9-24-2013

The Prospector, September 24, 2013

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SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

By S. David Ramirez

Construction and confusion have some students circling lots this semester.
"(Students) have to look somewhere else when they’ve paid for parking near campus," said Luis Torres Jr., junior costume design major. "It is unfair that they have to walk or go the extra distance."

Cynthia Villa, vice president of business affairs, said that parking is working hard to keep pace with campus growth. More and more students are utilizing carpool programs, taking special Sun Metro routes or biking to campus.
"At the beginning of every semester people don’t always know the system," Villa said. "Once we’re about two weeks into the semester things settle down."

But with the removal of most inner campus parking and the construction of Spur 1966, there has been a reduction in the number of available spaces.

"It is unfair that they have to walk or go the extra distance." - Luis Torres Jr., junior music theater major

See PARKING on page 3
The Affordable Care Act wants you (and your money)

BY LORAIN WATTERS
The Prospector

The Affordable Care Act wants you (and your money) as those who already have insurance.

sured and underinsured will have the growth in healthcare spending. want it or not, and, ideally, help curb insurance to millions, whether they wrong. Having this pass will provide insurance premiums will also rise due to the insurers having to provide covered services. This especially affects those who already have insurance and will most likely affect their deductible as well. So if you are a young, independent with insurance, Godspeed because your current plan will most likely change, having you pick a new one, which will make things even pricier for you. “Well, if prices go up, then I can always get another job that is full-time to help me pay for it all,” said no one ever.

Or, at least, you can’t say that anymore. Another result of Obamacare will be the reduction of full-time jobs available. Businesses that have more than 50 full-time employees will now have to provide them health coverage. And what’s an easy way to escape spending more money? Get rid of the problem. That is, essentially, what most businesses will be doing, putting people out of a job that really need it, ultimately affecting their total income and the economy itself.

Sometimes I hear people say ‘it’s better to not have any insurance at all because it’s cheaper that way.’ Although that might be the case for many today, that will also change in January 2014. As stated in “Dramacare” by S. David Ramirez on page 1, the Internal Revenue Service will apply a penalty against anyone that is not insured in 2014; it will either be $95 per person for that year or 1 percent of their yearly income, whichever is greater.

According to whitehouse.gov, those who already have insurance will remain responsible for 100 percent of the cost of their medical care. For those of you who are uninsured now but are planning on getting affordable care next week, may the odds be ever in your favor. According to whitehouse.gov, those who are uninsured and obtain affordable care will not be turned away due to preexisting conditions. Now called the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, this insurance coverage is for those who have been uninsured due to the preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will have to cover recommended preventive services, such as pap smears and new baby care. The uninsured-turned newly insured will also be given a choice of who they want as their primary care provider, which will be based on their plan’s network of doctors. TLDR (reddit.com lingo for too long, didn’t read) The affordable care act will benefit those without insurance now who plan on getting insurance after Oct. 1 and it may be a detriment for those who already have insurance.

*Louis Watters may be reached at theprospectordaily.net*
The Student Health Center is operationalized by Vivature, a company that administers health care support for more than 150 campuses nationwide. "More students and their families will have health insurance, whether they have it through their parents or on their own," said David Smith, vice president of corporate compliance at Vivature. "All of a sudden, you will see it easier to get health insurance."

Since 2010, dependents under 26 have been able to remain on their guardians’ insurance through a provision of the ACA. Smith said that most insurance carriers, who will be participating in the exchange, have not yet revealed pricing or plans. Vivature expects to acquire more details at the beginning of October and will share information to help students understand the full implications of the new exchange.

"It's not a college student, you have nothing to worry about honestly," said Andrew Luno, junior political science major. "It is short sighted to accept new individuals for enrollment even with preexisting conditions. Individuals under the age of 30 who do not wish or are unable to purchase a full-tier of health insurance will be able to obtain a "catastrophic plan." These plans are designed to protect individuals from the crippling expenses that can be associated with a major illness or injury.

These plans also include three visits to a primary care provider at no additional cost. All marketplace plans must cover a series of preventative medical practices. These practices include STD screening, testing for diabetes and counseling for lifestyle issues such as alcohol misuse or tobacco cessation. The preventative policies also cover immunization for communicable diseases such as hepatitis, influenza and meningitis.

