, Texas. She eventually picked it up for herself during middle school. After receiving a full-ride scholarship to UTEP, Tac decided she would make UTEP her new home. Now a junior in health promotion, Tac strives to give it her all, drawing her inspiration and motivation from firsthand experiences. "I knew what basketball was just

from playing outside and having the hoop out there and seeing the guys play and my older sisters playing as well," Tac said. "I'd say the inspiration for basketball would come from seeing my older sisters playing, and then my motivation, I would correlate that to my faith in Christ."

Powered by her family and faith, Tac has gone from being ranked No. 17 overall in Texas during high school to seventh in Conference USA during her sophomore year. With some distinctions on her back, Tac wants to aim high during this upcoming basketball season by winning a championship and doing things differently.

"The biggest thing is just to get the chemistry down, understand the coaches, the coaches understanding the players, getting out there playing our hardest and at the end of the season, holding up a conference championship trophy," Tac said. "Honestly that's the biggest goal that mine, that's the only goal in mind."

While one goal of Tac's involves an achievement for her college career, she hopes to make basketball her career. Through working hard in the present, Tac plans to lead and learn from fellow teammates and

her sisters to work hard as a professional athlete.

"I'm in hopes of pursuing basketball as a career professionally and see where that takes me. Hopefully I get placed in a position that I take full advantage of and just really work hard, harder than before," Tac said. "Just because professional basketball is a whole other step, a whole other room to be in."

Many share Tac's motivation and goals, like Derick Hamilton, a senior in multidisciplinary studies who plays for the men's basketball team. Joining his school team, Hamilton stayed focused on his high school basketball team until graduation in his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After deciding to come to UTEP like Tac, Hamilton had to adjust to life in a new place.

"The people in El Paso welcome me everywhere I go," Hamilton said. "They tell me how proud they are of me, saying how good of a player I am. I just love it. They welcome me. It made me feel like I'm at home."

Though he is far from home, Hamilton has managed to make a new home through the people around him and more importantly, his team. Like Tac, his wish is to

win a championship and take a trophy, and eventually play for an NBA team.

"Well, my hope for this year is to have fun, win the show for everybody," Hamilton said.

To warm up for the upcoming season, Hamilton made sure to work hard pre-season and stay connected with his main source of motivation, his family. Supporting him on his basketball journey in high school, his family has continued to be his number one supporter.

"They made a lot of sacrifices for me to be where I am today. So, it's only right that I work hard every day to give back to them," Hamilton said. "They call me every day, my little brother, he talks trash to (me). But at the same time, they always just tell me how proud they are and stuff like that."

Winning championships, keeping connections with family and working with teammates are all things that these future pro-athletes strive for at UTEP. From men's and women's basketball, it seems that some dreams are not so few and far between as these two clearly prove.

The men will face the USAO Drovers Nov. 9 while the women will play the Kansas City Roos Nov. 11.

Elisha Nuñez is a staff reporter and can be reached at egnuñez2@miners.utep.edu

Monday night double-header fruitful for both basketball teams

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS AND H. CATCHING MARGINOT
The Prospector

Editor's note: This is a joint brief of both the men's and women's basketball games that took place Monday, Nov. 6. For the full recaps, visit theprospectordaily.com

The UTEP basketball teams welcomed in the new season with a Monday night double header.

To start the night up, the women's team hosted the Western New Mexico University Mustangs. This marked the restart of the Keitha Adams-era at UTEP.

After a dominate exhibition win over New Mexico Highlands University Saturday, Oct. 28, the Miners hope to extend the team's massive momentum against the Western New Mexico University Mustangs (WNMU).

The Miners finished the game with a final score of 75-58.

Four different Miners finished with double digit points to finish the game. Petree lead the Miners with 16 points, Wilson trailed with 14, Vydrova scored 13 and Tac had 10 points.

"The two take-aways are; we have to get a sense of urgency about rebounding, boxing out, and being physical, and we have to make our free throws every day," Head Coach Keitha Adams said. "I thought Mahri (Petree) gave us a real good spark and made some big plays."

The men's team would go onto face the McMurry Warhawks.

UTEP was undefeated against the Warhawks having won its previous six matchups since the 1971-72 season of Miners Basketball.

The Miners had more highlights with this electric start to the season for UTEP men's basketball.

Jones managed to score a team high with 19 points. Powell had six rebounds and Hardy had nine assists. The Miners totaled 72 bench points over McMurry who only totaled 15 points from the bench.

