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The death of Romo?

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

This past Sunday, Sept. 20, the Dallas Cowboys’ starting quarterback Tony Romo broke his collarbone against the Philadelphia Eagles in a 20-10 win. The injury means that the Cowboys are without their star quarterback for at least eight weeks. At 35 years old and with another major injury on the books, it begs the question: is Tony Romo done? Is he done; what is his legacy? Maybe it’s too far fetched to say Romo’s career is over, but the bottlenecked quarterback is not getting any younger. Although the 12-year veteran seems to be in his prime and playing some of the best football of his life, prior to the injury, history has shown that quarterbacks in their mid to late 30s do not age well, especially when they suffer serious injuries. I’m not going to eulogize Romo, but since he will be out for more than half of the season, it’s appropriate to reflect on Romo’s career and clear up some recent misconceptions about No. 9. Whenever Romo’s career ends there is going to be a huge debate surrounding just how good he was. The stats by almost all accounts say that he was pretty damn good. But his play-off flubs and injuries hurt Romo from being considered in the same discussion with the likes of Aaron Rodgers, Ben Roethlisberger and Eli Manning. Cowboy fans of late have conveniently forgotten about the Romo of old, whom they scolded, booed and consistently asked to be traded. The Romo narrative has gone through a drastic change, and now he is a clutch quarterback who can carry a team. These new assertions about Romo are true, but only to a certain extent. Any Romo supporter will torpedo you with his elite fourth-quarter stats, game-winning drives, etc. But they don’t mean much when the games have no bearing on playoff implications. Does anyone remember those three-straight 8-seasons from 2011 to 2013? The Cowboys for most Romo supporters are his “rock solid” playoff stats that rank amongst the best in NFL history. This argument is the most pathetic and probably the most illogical. Although Romo’s career playoff stats in six games are good, they are no where near great. His 2-4 record and two-game losing turnovers in 2006 and 2007 show anything but great. But if you really want to put Romo’s playoff numbers in context, you have to understand that they are slightly inflated due to the Cowboys’ playoff run last season. You take away last season’s playoff run and Romo’s career stats are subpar to decent. Lastly, the assertion that Romo can carry a team is off base. His best season, which came last season, came at the expense of 392 rushing attempts by DeMarco Murray. Then there is the argument that Romo’s numbers are better then Troy Aikman’s numbers, so by that fact he must be really good. That would be true if Aikman, himself, were an elite quarterback, which he was not. Aikman was more or less a game manager who was surrounded by a plethora of offensive talent, starting with Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin. I know what this sounds like just another asshole who hates the Cowboys. But it’s really not—Romo is a good quarterback who is on the cusp of being elite/great. He has had the tools at his disposal to build a great career, and in part he has been dealt with a bad hand in the injury department. The biggest flaw in Romo’s career is his timing. The came around in the late ’80s he might possibly have multiple rings on his finger. But Romo’s career is not over, he still has time to rectify his playoff shortcomings and build on his legacy. As for now, the Cowboys are stuck. They are committed long term to a good quarterback, who is neither elite nor self-sustainable for a 16-game season. The Cowboy nation has deluded themselves into thinking they have a championship-caliber team, when in reality they are a fringe playoff team at best on a year-to-year basis. Speaking pessimistically, the Cowboys should consider the future of their franchise very heavily over the course of this season, and it starts with evaluating the man under center.

Javier Cortez can be reached at theprospectordaily.com.

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Donald Trump gets a big hit

Weekend weather officer: The Prospector.

The Prospector

Red, white and green piñatas hang from the rafters of Piñata Party Supplies. But in between the rows of streamers, candies, and princess costumes, one piñata doesn’t hang—the Donald Trump piñata stands, straight and unflinching.

“It’s a means of symbolically getting rid of evil.”

- Dennis J. Bisler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies

However, the Trump piñata is not unique to El Paso. In Mexico, Mexico, Piñatería Ramírez sells a Donald Trump piñata, and in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, a piñata store Fiesta Fiesta sells one as well. The use of the piñata to represent unpopular figures is a cultural tradition in Mexican, which can be extended to the likes of the current Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. “The piñata is coming from the border,” Nathan said. “It’s coming from Mexico because people know how to instinctively embody everything they know is wrong with him.” Trump has become notorious for his views on immigration and Mexicans. During his presidential announcement, he said Mexicans are rapists. He was also criticized for kicking out Jorge Barros, a Mexican-American journalist, out of a press conference and telling him to go back to Univision, a United States Spanish-language television network. Dennis J. Bisler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies, said the piñata is a tool of resistance, whose symbolic use extends back to colonial times when indigenous people had to paint the murals of Spanish churches.

“It’s not unique to El Paso. In Mexico, Mexico, Piñatería Ramírez sells a Donald Trump piñata, and in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, a piñata store Fiesta Fiesta sells one as well. The use of the piñata to represent unpopular figures is a cultural tradition in Mexican, which can be extended to the likes of the current Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. “The piñata is coming from the border,” Nathan said. “It’s coming from Mexico because people know how to instinctively embody everything they know is wrong with him.” Trump has become notorious for his views on immigration and Mexicans. During his presidential announcement, he said Mexicans are rapists. He was also criticized for kicking out Jorge Barros, a Mexican-American journalist, out of a press conference and telling him to go back to Univision, a United States Spanish-language television network. Dennis J. Bisler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies, said the piñata is a tool of resistance, whose symbolic use extends back to colonial times when indigenous people had to paint the murals of Spanish churches.

“‘There’s a lot of history of resistance to oppression and being in a subordinate status in Mexico and Latin America’ he said. “What the indigenous population did was to ensure that the facial features, when you saw the devil, you had no doubt in your mind that this was a European, this was a Spaniard, rather than someone with a Monahomeric phenotype.” Bisler-Marquez said the cultural use of the piñata as a way to admonish “evil” can also be observed the Thursday after Holy Thursday.
Pope’s visit to nonprofit to shine light on poverty in U.S.