Since 2012, UTEP has required a bacterial meningitis vaccine for all students under the age of 30. Texas Well and Healthy, a grassroots campaign, states on its website that "adequate health care coverage helps to protect young adults from unexpectedly high medical costs and can make a big difference in helping young adult students complete college and achieve academic success."

However, some are not convinced that the ACA is a positive initiative for students. "Opting into the 'Obamacare' exchange is a bad idea for young people," said David Pasch, public information officer for Generation Opportunity, a non-partisan advocacy group.

Pasch describes the ACA as "creepy" and potentially illegal. A press release from Pasch encourages youth to opt-out of "Obamacare" because of corporate cronyism and a shift in tax burden to the millennial generation.

Pasch said in the long-term, students will be left to pay the bill for aging Americans. Pasch also considers information that will be collected by the government to administer the new programs. Health insurance information is protected by the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which prevents certain information from being shared across electronic systems without a patient's permission.

Dec. 15 will be the last day to purchase healthcare coverage that will activate when ACA has its full rollout on Jan. 1, 2014. The Internal Revenue Service will apply a penalty against anyone not insured during 2014. The penalty fee for the first year will be $95 or 1 percent of household income, whichever is greater.

For more information about the insurance exchange, visit healthcare.gov.

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**THE PROSPECTOR**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

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**PARKING**

from page 1

There are 9,579 spaces in the existing parking inventory. Though not all students drive to school, the number is a harsh contrast to the record-breaking enrollment of more than 23,000 students. So far, 9,886 permits have been issued for the spaces available.

Permits are sold in recognition that all students spend the entire day on campus. This semester, however, overcrowding has been an issue.

Silver and garage parking are among the highest in demand, and perimeter and remote spaces sell at a slower rate.

If students encounter a parking lot at capacity, Villa said students may look for parking in the nearest lot of the similar tier. Silver permit holders can move to an adjacent silver lot. Perimeter holders can move to an adjacent parking lot of the similar tier. Parking decals are mostly distributed to students who are utilizing temporary placards or stickers, which transportation said is potentially due to a backlog.

Parking decals are mostly distributed through a third-party mailing service and permit purchasers can usually expect to receive decals within two weeks. However, misrouted mail or incorrect addresses supplied by students can extend the waiting period.

Undeliverable permits are mailed back to the Parking and Transportation Services offices. Students can contact that office if they have not received their permit. However, if they need to file a lost report and have a replacement issued, purchasers can expect to pay $20.

"Before we implemented this fee, we had a lot of students say that it was lost in the mail and they were giving it to their friends, boyfriends or girlfriends," said Paul Stresow, Parking and Transportation Director. "It was the only way to keep everybody honest."

Parking and Transportation Services may be contacted by phone at Extension 5724.

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**Storm RACK WEATHER!!**

**High 87**

**Low 64**

**Sunny**

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**TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON**

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**S. David Ramirez may be reached at theprospectordailynews@gmail.com.**

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**Weather Source: aspe.hhs.gov**

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[36x1154]September 28th. Affordable Care Act allows young adults to remain on parents' plans until age 26.

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**Keaton Brave**

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**HEALTH from page 1**

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The amount of the penalty fee is set to increase yearly.

For more information about the insurance exchange, visit healthcare.gov.

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[36x1154]David Ramirez may be reached at theprospectordailynews@gmail.com.
Jonathan Greenert said those mentally unstable people get into the hands of criminals or occurrences never seem to move us abundantly clear from the shooting. Gray said at the service that a lesson is a gun battle with police, and killed 12 people. Alexis died after the secure compound with a shotgun about children dying in our streets rooms. There is nothing normal about children dying in their class - nothing normal about our children down where they work. There is nothing normal about innocent men and women being gunned down in our streets - nothing normal about our children being gunned down in their classrooms. There is nothing normal about children dying in our streets from stray bullets. Officials say Aaron Alexis entered the secure compound with a shotgun and killed 12 people. Alexis died after a gun battle with police.

President Obama consoles family members of those killed at the Navy Yard shooting, Sunday at the Marine Barracks. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus attended the service.

"We can’t accept this," he said. "As Americans bound in grief and love, we must insist here today there is nothing normal about innocent men and women being gunned down where they work. There is nothing normal about children being gunned down in their classrooms. There is nothing normal about children dying in our streets from stray bullets.