The Miners also had a 66 field goal percentage with only a 32 percentage from McMurry. The Miners had 15 steals, 29 assists and a heavy 70 points in the paint with McMurry only totaling 18 points in the same metric.

The women now await the Kansas City Roos this Saturday at the Don Haskins Center.

The men will face the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Drovers Thursday also at the Don Haskins Center.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela Armendariz is the sports editor and may be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu; @rivasemanuel2 on Instagram, and H. Catching Marginot is a staff reporter and can be reached at hcmarginot@miners.utep.edu

UTEP women's basketball welcomes back Keitha Adams

BY ITZEL A. GIRON
The Prospector



Sunday, Nov. 5, there is one person who, although was not labelled as “Homecoming Queen”, surely wears the title.

UTEP Women's Basketball Head Coach Keitha Adams, returned “home” to hopefully take the Miners to another winning season to follow not only the legacy she left behind, but the one forming last season.

After the resignation of former head coach Kevin Baker earlier this year, Adams was announced as the new head coach in April. And she is ready for her own version of homecoming.

In 2017, Adams announced she would be leaving UTEP, her second home, and would be the new head coach for Wichita State in her home state.

“The first day was a hurricane, the second day a windstorm, the third day a dustbowl,” Adams said when addressing her departure in a 2017 press conference. “I think I cried more than when I got divorced, I cried like people do when they drop off their first-born at college. This is how great an experience it's been here at UTEP. It's been emotional in all different kinds of aspects.”

After five years, Adams has returned to continue the successful season the Miners had in years prior and hopes to translate her commitment to the Sun City through wins.

“I just wanted to return,” Adams said. “I missed El Paso and coaching the exhibition game in the Don Haskins felt really great being back in there.”

Having been the head coach for 16 years prior to her stint at Wichita State, Adams remains the most

winningest coach in UTEP history. Her return to the borderland has not only fans but UTEP Athletics Director Jim Senter excited for what is to come.

“Her first stint as head coach of the Miners produced unprecedented success for our women's basketball program. She loves UTEP and she loves this community, and she is so excited to be coming back. We look forward to creating more magical moments with her back at the helm of Miner Basketball.”

However, with such excitement comes much pressure from fans who have seen Adams take the women's team to championships.

“I've always put a lot of pressure on myself as a coach. I hate to lose, I'm not allergic to anything except losing,” Adams said. “It's not about feeling pressure from anywhere outside, it's more self-motivation and internal pressure.”

Having only worked with one player prior to her return to UTEP, it is tricky for any coach trying to build chemistry and trust with an entirely new team.

“I like (the team) on and off the court,” Adams said. “They're coachable and their work ethics good. They've been very receptive to the system and learning the process.”

After a victorious win against the New Mexico Highlands Cowgirls Oct. 28, the upcoming season looks promising. Though there are areas of improvement needed, Adams is ready to start the season off with a bang.

“I thought we showed some good things. I think we've got some areas we (have) got to work on. But you know we shot the ball well and we've got good post players,” Adams said. “We got to get more physical. We got to get tougher. Our defense

has to get better.”

Adams return is set to be a big one, it is also the stacked coaching staff alongside her that makes this team one to look out for.

Ewa Laskowska returned as assistant head coach after assisting Adams as head coach while at UTEP and Wichita State. Jareica Hughes and Lulu Mckinney are assistant coaches who have both played under Adams at UTEP.

Aside from her staff, Men's Basketball Head Coach Joe Golding is another source of energy and support.

