Occupy El Paso movement continues, support dwindling

Protest

Occupy El Paso movement continues, support dwindling

Sushi in, Chopsticks out

Food Services plans to expand students’ palate
Growing pains of Occupy movement

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE

The Occupy Movement has raised the public’s awareness of the inequalities inherent to our current social model. It has created a climate in which people are actively leaving the banks (tens of thousands in Texas alone) and said banks are caving into the demands of the consumers.

It has flipped the mainstream media upside down and shown us that the age of the Internet, with all its chaos, can support a populist movement while pundits and cable networks ramble on. I hope this continues, as the biggest hope man brought up time and time again seems to be that the Occupy Movement is disorganized. The issues that we face today are the result of 30 years of polarized politicians one-upping each other rather than making effective decisions for the public. From the chaos that is the Occupy Movement, I hope more bank transfer day events arise.

The flaw of the Occupy El Paso Movement, from the beginning, is that they attained a permit from the city. The movement began Oct. 17, almost a month ago. It was originally planned for Oct. 15, but moved to prevent interference with the annual Chalk the Block event. During Chalk the Block, there were some protestors present across San Jacinto Plaza on Mesa Street in city-sanctioned protest areas, sort of pushed off to the side. This sort of sidestepping by the powers that be is a perfect example of why the system isn’t that far gone, nor defanged it. A protest is meant to show that the protesters are upset with the established rules and will not participate in the system until changes are made. When the protest is accepted as one of the rules of the system, it can be because the system isn’t fixed (you decide yourself if El Paso is free of socioeconomic strife) or because those in power don’t care. If they don’t care, a change of plans should be in order to do something to make them care. Alternatively, you can forgo the protest stage and just delve into anarchy, but I am hopeful that the system isn’t that far gone, nor blacklisted. I can only hope that when Nov. 13 rolls around, fear does not prevail.

When those in power sanction a protest, the ruling class has essentially defanged it. A protest is meant to make them care. Alternatively, you should be in order to do something with the permit I mentioned above? Worrying about the permit expiring Nov. 13 shouldn’t even be a problem for the occupiers.

While political activism, in any form, is a win in my book, civil disobedience should be civil disobedience. That is, if you want to effectively raise awareness of issues within the confines of the current system instead of camping out downtown. When you’re occupying a place with the intent of civil disobedience, it needs to upset someone.

When those in power sanction a protest, the ruling class has essentially defanged it. A protest is meant to show that the protesters are upset with the established rules and will not participate in the system until changes are made. When the protest is accepted as one of the rules of the system, it can be because the system isn’t fixed (you decide yourself if El Paso is free of socioeconomic strife) or because those in power don’t care. If they don’t care, a change of plans should be in order to do something to make them care. Alternatively, you can forgo the protest stage and just delve into anarchy, but I am hopeful that the system isn’t that far gone, nor blacklisted. I can only hope that when Nov. 13 rolls around, fear does not prevail.

With that said, I must bring this back to El Paso. As I said, the permit may expire soon. I recall in the early stages of Occupy El Paso, the defense of the permit was that many were scared of losing their jobs or being blacklisted. I can only hope that when Nov. 13 rolls around, fear does not prevail.

Henry Arrambide may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

POLL RESULTS

Do you think either UTEP basketball teams will make the NCAA Tournament?

43% NO

57% YES

YOU THINK? What do you think?

This week’s poll question: Does UTEP need better food options on campus?

vote at WWW.UTEPPROSPECTOR.COM

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Lack of lockers, dropped weights cause concerns

BY AMBER WATT

The opening of the Student Recreation Center brought more opportunities for students for physical fitness and fun, but also some new nuisances. Problems such as locker availability, crowding and damages to the new building from people dropping weights are some of the major complaints heard from students.

“The lockers are just really inconvenient for everybody, and for people like me who ride the bus, we have to bring a huge bag for school books and gym stuff and take it out every day,” said Jerry Terrazas, freshman psychology major.

“The lockers in the new facility are for day use only and have a fee of 25 cents that students get back after working out, or a minimum semester fee of $15. Although the trouble of carrying a huge bag around all day may be an issue for some students, others say it is a small price to pay.”