"Our tears are not enough. Our words and our prayers are not enough. If we really want to honor the memories of those we lost, we have to find a common-sense way to preserve the rights of gun owners while reducing gun violence. He said this may not happen soon, but he assured listeners it will happen.

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"He really seemed sick of it himself" Hagardwe said. "I think that’s the right tone and it did strike."

The president said what the country truly needs is to find a common-sense way to preserve the rights of gun owners while reducing gun violence. He said this may not happen soon, but he assured listeners it will happen.

President Obama consoles family members of those killed at the Navy Yard shooting, Sunday at the Marine Barracks.

"Our country is drowning in a sea of guns," he said. "Why is it that these tragic consequences and these tragic occurrences never seem to move us any closer to ensuring that guns don’t get into the hands of criminals or mentally unstable people?"

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert said those who died during the shooting were part of the best naval engineering team in the world. "Members of the Navy family demonstrated true courage at the Navy Yard last week," Greenert said. "We will remember the fallen in the events of last Monday and we will grow stronger as an institution."

"What's different in America is it's easy to get your hands on a gun -- and a lot of us know this," Obama said. "But the politics are difficult as we saw again this spring. And that's sometimes where the resigna-
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UTEP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

GECU SUPPORTS 100 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

100 DAYS KICKOFF — SEPT. 23, 2013, 11 A.M.—2 P.M.

Join us as we celebrate the anniversary of UTEP’s first day of class.
- Special convocation ceremony
- Campus street festival

SHINE ON — STARTING SEPT. 23, 2013

GECU is going orange by lighting our branches up in honor of UTEP’s 100th year. See our orange branches shine.
- GECU Operations Center
- Viscogliosi and Airway
- Vista Del Sol and Yarbrough
- Rojas and Zaragoza
- TranSonoran and Dyer
- Resler and Helen of Troy
- Mesa and Mesa Hills
- Oregon and University

BE A PART OF HISTORY — STARTING SEPT. 23, 2013

Keep an eye out for fun photo ops of historic, interactive cutouts displayed all around campus, all year long.
Share what you find on our Facebook page.

A REFRESHING IDEA — NEW OREGON AND UNIVERSITY BRANCH • OPENING SEPT. 30, 2013

GECU and Katie’s Tea House proudly introduce an innovative experience designed around the way you live.

PICKAXE CELEBRATION — 2014

GECU and local artists work together to raise money for the GECU Foundation R.C. Morgan Scholarship Fund. Look out for these pickaxe-shaped works of art and support deserving students.

For details, go to mygecu.org

PRESENTED BY GECU WE’RE WITH YOU
Countdown to 2014 begins with kick-off event

PICK YOUR CROWD

eat @ UTEP
All over campus to meet your dining needs!

Facebook: UTEP Food Services
www.cheftoulouse.utep.edu
The university opened a new Welcome Center and hosted a centennial kickoff party Sept. 23 on the front lawn of the Centennial Museum to commemorate the 100-day countdown to 2014.

Students, faculty and staff were invited to attend the event and free food was provided.

In addition to the centennial kickoff party, the Welcome Center had their official grand opening and unveiled a large LED clock, which reflects UTEP’s Bhutanese theme. The clock—that has been hidden behind a large black tarp for the last few months—will count down to Jan. 1, 2014.

Students opened the ceremony with a music mash-up dance routine and wore white UTEP centennial t-shirts. Paydirt Pete, the UTEP cheerleaders and the UTEP band were in attendance.

Jasmine Ramirez, freshman pre-science major and orientation leader, participated in the choreographed dance.

“A bunch of different organizations that wanted to participate came together and we had rehearsals and then we performed today,” Ramirez said.

There was an overall positive reaction to the clock and the kickoff party.

“I think this is awesome,” Ramirez said. “I think it will be an addition to the campus,” Purter said. “We also happen to be golden girls, which means that we graduated over 50 years ago, so therefore we come back and help the alumni house.”

Both said that the clock and ongoing campus transformation will be great assets to the campus.

“I think it will be an addition to the campus,” Purter said. “The display inside the museum is marvelous.”

The clock was given to UTEP by GECU. The partnership with the university has led to sponsorship of many events this year, and they plan on continuing their cooperation with UTEP going into 2014.

Crystal Long, president and CEO of GECU, spoke about the credit union’s partnership with UTEP.