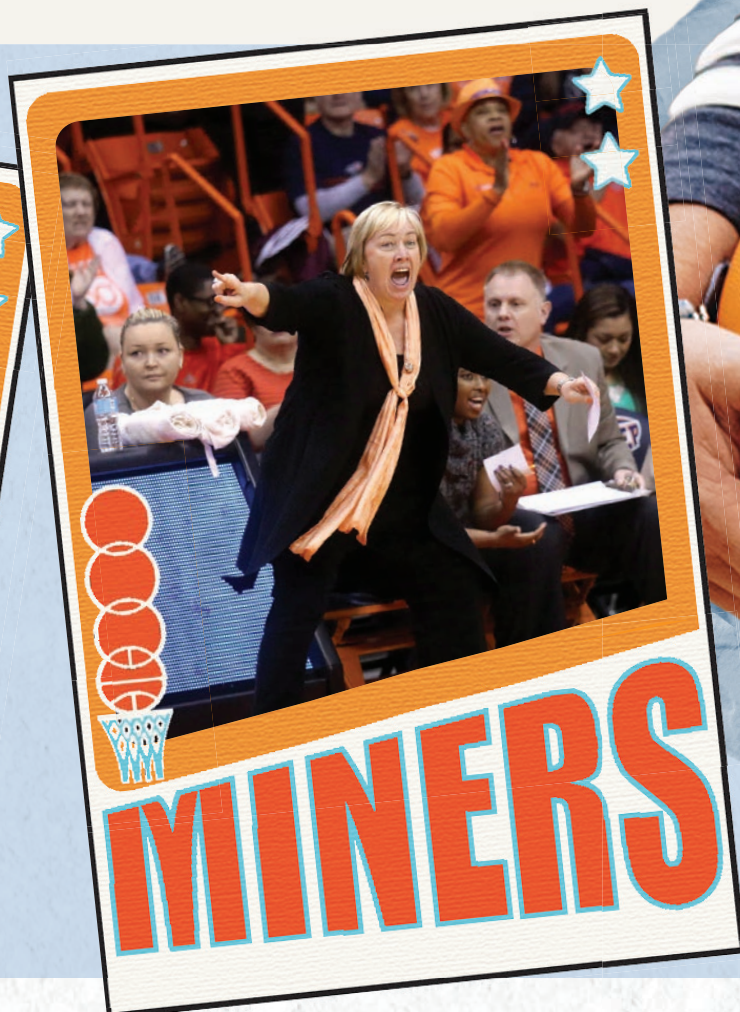
“My staff is really unique because all three of them played for me and two of them played here at UTEP,” Adams said. “So, we have a staff that really bleeds orange. (Coach Golding and I) have a great friendship. We're teammates. We want each other to be successful.”

As the season starts this week, Coach Adams and the Miners are asking for everyone's support this season.

“When our fans get behind our team, our players feed off the fans and then all of a sudden the fans start feeding off our players and all of a sudden, you've got this chemistry between your players and your fans,” Adams said. “The fans are the difference. I'm back, I need the fans back.”

The UTEP Miners are set to face off against the Kansas City Roos, Nov. 11 at the Don Haskins Center after a strong win against the Western New Mexico Mustangs Monday afternoon Nov. 6.

Itzel Anahi Giron is the Editor-in-Chief and may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; [@byitzelgiron](https://www.instagram.com/byitzelgiron) on Instagram; [@itzel_anahi_16](https://www.instagram.com/itzel_anahi_16) on X.



HOMECOMING QUEEN OF THE COURT



08

MINERS LOSE TO STANFORD WITH A SCORE OF 88-54 DURING THE SECOND ROUND OF THE NCAA TOURNAMENT.

12

MINERS LOSE TO PENN STATE WITH A SCORE OF 85-77 DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF THE NCAA TOURNAMENT.

14

MINERS REACH THE FINALS OF THE WNIT BUT LOSE TO RUTGERS WITH A SCORE OF 56-54.

16

MINERS REACH THE QUARTERFINALS OF THE WNIT BUT LOSE TO OREGON WITH A SCORE OF 71-67.



Men's basketball coach on 'flipping the script'

BY NICHOLAS MAES
The Prospector



Ahead of the upcoming season, UTEP men's basketball head coach Joe Golding is making sure the team is ready for a comeback. After a season that didn't go as planned with a young team last year, Golding and the Miners are coming back harder and stronger than before.

Golding's time at UTEP has been marked by triumphs from the beginning. During his 2021-2022 season, he brought UTEP its first 20-win season (20-14) since 2015. Golding would then join the ranks of Don Haskins, Doc Sadler and Tim Floyd as he achieved a winning season in his first year with the orange and blue.

Despite early successes, Golding gets no rest, as he continues to work on his team, improving his squad for upcoming games, especially considering last year's underwhelming 14-18 record.

"You look at last year, 14-18, that's not what we came here to do," Golding said. "And we got off to a great start year one. We won 20 games, we had a lot of excitement around town. We didn't do our job last year, you go 14-18 and that's not what UTEP basketball is about."

Golding noted outside shooting and free throws as major issues that plagued last year's team mem-



Head Men's Coach Joe Golding's time at UTEP has been marked by triumphs from the beginning as he joined the ranks of Don Haskins, Doc Sadler and Tim Floyd. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

bers, and he is working on these problems to make this season's team better, for everyone.