“It’s 25 cents that you get back—what’s wrong with that?” said Alex Guerra, freshman undeclared major.

Hector Muñoz, director of the Recreational Sports Department, said that they want to make sure that the lockers are being utilized by as many people as possible.

“Right now we have less than 500 lockers. Basically we’re trying to be proactive and give everyone the opportunity to have a place where you can keep your stuff,” Muñoz said.

Muñoz also said that students do have alternatives to avoid paying fees for the lockers, but with about 1,500 uses a day, rotating them out is necessary.

“I’ve never had to use the lockers, I’m already in my workout clothes,” said Ana Orozco, sophomore accounting and business major.

Students are also having issues with use of the third-floor restroom, which allows only one person at a time.

“With so many people up there, it’s just amazing to see the lines that people have to wait in just to use the restrooms. It’s ridiculous,” Guerra said.

Orozco said while the new recreation center is big, once it gets busy there is little space available for students. As students crowd the new center, Memorial Gym has seen less activity than it used too.

“Memorial Gym was not really an ideal setting for the recreational department and for the students,” Muñoz said. “The facility itself was not 100 percent recreation because we had classes in the morning and had the volleyball team practicing.”

The number of hours available in the Memorial Gym for recreation were limited and since the student population grew, the gym offered more classes, which limited the number of open hours.

“Memorial used to be very crowded because people always wanted to play basketball, but now I think (Memorial) is emptier because everybody comes over here,” Terrazas said.

Overall, the response to the new SRC has been a positive one. Students are happy with the cleanliness, the help and friendliness of the student workers and they hope for a quick re-opening of the swimming pool. Although, they said there is room for improvement.

“I think eventually they’re going to have to move that power-lifting thing, cause there’s people that just love to drop the weights,” Guerra said.

see REC on page 4

The Time of Year to Spread Holiday Cheer

The Woman’s Resource Center at UTEP invites you to be a Secret Santa! Make a child happy this holiday season! Sponsor a child and make sure their letter to Santa is answered.

Secret Santa letters are available for pick-up in the WRC Union West 112 on UTEP’s Campus. Gifts are due to Santa’s helpers by November 23rd. Gift Wrapping Party November 29th.

For more information contact: The Woman’s Resource Center at (915) 747-5291
Since the weight-lifting rooms are located on the second floor, there is concern about damage and noise in the facility. More expansion plans for the SRC are underway and expected to be completed by April 2012. “A final phase that includes three racketball courts on the north end attached to the facility, new sand volleyball courts and upgrades on the field that is located on the west side of the facility are expected for the center,” Muñoz said. “This project is long overdue for our student population and I’m glad they had the vision to go for it, because this is for generations to come. It’s our goal to make students feel comfortable here.”

Amber Watts may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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THE PROSPECTOR

November 8, 2011

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ROBERT CASTILLO / The Prospector

Dozens of tents remain at San Jacinto Plaza for Occupy El Paso since the protest started in October. Their permit for camping there ends Nov. 13.

“Throughout the day we’ll get people honking at us, cheering in support for what we’re doing,” said Dyllan Mejia, Occupy El Paso member. “Just the other day I saw Sheriff Richard Wiles here donating money.” Protesters have also been met with many that are opposed to the movement. “At the same time, we’ll get people coming up to us who disagree with what we’re doing,” Mejia said. “On just my second day here, there was a man from Chase Bank who flipped me off.”

Wiley Driskell, Occupy El Paso member, said the local movement has received donations from various organizations. They received chili plants from the El Paso Vegetarian Society, as well as 40 chili and tomato plants donated by Sunland Park Mall. Other than those donations, local citizens have donated blankets, sleeping bags, water bottles and small amounts of cash. “A lot of people might get frustrated and say ‘what’s the point of getting involved in something if we don’t see the change right away?’” said Josue Rodriguez, Occupy El Paso member. “But the public needs to understand that in order for change to happen we have to get involved and we have to be active from day one.”

Josue Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Question of the week

Does UTEP need better food options?

Photos by Audrey Russell, Candie Herrera, Veronica Chaparro, Justin Stene and Greg Castillo

Belen Guevara
Sophomore kinesiology major
"I think it is a good idea, especially if they had more variety. I think they would get more business because the students would eat on campus instead of going out."