“UTEP's transformation, GECU is proud to be a community-supported business leading the way,” Long said. “GECU’s gift will be a permanent fixture on campus and will be a figure significant to UTEP’s transformation, today and into the future.”

The Welcome Center is now officially open to the public and is located on the corner of University Avenue and Wiggins Road.

For more information on UTEP Centennial events, visit centennial.utep.edu/events.

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectordailyent@gmail.com.
The original “Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker” was released in 2003 for the Nintendo GameCube, and after a decade its well-deserved HD remake is finally here for the Wii U. The game is by far the most beautiful game in the series.

The original “Wind Waker” has always stood out from the rest of the series because of its cartoon-like and colorful graphics and the beautiful overworld and vast sailing seas. Having received mixed reviews from critics that range from having a childish atmosphere and boring landscapes to it being the best game of the series, the re-release has received some tweaks to make it the definitive Zelda game. “Wind Waker HD” shows what may very well be Nintendo’s most beautiful game to date. With the use of cel-shading graphics, lighting effects, shadows for details and improved textures, the environment looks amazing. This is noticed from the very first steps on Outset Island at the beginning of the game all the way through to the end. This is especially noted when sailing upon the seas, where fog, a blurry sky and islands in the distance give the game a real feeling of navigation.

With this re-release, Nintendo not only improved the game’s visuals, but made intelligent decisions on what to add and what to remove from the game. Some of its new features include the swift sail that cuts down to half the travelling time between islands, which was major complaint a decade ago.

“The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker HD” has interchangeable screens to play between TV or the Wii U game pad, and both run on 1080p, making any of the two screens just as good as the other.

Nonetheless, when playing on a TV screen, the game takes advantage of the Wii U game pad, allowing players to access the menu screen and items without pausing the game, which makes it flow better.

As for gameplay, “Wind Waker HD” is as brilliant as ever with some of the best combat mechanics that only “The Legend of Zelda” can deliver. It has the classic lock-on and several techniques such as parrying and offers more than 30 hours of gameplay with plenty of side quests and intricate dungeons and puzzle solving that never gets repetitive.

One of the biggest features of the game is the new “hero mode,” which adds a great level of difficulty to an already challenging game. By deleting hearts (health-recovering items) from the game and adding tougher enemies, players can experience the game as if it were their first time playing.

It may be a remake of a decade-old game, but “The Wind Waker HD” is definitely an adventure that no gamer should miss, especially if they never played it before. With its improved graphics and new features, it is an already charming game with lovable characters. Add in its superb design, great storyline and one of the best gameplays in action RPGs of all time, “The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker HD” is one of the best Zelda games to date.
Rio Pod Co: local podcast encourages dialogue about El Paso

BY LEONARDO MONTÁNEZ
The Prospector

The Rio Pod Co. began in 2011, but they took a one-year break and decided to bring back the podcast in 2013 because, according to Brooks, it was the perfect time.

"We felt that we had to do it because El Paso is changing right now," Brooks said. "I think we can be the voice of that change."

"Our premises are a different form of entertainment," Acuña said. "We played with Google analytics and we noticed we had listeners from Alaska and Germany, and I think some people here from El Paso took it and went over there and just to keep with El Paso they listen in and we give them that." 

Tim Haren, UTEP alum with a degree in computer science, said fans have received the show very warmly.

"Curiously, most of the listeners are females," Martinez said. "We played with Google analytics and we noticed we had listeners from Alaska and Germany, and I think some people here from El Paso took it and went over there and just to keep with El Paso they listen in and we give them that."

According to Brooks, the Rio Pod Co. is a company that hosts podcasts. If somebody else has a podcast they can give us a call and join us and see if we can get them on our website," Brooks said.

Rio Pod Co. member Javier A. Martinez, UTEP alum with a degree in computer science, said fans have received the show very warmly.

"Curiously, most of the listeners are females," Martinez said. "We played with Google analytics and we noticed we had listeners from Alaska and Germany, and I think some people here from El Paso took it and went over there and just to keep with El Paso they listen in and we give them that."

"We are interactive, we like to hear from people via Facebook, email or they can call us if they don't agree with what we are saying," Haren said. "We will address it, we are always willing to bring the subject back and expand on it."

According to Rio Pod Co., in the future the podcast will continue as it is, but the company has many different things planned such as Rio Online Radio and Rio TV.