"I think more than anything this team really has real relationships with each other," Golding said. "They care about each other, they play well with each other, and I think that's important in today's college basketball. There's so much turnover, whether it's portal, and different things out there that we had enough guys coming back, and then our new guys they really

bought in, and I think they're playing for the name on the front of their chest."

UTEP has quickly become home for Golding, who has not been back to his alma mater of Abilene Christian since he became head coach for UTEP. Golding is looking forward to the season as the Miners face off against Abilene Christian in an away game mid-December.

"There's a lot of good memories, that place raised me from a boy to a man," Golding said. "I spent about

18 years of my life on that campus, so there's a lot of fond memories."

Coming into the C-USA season, Golding has one goal, to compete.

"We just want to compete for championships," Golding said. "We just trust the process and we try to get better each and every day, and if we do that, you look up in March and you're competing for championships, and I think that's where UTEP belongs."

Golding puts in time and effort during the season to make sure

the Miners are ready to play its best. When the Miners take a loss, Golding knows it's not the time to relax. He looks ahead at upcoming matchups and what he can do better prepare his team.

However, Golding knows it's important to take some time off for himself and his family, to relax during the offseason, so he's charged up when the next season begins.

"I love the water, there's not a lot of water out this way, but in the summer, I get away and find some water, but if I'm doing anything to relax or anything to get away, I'm with my family," Golding said.

As a former student-athlete, Golding can relate to his players and understands the toll that it can take, and the rewards.

"Just like any college student, college goes in a hurry and the next thing you know you're in the real world," Golding said. "So, I just tell everybody in college to enjoy the experience, meet a ton of people, get involved in different groups."

Golding wants student-athletes to take advantage of the opportunity and take their time if they are able, as he spent five years at Abilene Christian, getting his degree in exercise and sport science.

With the season underway, the Miners will play its next game against the USAO Drovers Thursday, Nov. 9.

Nicholas Maes is a contributor and may be reached at nemaes@miners.utep.edu.

DREAM BIG AND THEN... DREAM BIGGER!



The Office of Student Fellowships and Awards

supports UTEP students who are applying for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships to fund graduate school and overseas experiential learning (research, teaching assistantships, etc.).

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Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor

Love and learning

Photo courtesy of Frank Maldonado



on and off the court

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT
The Prospector



It can sometimes be difficult for someone to explain why they are drawn to a particular interest in life. When the sharp teeth of passion latch onto someone's consciousness and soul, shaking them off is impossible for a certain few. When superstar athlete Kobe Bryant was very young, the sport of basketball helped the young player in the darkest of times. Dribbling and shooting a small ball in his parent's living room as he watched his NBA athlete father, Joe Bryant, play professional games on their television. There is an inherent and immense beauty to the sport of basketball, especially for those who are young. Several players sweat it out on the court to shoot the ball into the net. However, it takes significant teamwork and concentration to

achieve this and stay focused on the overall objective: to have fun. Activities and sports like basketball can serve as a tool to help those heading down a dark road. Luckily for communities like El Paso and surrounding areas, there are organizations and public spaces to provide basketball leagues to young people. Edgar Flores is one of the founders of Border City Basketball (along with Arturo Escobar and Orlando Hairston), a community and family-based organization offering a plethora of services to the realm of local youth basketball, including basketball leagues, tournaments, developmental skills, training and campuses to play in. "Border City Basketball is a dream come true, facilitated by three friends that love and enjoy being a part of youth basketball," Flores said. "We started our organization two years ago, and it's been such a humbling and joyous experience for

us and being able to bring something that brings people together, which is youth basketball." Flores speaks about the importance of providing these services to the youth and the unique nature of basketball, the ultimate team sport where a team has one shared vision. "When it comes to what Border City Basketball brings, we want to ensure we have a safe environment for our kids," Flores said. "We have kids from all over the region (El Paso, Alamogordo, Las Cruces, Albuquerque) who come to a place where they can develop not just their basketball skills but leadership and teamwork skills in an environment where everyone supports each other." Among the many teams committed to Border City Basketball's 7.0 Fall League and tournaments are the Northeast Rockets, a team full of spirit and love for basketball. Head Coach of the eighth-grade