Jaime Cruz
Sophomore mechanical engineering major
"No, I like the food court at UTEP. It is not bad food at all. I think it is tasty. Having a cafeteria would be all right as long as the food is not too expensive."

Melissa Rios Astorga
Freshman international business major
"I think it should be cheaper, more food selections and healthier foods."

Dominic Gonzalez
Freshman finance major
"I do not really come here to eat because of how high the food prices are. I would like the idea of a cafeteria if the food was more reasonably priced."

Julian Munoz
Freshman microbiology major
"It's a good idea. There would be more capacity for people and more variety for people. There's nothing special right now and the prices are extreme for what they have. I eat here every now and then, but I would eat here if they change it."

Rael Velasco
Freshman education major
"Yes, we need more food choices."

Luis Navarro
Junior psychology major
"I think that it has to do with the people that do not interact with the food court that we have now that makes it seem so inactive."

Julio E. Batiz
Freshman nursing major
"Yes, there's not enough variety. What we have is expensive. It would be a good idea to bring in fresh produce like apples, more greens and better quality food."

Arleen Reyes
Junior history major
"There should be more variety because it's only been a semester and I'm bored of the choices."

Jedidiah Leachman
Senior music education major
"I don't think we need a new food court at UTEP. It would be okay to remodel but I don't think it would be necessary. I'm guessing their meal plans would also be expensive."

Briana Baeza
Junior education major
"No, I enjoy the food choices, especially the sushi bar."

Arly Velasco
Freshman education major
"Yes, we need more food choices."

Jaime Cruz
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Audience to participate in selecting new conductor

The El Paso Symphony Orchestra is in search of a new conductor to direct the 2011-12 season. The search is taking a new approach in which the audience is welcome to participate in choosing the new EPSO leader.

Out of 250 applicants, only six talented candidates were chosen to perform two concerts every month. During the two performances and during rehearsals, a search committee, the audience and the orchestra will evaluate each candidate.

"They're all experienced, most of them have other orchestras," said Ruth Ellen Jacobson, EPSO executive director. "This is not going to be their only orchestra. They're very excited about coming to El Paso, so it's pretty special that they made it."

Kenneth Raskin was the first of the six composers to open the 81st season. Next was David Haudid on Oct. 22 and the search continues Nov. 18 and 19 at the Plaza Theatre with conductors Lawrence Lob, Michael Buttermans, Peter Rubardt and Mariusz Smolj will be the remaining conductors for the concerts to come.

For the first time, the audience is getting an opportunity to have a say in who the next EPSO conductor will be.

"I think it's really cool they're letting the audience members choose and I think that is very special since the conductor is the representation of El Paso Symphony and that is a symbol of the city itself," said Priscilla Mora, senior music major. "The audience hasn't really had the chance to give feedback and we're usually always the observers. It's nice to be able to have our input."

Jacobson said the conductor's job is a big responsibility for the entire orchestra.

"The conductor is like the general in the army. He tells everybody how fast to play, when to play. He's the guy who interprets the music. If you can imagine 80 people all in a room, to play the music you would need somebody to tell you when to come in and how fast to play that note. That's what he does," Jacobson said.

"They are looking for someone who can rehearse well, uses their time wisely and helps them sound as good as they possibly can," Andre Feagin, assistant professor of music and assistant director of bands at UTEP, shared what he believes the EPSO is searching for in the new conductor.

"I feel that what the organization is ultimately looking for is someone with a strong musical background and experience as a professional conductor," Feagin said.

"I think they will also be looking for someone who is charismatic, energetic, articulate and one who is excited about being in an important multicultural region of the United States," November's conductors will also include guest soloists, twin sisters Christina and Michelle Naughton performing Mozart's Concerto for 2 Pianos, No. 10, K. 385.

The EPSO season will also showcase violinists Soorin Kim, Ik-Hwan Bae and Chee-Yun and cello player Zuill Bailey.

Season tickets are now on sale via phone at 532-3776. Season ticket prices range from $63 to $201.

Twenty percent discounts are available for senior citizens (65 and over) and active military, 30 percent for educators and 50 percent for students. For a complete listing of upcoming concerts, visit epso.org.