"Rio Online Radio is going to be local music and we are going to be promoting local music through the online station—and not only that, every time any band comes into town, we will let you know and you’ll be able to hear that band before their event," Brooks said. "Rio TV is so that people can actually watch us and what we are doing and interact with us better and we will bring people and we want to do this through a livestream."

To learn more about Rio Pod Co., visit www.riopodco.com or call 915-247-8746.

Rio Pod Co. producer Joseph Brooks gets ready to record ‘Chuco Talks’ live at the Parthenon Inn located at 2090 Piedras, every Sun. from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Hexoskin: bluetooth shirt tracks vitals

BY MARCUS SEEGERS
The Prospector

In the past several years, there has been a trend of smart fitness trackers that can be used by athletes, trainers and fitness enthusiasts. Examples of these devices are Nike+ Fuelband, Fitbit Flex and Up by Jawbone. These devices all monitor your physical activity and track them through software that displays analysis and progress.

A new fitness tracker, which is built into the shirt/tank-top’s fabric in lieu of a traditional fitness tracker is there is no armband. It offers a larger coverage area on your body to include people with disabilities? Learn what it feels like to have a visual or physical challenge.

Thursday October 10

From Combat to the Classroom, Veterans in College
10:00-11:00 a.m. UTEP Library

Tour of Military Success Center
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. UTEP Library

"Don't Dis My Abilities" Ability Awareness Walk and Roll
2:00-3:00 p.m. Meet at Memorial Gym

Sports Ability Showcase
Which sports can be adapted to include people with disabilities?

Friday October 11

First Annual interdisciplinary Symposium: 21st Century Developments in Health Promoting Fields
Union Building East
Sign up early. Get more information at chs.utep.edu/mrc
The Green Ingredient for healthy eaters

BY JAIME QUEZADA

The Prospector

Getting fresh greens is sometimes hard to come by in El Paso. While many restaurants do offer vegetarian plates, an all-green vegetable menu has been introduced to the downtown area, located inside the Chase Tower building at 201 E. Mills.

The Green Ingredient is a vegetarian restaurant first started by Jocelinde Cordova, who studied how to prepare raw foods at the Art Institute of Atlanta in Ga and also a health coach from integrated nutrition in New York.

The menu-while on the surface seems actively vegetarian—it still offers different meats as well.

“This restaurant isn’t vegetarian as much as it is a healthier option where we provide balanced meals of vegetables and healthy meats,” Cordova said.

Providing health education is a big part of what the Green Ingredient does. Their website offers blogs with health tips, studies and explanations as to why certain foods are bad for you. Their GI smokets come with pesto, arugula, tomato and feta cheese. Their beverages go through the same health process. The Green Ingredient provides different mixed waters instead of soft drinks. Their main drink is infused with cucumber and lime, but their other mixed waters change constantly. Their menus presently offers plum infused with cinnamon and organic black tea.

“I usually eat healthy meals but when I don’t, it’s because I don’t have time to prepare something beforehand,” said Armand Salas Junior, a musician.

If the menu seems overwhelming, the wait staff is well prepared to orient you to what they offer. “You can choose from a menu, egg, and chicken variations. The menu, aside from salads, provides vegetable takes on burgers and sandwiches as well. A GI Panini is filled with grilled portabella mushrooms, eggplant, red bell peppers and more and a raw taco is made from walnuts and pecans as the meat, pico de gallo and avocado cream wrapped in romaine hearts.”

Cordova said that the nuts, included in almost all their plates, are soaked to remove enzyme inhibitors. This makes the food easier to digest.

The cookies also go through a ten hour process of dehydration instead of baking. Dehydration keeps all the nutrients and vitamins that baking would otherwise burn off.

“Everything on our menu has been carefully selected and prepared to be a healthy meal without losing any flavor,” Cordova said.

This is just their lunch menu, their morning menu is an entirely different and worth looking over.

They offer pancakes with agave nectar, yogurt and fresh berries, while their gluten-free options come with asparagus, tomato and feta cheese.

With Netflix and Hulu, we love to pay one flat rate and gain access to the entertainment we want. It’s been becoming more popular to do the same with music. How do you sift through the list of music subscription services and decide which one is right for you? This is a list of my top three music subscription services.