division, Frank Maldonado, says his involvement in the group and the support brings communities together. "I grew up playing basketball, then my oldest son started playing basketball and I wanted to teach him everything I learned growing up, so I started coaching," Maldonado said. "Basketball teaches many life lessons for young kids, like being competitive and learning how to come back from failure. El Paso, as a basketball community, often gets overlooked in the bigger picture, but we have a lot of great teams, players, and coaches out here." Small forward for the Northeast Rockets, Jerry Loya, describes why basketball is unique to him and the bond he shares with his team. "I like that it teaches me leadership and discipline, giving me something to work for," Loya said. "I like to trust coaches, and they know what paths to guide me

down." Another league in participation with Border City Basketball is Sun City Sports Lab, a collaboration with Anthony Aaron White and his father, Anthony White. El Paso natives, the duo tried to create a city sports lab to help the youth of El Paso and get those who may be lost on the right track. Head Coach and owner Anthony Aaron White says this has made a huge impact on him. "Both basketball and the team made a huge impact on my life, keeping me out of trouble and allowing me to grow and impact the youth now," White said. "I believe in basketball as a tool to learn life lessons and allow us to grow with commitment and dedication, keeping our youth out of the streets and giving us positive role models. A tool to allow you to experience opportunities and make friends."

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Putting a better spin on the festive feast, Thanksgiving

BY MARCO HINOJOSA
The Prospector



It is time to get the stuffing, cranberry sauce and turkey because the season of giving is right around the corner.

As Thanksgiving approaches, so do the uprisings of people speaking on the issue of how corrupt the true meaning of the holiday is. Many Americans fail to realize that Thanksgiving can be a daunting time for Indigenous people as it is a reminder that their land was stolen due to colonialism.

Plenty of individuals have voiced their opinion on why the holiday is a way to glorify colonialism and the dark history behind it.

With individuals fed-up about the holiday, some are shifting their perception of the holiday and rebranding the original meaning of it all.

The controversy behind the holiday many people like UTEP student Ivanna Villela have taken matters into their own hands and changed the meaning of Thanksgiving in a new way.

"I feel not enough people actually celebrate the original meaning of Thanksgiving out of respect for Indigenous people," Villela said.

In an NPR article, it mentions the perspective of the larger issue of the education system informing students incorrectly about the 'first Thanksgiving.'

It was taught with a false narra-



A Thanksgiving table set up. Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector

tive that Pilgrims came to America with good spirits and wanted to have a feast with the Wampanoag tribe who already lived in America prior to the Pilgrims arrival. This is part of the mythology of 'White America.'

Some people aren't aware of the gruesome facts that come with the holiday. Villela mentions how she and her family did not know the true meaning of Thanksgiving for the longest time until they rebranded the meaning themselves. "Me and my family just celebrate by giving thanks," Villela said. "The big part what we mess up is that we don't know the true meaning, but we just turned it into a bigger focus of making it a family orientated holiday."

While the intended meaning of Thanksgiving sometimes leaves a bitter taste in people's lives, people are taking the holiday and giving it a new meaning.

UTEP student Cesar Gamino talks about how he uses Thanksgiv-

ing as a time to be appreciative for his family, everyone around him, and the things he has.

"For me personally, Thanksgiving is more of a time where I don't read into the holiday itself in the meaning but more for spending time with my family," Gamino said. "When I lived in Houston, I didn't get to spend Thanksgiving with family and when I got to El Paso it was a way to see family, I haven't seen in five-six years all together."

UTEP student Saree Ramirez also gives her own take on the holiday.

"I rebranded Thanksgiving into just a time to be thankful for what I have around me," Ramirez said. "Me and my family go our own way and forget the true meaning behind it and take the time to give thanks and be grateful for what we have."

When celebrating Thanksgiving this year, remember to be mindful of the true story of the holiday history and respect other family and friends ideologies.

Marco Hinojosa is the audience and engagement editor and may be reached at mhinojosa4@miners.utep.edu

Hoco: Miss the season

BY SOFIA SIERRA
The Prospector



were featured in this year's celebration. The intention was to highlight alumni, but students were invited to the celebration as well.

UTEP freshman Carla Sariñana, who is part of the homecoming committee, mentioned how coming out can spread the word to students who may not have known about them.

"I feel the most promoted of it was Pete's Birthday, I feel like we had a really good turnout here," Sariñana said. "At the same time, we need to make sure that as students we're enforcing, trying to bring everyone onto campus. Even if they can't come, it is important to spread the message."

Failure to tell friends about events can sometimes create a lack of Miner spirit. UTEP student, Darek Perez, who was part of the homecoming committee mentions how students have the responsibility of promoting these events.