Harold and Kumar, still appropriately inappropriate

"A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas," is the third installment of the series, which was released Nov. 4.

The film pokes fun at Latinos, Asians, Catholics, Jews, Ukrainians and African-Americans. Every group is depicted as a hyperbolic stereotype. Asians are handy with electronics, Catholic priests like pilots, Jews are stingy, Ukrainians are mobsters and African-Americans are Christmas-tree-selling-gangsters.

They are all stereotypes, yes, but the humor never feels racist. Mariú's extended Mexican family is spending Christmas at Harold's. A particularly humorous scene includes all the family showing up at Harold's door as they chant. They include tattooed thugs, a cute "abuelita" and a roasted pig in the background being lifted up.

Danny Trejo plays Harold's father in law, Mr. Perez, hilariously wearing Christmas knit sweaters. Mr. Perez is intimidating as a Christmas-loving family man who lost his mother to Korean thugs while she was coming home with tree ornaments.

Harold and Kumar have to find a tree before 2 a.m. because they accidentally burned Mr. Perez' beloved 8-foot-high eight-year-old Christmas tree. Their journey takes them to unexpected places, but it isn't about where they're at, it's about what kind of crazy trouble they get themselves into.

Neil Patrick Harris' small appearance presents the film at its most clever. NPH, as Harris is referred to in the "XMAS" on page 8.

A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas" directed by Todd Strauss-Schulson is a fun, unapologetic stoner movie with Christmas spirit and extravagantly inappropriate humor (which somehow feels appropriate), yet the film suffers from its inconsistant pace and mindless plot twists.

After six years since Harold (John Cho) and Kumar (Kal Penn) escaped from Guantanamo Bay, the friends have become distant. Harold has a Wall Street job and got married to Maria (Paula Garces). Kumar is only a bum who smokes weed any chance he gets. A mysterious package is what it takes to bring both of them together to save Christmas.

The film has the raunchy and outlandish "why-am-I-laughing" moments so characteristic of stoner films. It is at times crude, at times casual, but always funny. Easily offended movie-goers should not watch this though.

The film jokes fun at Latinos, Asians, Catholics, Jews, Ukrainians and African-Americans. Every group is depicted as a hyperbolic stereotype. Asians are handy with electronics, Catholic priests like pilots, Jews are stingy, Ukrainians are mobsters and African-Americans are Christmas-tree-selling-gangsters.

The film버ńs the comedy on the fly, and it's often offensively funny, but it's also absurdly entertaining.

Neil Patrick Harris is perfectly cast as the groom, a Wall Street executive who is forced to save Christmas.

The film is a wild ride, and it's a blast to watch. It's not for everyone, but if you're in the mood for some Christmas spirit mixed with a bit of raunchiness, this is the movie for you.

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NPH, as Harris is referred to in the "XMAS" on page 8.
‘Battlefield 3’ delivers multiplayer action

By JERRY ALDAZ

Discovering Russian warheads under the control of a criminal militia (PLR), “Battlefield 3” follows Staff Sgt. Henry Blackburn’s journey in capturing the influential Al- Bashir and preventing catastrophic attacks on landmark cities. Suspicion is quickly redirected towards Solomon, a CIA informant, and his association with PLR.

“Battlefield 3” is a welcome alternative to “Call of Duty”’s cinematic and technical contributions. Battlefield’s superb range of game modes and extensive streamlining make for a more accessible game. Although absent features include a pre-emptive planning and external assistance, the campaign’s major setbacks are its narrow linearity and cookie-cutter hostiles. Military jargon can easily complicate the storyline and stunt their prey through long-range sniper rifles.

“Battlefield 3” delivers attractive offerings. Beyond its short lifespan and generic storyline, the campaign’s major setbacks are its narrow linearity and cookie-cutter hostiles. Military jargon can easily complicate the storyline and stunt their prey through long-range sniper rifles.

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As far as mechanics, climbing or descending obstacles feels like a natural extension of your virtual body, while authentic weapon recoil creates a sense of desperation and uncertainty when faced with waves of underpaid gunfire. Its 41-plus weapon arsenal encourages determination and quick-time events provide for entertaining melee engagement.