Rdio

Rdio is a very popular and upcoming subscription service. It has 20 million tracks and costs $10 per month for one mobile device or $5 per month for web play. However, Rdio also has a family plan, two people for $18 per month and three for $22. This plan makes it economical for families or friends. Rdio has the nicest user interface of the three. Its interface is very slick and easy to navigate. You can download and sort your music in the way you like it. Rdio is the most clear and easy to use. Rdio has applications for Mac and PC, as well as Windows phones, Blackberry, Android and iOS devices.

Spotify

Spotify is the most popular music-streaming service. You can download the Mac or PC application or listen on the web to the more than 20 million tracks. Listening on the web or by computer is free, but with ads. If you want to listen ad free, you have to pay $5 per month. If you want the ability to listen on your phone you pay $10 per month (for one mobile device). Spotify has applications for Windows phones, Blackberry, Android and iOS devices. With the $10 per month subscription, you can listen offline by downloading select playlists. The worst thing about Spotify is that you can only save playlists on the computer and mobile application (with a subscription), which means you can’t create playlists or albums without creating a playlist.

Rhapsody

Rhapsody is another very good music-streaming service. It has the third-largest selection of songs for streaming music. Rhapsody has a subscription option for $15 per month, where you can use the subscription on three mobile devices. If you have two friends you could each pay $5 and have Rhapsody on all three phones. It also has a $10 subscription fee for one mobile device (iOS, Android, Windows phones and Blackberry). Rhapsody also allows you to sort your favorite music and download music in the app by artist and album. This is a more useful feature than Spotify’s use of playlists. The negatives of Rhapsody is that it doesn’t have as much music on it as Spotify or Rdio, and there are no applications for Macs. There is an application for Windows PC and you can listen on a web browser.

In the end, there are dozens of music services out there. However, these are the three with the largest song selections and widest variety of services. If you are wondering whether or not it’s worth it to pay for a service like this, try it out first. All these services offer a free trial. How many CDs do you purchase a month? If it’s more than $10, it might be worth it for you to invest that money in a massive library of music. When you find music you really love, you can always buy it on CD. Music-streaming services are great for the music lover.

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Laufasa making an early impression

By Javier Cortez

Darrin Laufasa, freshman running back made his name known in his breakout game against the Aggies, rushing for 74 yards on nine carries with two touchdowns.

His biggest play of the game came in the fourth quarter as he blazed past New Mexico State’s defense with a 41-yard touchdown run. After the first three games, Laufasa has run for 103 yards averaging 5.7 per carry.

“That’s a really hard worker, being a freshman he’s doing really good,” said junior running back Nathan Jeffery. “He’s really surprised me with the runs that he had. He’s a big back that can run the ball and so far he’s doing really good.”

It might be Laufasa’s first year of college football, but the sport has been a part of his life from a young age in his hometown of Bothell, Wash. Laufasa has been serious about football for quite some time now.

“My parents got me into it and my oldest brother was already playing. The youngest you can start playing in Washington was at 6, so that’s how it all started,” Laufasa said.

“I’ve always had aspirations about playing in college and around that time I started working out and becoming really adamant about staying in shape for college and around that time I started working out and being really adamant about staying in shape for college.”

Coming into this season, Laufasa was a three-star recruit and the No. 9 player in the state of Washington, and the No. 15-ranked fullback in the nation by ESPN/Scouts. It was almost a certainty that Laufasa would be spending his Saturday’s in the Northwest. Since he was heavily recruited by Brigham Young. His two older brothers were playing for Washington State, but some good timing and luck played into Laufasa’s coming to UTEP.

“My expectations for Darrin are for him to continue to be the complete player that he is, and overall continue to contribute to this football team.”

Laufasa has developed a very tight friendship with fellow freshman back Jones and both try to help each other improve.

“Ever since the first day on campus, since summer school, we’ve been hanging,” Jones said. “We’ve created a really good relationship and we trust each other.”

With most of the season still ahead of the recently declared kinesiology major, Laufasa said his focus is on the team, his studies, and at the end of the day, practicing hard.

“If you practice exactly how you play, as you see from last week, we’ll be good,” Laufasa said. “My main focus is just coming out and practicing hard.”

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Mental strength the key for success for Gina Soto

As time goes on, you learn to to set your priorities straight and focus on things that actually matter.

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BY LUIS BARRIO

The Prospector

Gina Soto, senior midfielder, said that she takes after her father when it comes to soccer. Her father moved the family around a lot.