"It's students' jobs to also influence other students to go to events like these," Perez said. "Because although there is a good turnout, there isn't a huge amount of Miner Spirit."

Sometimes students are left unaware of homecoming events, causing them to miss the opportunity to create new fun experiences with friends.

"If you have not been exposed to this tradition before, this year is the right time to start," Barrios said. "We have students from all different backgrounds and sometimes traditions like this are not recognized in other places, but it is upon us to spread that culture of alumni, [and] culture of homecoming as a tradition."

Homecoming celebration ended Nov. 4, with the annual homecoming pep-rally game. From the Miner Dash, to Raspaditos sold by the Education Building, students were able to indulge in these events. If the opportunity to celebrate this year was missed, the 2024 homecoming is anticipated to be bigger and better.

Sofia Sierra is a staff reporter and may be reached at sdsierra2@miners.utep.edu

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A heart pounding percussion performance

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ
The Prospector



Musicians strike at their instruments, some with sticks and some with their bare hands. From drums to marimbas, a variety of percussion instruments were played together to give a thrilling performance. Directed by Andy P. Smith, the program was given by the UTEP Percussion Ensemble at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall, which featured special guests from Eastwood High School Percussion.

Combining modern sounds and styles with regional and folk music, the night was filled with heart-pounding music.

With blends of different music genres and instruments, the program managed to mash up different styles simultaneously.

The musicians did the same as seen in the first part of the performance called “Funkadunk” where drummers tapped on wood blocks and drums, sometimes playing on each other’s instruments.

“I think tonight’s performance is very groovy, I think percussion isn’t like the other ensembles in a way that it’s more modern and you can dance to it,” said Salma Duarte, a music education major at UTEP. “I think it’s really fun. I think that it is different from other percussion performances. Like everybody has to be in touch with each other for it



Miners play the marimbas at Fox Fine Arts for final performance with trio from Eastwood High School performs with gongs, bongos and one big concert bass drum. **Photo by Salma Paola Baca/The Prospector**

to work out.”

Moving on from the thrilling and intense performance of the program’s opening, the following act sounded like something straight out of a Nokia ringtone library. “Six of One” by Chad Floyd was played with the whimsical sounds of xylophones and glockenspiel.

Melodies came together as each performer struck their metal and wooden blocks with grace; the uplifting music was enough to put a smile on peoples faces.

The third part of the program “Brazilian Suite for Tambourines” consisted of a quartet performance, the energetic styles inspired by Pixinguinha, a renowned Brazilian composer. With the slapping of the tambourines and striking of zills, the performance made four tambourines have more energy than a whole band. People could feel the energy and Brazilian melodies pulling at their bodies to burst in dance. By the end of this portion, the applause could not match the

sound of the tambourines. Stepping away from the college performers, a special trio from Eastwood High School performed “We Three” composed by John H. Beck. Some could say they were on par with their fellow college student performers, as they played with the composure of professionals. With a more modern approach than some of the other performances, these students left an impression on their seniors. “I like the high school trio’s

performance, it was like ‘Wow, I never did that in high school,’ I know they’ve come so far,” said Christian Behier, a kinesiology major at UTEP and audience goer. “(I like) more modern stuff like the tambourine quartet, (that) was pretty cool. Number one, number one on my list.”

Following the astounding performance by the high school trio, a UTEP trio also made the stage their own. The three were circled around sets of gongs and bongos, with one big concert bass drum in the middle.

Before anyone knew it, the sounds of the instruments echoed through the music hall. It was almost ritualistic, the way the three bashed on the drums in a rhythm, like clockwork. Taking turns and moments to play the same beats at once, this trio did not come to play around.

The last part of the program was “Promise Music” by Cliff Walker. It involved a variety of percussion instruments used throughout the concert. From small wind chimes to big tubes filled with water, each player of the last performance worked together to deliver a final performance. Everyone on the stage knew their place and did everything to give the audience a reflection of the program’s mix of styles and instruments.

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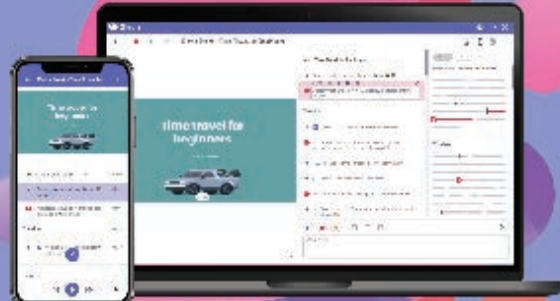
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