Beyond its short lifespan and generic storyline, the campaign’s major setbacks are its narrow linearity and cookie-cutter hostiles. Military jargon can easily complicate the storyline and stunt their prey through long-range sniper rifles.

Supporting up to 24 players, or 64 in PC, Battlefield’s various game modes will keep players revising their strategies and multi-layered levels allow for elaborate attack tactics. Just like any franchise shooter, experience points are awarded at the conclusion of every match and level progression is often guided by the chosen class. Although I experienced occasional frame drops, possibly due to the internet connection, online competition felt like a solid, well-polished product. Matchmaking is responsive and bullet physics adequately justify lethal outcomes. The annoyance of an unsteady sniper scope or reloading one’s assault rifle at an inopportune moment reinforce the notion that pre-emptive planning and external assistance is required for a victorious round.

Being a “Call of Duty” fanatic, often looking to a more human side of the battlefront, “Battlefield 3” delivers attractive offerings. Beyond its short lifespan and generic storyline, the campaign’s major setbacks are its narrow linearity and cookie-cutter hostiles. Military jargon can easily complicate the storyline and stunt their prey through long-range sniper rifles.

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Cinderella run ends in title game loss

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

The glass slipper was so close to fitting. Entering the Conference-USA Tournament as a seventh seed, UTEP upset second-seeded Colorado College Nov. 2, won in penalty kicks against sixth-seeded Rice Nov. 4, but fell just short to nationally-ranked No. 4 Memphis 2-1 in the second overtime in the C-USA Championship game.

“We didn’t go away because the girls play with so much heart,” head coach Kevin Cross said. “They are fighters and never quit. This fighting mentality is a quality the program had always prided itself in having.”

The Tigers, the host of the postseason tournament, possessed the ball nearly the entire game, but UTEP’s freshman goalkeeper Sarah Dilling made every effort to keep the Miners in the game.

“My confidence has increased a lot since the beginning of the season and I would say that was one of the key things that allowed me to play so well,” Dilling said. “My defense also played really well, which helped me out a lot. They definitely did well in limiting the shots that the opposing teams were able to get.”

After UTEP held Memphis to a 1-1 tie in regulation, the two headed into overtime. The Miners were outshot 22-7 in the first 90 minutes, including 11-3 in shots on goal.

The first 10 minutes of extra time resulted in the same score, but in the 103rd minute, the Tigers clinched their spot in the NCAA Tournament. Freshman forward/midfielder Katilyn Atkins received a pass from C-USA Offensive Player of the Year and sophomore midfielder Christabel Oduro in the middle of the field. After Oduro won the ball near the corner, Atkins beat the keeper as she cut down the middle for the game-winning score.

After Dilling stopped three of four penalty kicks against Rice, Cross was confident his team would have taken the match in penalty kicks.

“Everyone did feel that (Dilling) was in the zone and that we could have won in penalties. We were seven minutes away, unfortunately,” Cross said.

After a scoreless first half, it was Oduro who was able to give Memphis the game’s first score in the 58th minute. Oduro showed why she deserved to be the tournament’s Most Valuable Offensive Player, too. She spun around her defender and scored in the far post for her conference-leading 12th goal of the season.

UTEP had an answer in the 74th minute when junior forward Tess Hall’s pass into the box found junior forward Brittany Kindzierski, who tied the game at one.

Senior midfielder Katie Dorman, Dilling and Kindzierski were named to the all-tournament team.

“IT was definitely a positive way to end. Don’t get me wrong, I wanted to win so bad. We all did but I know we fought as a team,” Dorman said. “We really did and that is such a good feeling. Getting to that last game is definitely the highlight of my career.”

The Miners entered the tournament on a six-game winless streak, going 0-4-2 in that span.

During that time, UTEP started the streak with a 2-2 tie to Rice, a 3-0 loss to Memphis and a 1-0 loss to Colorado College. This may be attributed to the multiple injuries the team went through, such as Hall and senior defender Jesse Pettit.