“Dad is very spontaneous,” Soto said. “As time went on, you learn to set your priorities straight and focus on the things that actually matter.”

Soto attributes the improvement of her mental strength to a number of people, but none more than her current roommate and fellow UTEP tennis player Carolina Deluca. Soto simply put it, “She’s amazing.”

Soto was born and raised in Provo, Utah, but is considered a local girl. Her father moved the family around a lot.

“I went to a lot of high schools. My Dad is very spontaneous,” Soto said.

“I came to El Paso for two months and went to El Dorado, and then we moved back to Provo.”

She returned to El Paso two months later for her senior year and attended Coronado High School.

“Soccer has always been my passion. It was my mom that started me out and developed me as a player,” Soto said.

Soto has started in 36 games in her career and is one of the seniors leading the Miner’s squad, she has contributed scoring to the team’s 11-6 scoring ratio over its opponents. The UTEP women’s soccer team has started with six wins in their non-conference schedule before starting to compete in a tough league such as Conference-USA.

Mackenzie German, one of Soto’s teammates, said Soto has displayed technically sound skills all her career.

“She puts herself out there and leads by example,” German said. “She has great touch, the ball just sticks to her when she dribbles.”

Based on Soto’s expectations, the Miners are in a great position to stand out and win their conference.

“The Miners are off to a 7-2-1 start before conference play begins when they face Rice on Sept. 27 at University Field. Despite the new teams added to the conference, Soto said she has high expectations for the team.

“We definitely want to win our conference and make the NCAA tournament,” Soto said. “I think this year, our team’s been a lot closer than we’ve ever been; it helps us to play together on the field.”

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Valencia brings the energy to the team

By Ellisia Shafer

A local girl from San Elizario, Texas, senior defensive specialist Victoria Valencia is set to give her all in the final season of her collegiate career.

Valencia just received All-Tournament Honors over the weekend at the UTEP invitational volleyball tournament, in which the Miners swept Texas Southern University, 3-0.

Now in her senior year, Valencia remembers transitioning from high school divisional play in San Elizario, to becoming a key contributor on the volleyball court.

“When I got here to UTEP, the game was a lot harder, a lot quicker, so the transition was a wake-up call for me to work harder, especially with the pace of the game,” Valencia said. “With time and effort, I was able to adjust and I try to bring lot of energy to the team, positivity.”

While playing in San Elizario, Valencia received the El Paso Times’ All-City First Team three times. She was named to the 4A All-District Team in 2009 and led San Elizario High School to a district championship in 2007 and 2008.

Valencia was ranked nationally as 7,220 and 631st in Texas, while maintaining a hitting percentage of .484 and averaging 112 sets played as a starter.

Valencia contributed to the team by defensively helping to secure five digs in the 3-0 victory over Texas Southern on Sept. 14. She leads the team in digs and served aces.

Head coach Holly Watts said Valencia also helps contribute to the team in other ways, beginning with her attitude.

“She helps to bring a lot of energy to the team,” Watts said. “She brings a lot of chemistry because she works well with everyone and is very consistent and acts as a good leader.”

Senior middle blocker Xitiali Herrera describes Valencia as a motivator.

“It’s fun playing with her,” Herrera said. “She is a good teammate and does a good job in pushing everyone by always having a lot of energy on the court and making sure we all give 100 percent.”

Continuing to play the sport that she began at the age of 9, Valencia credits her success thus far to great family support, the ability to adapt and working hard.

“My family are the ones that dragged me into the sport,” Valencia said. “There are four of us and all of us played sports, so we all went to each other’s games and supported each other—I grew up with that family support.”

Looking back on her career at UTEP, Valencia said she is thankful to have been a part of the team and remembers her most memorable moment as a Miner.

“My favorite moment as a Miner for sure was when we beat Tulsa in five games and the feeling of playing in Hawaii this past month—the atmosphere and having every seat filled was just a great feeling,” Valencia said. Valencia is optimistic about what the Miners will be able to accomplish this season, but she also has plans for life after UTEP. She is currently planning on graduating in May 2014 with a degree in physical therapy. She then plans to continue her education.

“This semester, I am applying for some physical therapy schools,” Valencia said. “I am applying to four schools and I find out in the spring semester if I am accepted to either one of them. So if and when I get accepted, I look forward to pursuing my degree.”

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