“We were fortunate to get Tosha back on the field. She was not at 100 percent in the tournament, but she gave us all that she had,” Cross said. “Her ankle was still sore where she could not take set pieces as normal. She gave us much needed depth and provided us with the big assist versus Memphis. Tosha is our playmaker, so her injury really took a toll on the team.”

Both players returned for the tournament. Pettit played in the regular season, but chose to sit out the tournament as a seven seed, UTEP faced a 2-1 loss against Colorado College and may have provided a spark for a UTEP team with an 11 to 11 player rotation.

The Miners lost three players to graduation, but may return up to nine freshmen and sophomores who saw significant playing time this year. The juniors are Hall, Kindzierski and forward Skyler Schulte, who redshirted this year, meaning she will return as a junior next season.


Football

Recent loss adds to November woes

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector

The Miners approached November like the start of a new season with four games remaining and two wins away from bowl eligibility. UTEP’s 41-37 loss to Rice Nov. 5 in Houston gave them a 4-1 start to the month, which has become a long reminder of what November is like.

“We have a lot of young guys who haven’t even been here for the November struggles,” Kemp said. “They don’t even know about it. I think it’s a good thing.”

Price is not staying away from the challenge of the November cloud and expects his staff and players to be prepared.

“I don’t know what excuse I’m going to make up at the end of the year to please the alumni if we don’t do well in November this year,” Price said. “I’m kind of running out of excuses. Fans remember the games in November, so does everybody else and so do I.”

What could separate this month from previous Novembers is that the roster is getting much healthier. Senior defensive back Travous Nixon, who missed four games, returned for the game against Rice and will need everyone to be healthy to make all the necessary steps to get ready for the next team.

Fifty-five of the 101 players on UTEP’s roster are underclassmen and many of them have not experienced what November is like.

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“The glass slipper was so close to fitting. Entering the Conference-USA Tournament as a seventh seed, UTEP upset second-seeded Colorado College Nov. 2, won in penalty kicks against sixth-seeded Rice Nov. 4, but fell just short to nationally-ranked No. 4 Memphis 2-1 in the second overtime in the C-USA Championship game.

“We didn’t go away because the girls play with so much heart,” head coach Kevin Cross said. “They are fighters and never quit. This fighting mentality is a quality the program had always prided itself in having.”

The Tigers, the host of the postseason tournament, possessed the ball nearly the entire game, but UTEP’s freshman goalkeeper Sarah Dilling made every effort to keep the Miners in the game.

“My confidence has increased a lot since the beginning of the season and I would say that was one of the key things that allowed me to play so well,” Dilling said. “My defense also played really well, which helped me out a lot. They definitely did well in limiting the shots that the opposing teams were able to get.”

After UTEP held Memphis to a 1-1 tie in regulation, the two headed into overtime. The Miners were outshot 22-7 in the first 90 minutes, including 11-3 in shots on goal.

The first 10 minutes of extra time resulted in the same score, but in the 103rd minute, the Tigers clinched their spot in the NCAA Tournament. Freshman forward/midfielder Katilyn Atkins received a pass from C-USA Offensive Player of the Year and sophomore midfielder Christabel Oduro in the middle of the field. After Oduro won the ball near the corner, Atkins beat the keeper as she cut down the middle for the game-winning score.

After Dilling stopped three of four penalty kicks against Rice, Cross was confident his team would have taken the match in penalty kicks.

“Everyone did feel that (Dilling) was in the zone and that we could have won in penalties. We were seven minutes away, unfortunately,” Cross said.

After a scoreless first half, it was Oduro who was able to give Memphis the game’s first score in the 58th minute. Oduro showed why she deserved to be the tournament’s Most Valuable Offensive Player, too. She spun around her defender and scored in the far post for her conference-leading 12th goal of the season.

UTEP had an answer in the 74th minute when junior forward Tosha Hall’s pass into the box found junior forward Brittany Kindzierski, who tied the game at one.

Senior midfielder Katie Dorman, Dilling and Kindzierski were named to the all-tournament team.

“IT was definitely a positive way to end. Don’t get me wrong, I wanted to win so bad. We all did but I know we fought as a team,” Dorman said. “We really did and that is such a good feeling. Getting to that last game is definitely the highlight of my career.”

The Miners entered the tournament on a six-game winless streak, going 0-4-2 in that span.

During that time, UTEP started the streak with a 2-2 tie to Rice, a 3-0 loss to Memphis and a 1-0 loss to Colorado College. This may be attributed to the multiple injuries the team went through, such as Hall and senior defender Jesse Pettit.

“We were fortunate to get Tosha back on the field. She was not at 100 percent in the tournament, but she gave us all that she had,” Cross said. “Her ankle was still sore where she could not take set pieces as normal. She gave us much needed depth and provided us with the big assist versus Memphis. Tosha is our playmaker, so her injury really took a toll on the team.”

Both players returned for the tournament. Pettit played in the regular season, but chose to sit out the tournament as a seven seed, UTEP faced a 2-1 loss against Colorado College and may have provided a spark for a UTEP team with an 11 to 11 player rotation.

The Miners lost three players to graduation, but may return up to nine freshmen and sophomores who saw significant playing time this year. The juniors are Hall, Kindzierski and forward Skyler Schulte, who redshirted this year, meaning she will return as a junior next season.

The team huddles up prior to their game against Southern Miss Oct. 29 at the Sun Bowl.
Miners split exhibition games

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Miners have been putting in extra work since falling to Eastern New Mexico in their first exhibition loss in five years. The additional effort paid off as UTEP defeated the Sul Ross State Lobos 76-60 Nov. 5 at the Don Haskins Center.

"The goal with these games is one, to try to look at everybody, which we've been able to do with equal minutes across the board, and two is to try to make a little improvement every time out," head coach Tim Floyd said. "I thought we played a little better than we have."

Following their loss to Eastern New Mexico Nov. 3 at home, Floyd decided to give some more lessons on the basketball court Nov. 4-5, holding two more practices. Players said Floyd focused on defense the first day and there in some new offensive plays. The second But Nov., the first practice after the loss, was especially significant.

"I think everybody played well and harder than we played (Nov. 3). We had a couple of hard practices so everybody's starting to learn and come around," junior forward Malcolm Moore said. "Practiced a lot of defense the other day on (Nov. 4). It was all defense and it was intense, but I think we played better defensively than we have."

After giving up 73 points to Eastern New Mexico off 45 percent shooting, including 50 percent from the three, the Miners stifled down on defense against Sul Ross State. Along with holding them to 60 points, the Lobos shot just 38 percent, but 42 from the three-point line.

"The goal with these games is one, to try to look at everybody, which we've been able to do with equal minutes across the board, and two is to try to make a little improvement every time out," head coach Tim Floyd said. "I thought we played a little better in the second half. We look like who we are right now."

After their lead was cut to 27-26 after a nine point run by Sul Ross Stated, the Miners outscored Sul Ross State 20-9 in the paint, including 38-15 in the game. After their lead was cut to 41-38 with 16:04 to go in the game, the Miners went on a 14-2 run and never saw their lead drop below double digits from that point on. UTEP outscored Sul Ross State 6-0 on the break in the second half and 25-16 off turnovers throughout the entire game.

Freshman forward Julian Washburn was not at the game, as he was attending his mother's funeral in Dal拉斯 that day. Moore stepped up for the short-handed frontcourt, who were already missing senior Gabriel McCulley and sophomore John Bohannon.

McCulley is out with an injury due to his altercation with assistant coach Greg Foster at the NIT game March 16 in Albuquerque. McCulley finished with a team-high 15 points while finishing with seven rebounds.

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"We turn it over too much right now, don't value the ball. We don't understand all concepts of, 'when I'm on offense, I'm thinking of a teammate.'"

"I thought we played a little better in the second half. We look like who we are right now."
Women's Basketball

UTEP pulls away early, beats St. Mary's

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Despite first-game jitters, the mesh between newcomers and experienced players seemed to show. UTEP jumped out to a 13-0 lead and never looked back, beating St. Mary's 79-56 Nov. 5 at the Don Haskins Center in their only exhibition match of the 2011-12 season.

"Before the game, I might have been a little shook up just because that's just normal for me," freshman guard Jenzel Nash said. "Basketball is basketball and it should be played a certain way."

The jitters did not seem to show

with freshman starting guard Chrisnauna Parker. She corralled three rebounds, one offensive, while adding six quick points. UTEP forced five quick turnovers in the first five minutes while shooting 50 percent from the field.

Nash came off the bench in the 14th minute of the first half and finished with a game-high 11 points on 50 percent shooting. UTEP's bench, which is subject to change as head coach Keitha Adams continues to explore her depth chart, outscored the Rattlers' bench 46-12.

"I was really proud with Jenzel's effort. I thought she played hard, got her nose in there. One of the things that I'm doing in these exhibition games is when certain things happen I use those opportunities," Adams said. "I brought her out and we talked about some situations because it's important that it's a learning curve."

The Miners took a 41-25 lead into the half, but had trouble putting away St. Mary's in the second. Their forwards made a statement against the smaller St. Mary's frontcourt.

"Defensively, we have to step our game up. We let them get too many shots off, let them get into the paint too easily," Parker said. "We have to get up there and stop them."

Junior forward Kristine Vitola also starred and was one of two players to finish with a double-double. She had 13 points and 11 rebounds, while sophomore forward Kayla Thornton was the other player with a double-double, finishing with 11 points and 10 boards. Thornton had a game-high six offensive rebounds and Vitola's seven defensive boards also led both teams.

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simplystated

Tennis completes fall campaign

UTEP put the finishing touches on the fall portion of its 2011-12 season by registering three victories on the final day, Nov. 6, of the North Texas tournament at Denton, Texas.

The Miners finished the fall with a combined mark of 39-35 in singles and 18-17 in doubles in their four tournaments. In doubles, UTEP went 1-2. The tandem of senior Carolina DeLuca and sophomore Marie LeBlond beat the Akron Zips’ juniors Anastasia Sylvania and Angelika Jogasuriam, 8-1.

UTEP’s duo of junior Martina Trierweiler and sophomore Gabi Vasquez were upended by the Zips’ tandem of senior Carolina DeLuca and sophomore Marie LeBlond beat the Akron Zips’ juniors Anastasia Sylvania and Angelika Jogasuriam, 8-1.

Action then switched to singles play where DeLuca beat Jogasuriam, 7-6, 6-4. Abdrakhmanova did the same in sweeping Jogasuriam, 6-3, 6-0.

Trierweiler then fell to Harutyunyan by a final count of 6-2, 6-3. Vasquez couldn’t crack Pantusart in a match situation against Karukina, dropping the match 6-0, 6-0. LeBlonde was edged, 6-3, 6-4.

The Miners will now be idle until initiating their dual-match portion of their season Jan. 27, 2012 with a match at Denver.

Volleyball swept at UAB

UTEP dropped its second-straight match to UAB, falling 3-1 (20-25, 25-18, 14-25, 21-25) to the Blazers Nov. 6 at Bartow Arena. It was the second-straight loss to UAB as the Miners fell to the Blazers in straight sets two days earlier.

“UAB blocked really well and affected our confidence,” head coach Ken Murphy said. “We committed many errors and I think it had to do with the way UAB was defending.”

The UAB (20-7, 10-5) defense held UTEP to a .109 hitting percentage despite sophomore middle blocker Xitlali Herrera and sophomore outside hitter Jeane Horton turning in 15 kills and 14 kills, respectively. Herrera also recorded 13 digs, while junior outside hitter Bridget Logan downed 10 kills.

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The second frame began much like the first, as the Miners held the lead the entire set with UAB only getting as close as 24-19 before back-to-back kills by Herrera and Logan gave UTEP a 25-19 victory.

With the third set knotless at seven, UTEP went on a 7-2 run to force a Miners timeout. UTEP would come as close as 21-14 but a trio of Blazer kills would close the set out, 25-14.

In the third set, after both teams swapped points within one, UAB pulled ahead to a 14-9 advantage. The Miners regrouped and cut the Blazers lead to 18-16, forcing a UAB timeout.

UTEP continued to battle for control and another kill by Herrera put the Miners within one, 22-21. But back-to-back UTEP errors and a Blazer kill sealed the match, 25-21.

The Miners will return home to face East Carolina at 7 p.m. Nov. 11 and Marshall at 12 p.m. Nov. 13 in Memorial Gym.