Census data released this month estimates the poverty rate in 2014 was 14.8 percent, or 46.7 million people. Catholic Charities USA served 8.7 million people in 2014, including Catholics and others. Half were adults younger than 65, 18 percent were senior citizens and 32 percent were children.

The national nonprofit’s mission is to work to reduce poverty in the United States. With Pope Francis scheduled to arrive in the U.S. on Tuesday, Sept. 2, the issue of poverty in relation to the Popes’s focus on the poor presents a topic that Catholic Charities USA knows all too well.

Sister Donna Markham, president of Catholic Charities USA, says Pope Francis’ trip to the United States highlights the issue of poverty in the U.S.

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BY AMANDA GUILLON

WASHINGTON — Poverty in the United States has remained at a consistent high in the past five years. As Pope Francis visits here this week, he will meet some of the city’s poorest residents.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington worked with the District of Columbia to provide six emergency shelters to anyone in need and four traditional housing programs for people on the path to independent living.

Erik Salmi, the group’s director of communications, said there are misconceptions about homeless people.

“Some of the hardest working folks that I’ve met are our clients, and I’ve heard a saying that where you finish the race depends on where you start and I think that is especially true of the clients that we see,” Salmi said.

“I think that is still a misconception that people think that they are just freeloaders or that they have given up and that is just not true.”

Catholic Charities agencies across the country conduct outreach to understand what needs to be done to get people off the streets and place them in homes.

Nationwide, Catholic Charities has provided 524,010 housing services that can include emergency shelters and traditional housing programs.

Additional services include providing affordable housing, offering foreclosure prevention support, rental assistance, case management, housing search and information, home mortgage assistance and supervised living for those who are developmentally disabled, mentally ill and elderly.

“Throughout any other religious life, some of my proudest mentors have been the broken hearted and the marginalized often invisible to many of us,” Markham said.

Markham said that throughout her career as a clinical psychologist her teachers have often been those who suffer from severe cases of mental illness, who she said make up a large part of the homeless population.

Markham ended her talk with an excerpt from the pope’s homily given Jan. 3, 2014, at the Church of the Gesu in Rome, where he said, “An authentic faith always implies a deep desire to change the world.”

Catholic Charities is right now taking on the obligation to call to awareness the plight of those who are living in poverty.

“I still feel that the End4Poverty campaign will bring awareness to poverty and draw volunteers. ‘There are a lot of judgments made about people who are poor, suggesting that they should just go out and find a job,’ Markham said. ‘Well, sometimes they are too distraught to even be able to get to that place, and I do think we started the campaign because most Americans don’t know the extent of the problem in this country.’

On average, 7,784 people are homeless every day in D.C.

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On average, 7,784 people are homeless every day in D.C.
Enrollment at UTEP continues to grow

"The last few years we’ve been just under that (2 to 3 percent target), but that’s great too," Edens said. “We want everybody that graduates from a high school to come to UTEP.”

The magic number for next year is 24,000 and the university is looking at more than just entering students. Retaining students who are already part of the student body is as important as being able to recruit as many freshmen and transfer students as possible.

Losing students to graduation, transferring to other colleges or to them dropping out directly affects the total number of students enrolled at the university. The less transfers and drop outs there are, the more the enrollment figure increases with the incoming new students.

UTEP is making a great effort not just to bring students to campus, but also to keep them here.

“We not only look at the students that are brand new coming to the university, but we’re looking at how we can serve the current students that are here,” Edens said. “We’re working really hard to make sure that the retention numbers are positive and they have been over the past few years.”

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at luisg@utep.edu.

For the 17th consecutive year UTEP recorded an increase in overall enrollment.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
opened its doors in 1914 to 27 students under the name of Texas State School of Mines. Over the next 100 years, UTEP has seen its enrollment figures grow to much more than those original 27 students.

It was announced last week that UTEP has 23,397 students enrolled for this school year, a 1.4 percent increase from last year’s 23,079 figure. This makes it 17 straight years in which the university has recorded an increase in the number of students who are attending.

Transfer fairs at El Paso Community College and college nights at local high schools are other ways in which UTEP continues to increase its enrollment—which is the goal from year to year. That is really all UTEP is concerned with, seeing growth no matter the percentage.

Each year the target is to see a 2 to 3 percent increase in enrollment, but there are many variables that impact enrollment. The target is not an obsession and coming in under that figure is not the end of the world. Many different variables account for enrollment figures and just to keep the numbers at an upward trend is good for UTEP.

With over 100 graduate programs, that include 23 doctoral programs and 78 master programs, UTEP is becoming a good option for students seeking education after their undergraduate career is completed.

“We have such a range of opportunities and we have very high level excellence with the programs that we have,” said Bess Sermon-Taylor, associate dean of the Graduate School. “We have world-class researchers and professors with really strong reputations.”

Enrollment also saw a rise in new undergraduate students, with 4,998 compared to last fall’s 4,840. There was an increase in both local and out-of-town students, but with 80 percent of the students being from the Paso del Norte region, making UTEP very much a commuter school. That is exactly the goal of UTEP, according to Edens, and it is the focus of most, if not all, of its recruitment resources.

“We’re still vastly from El Paso, which is what we want,” Edens said. “We’re a regional university. We don’t go and recruit in Iowa and Ohio—we want students from this region to come to UTEP and get a degree.”

Focusing on the schools in and around El Paso, UTEP uses a vast amount of resources to continue with the trend of increasing enrollment year after year.

“We do a lot,” Edens said. “We have a pretty robust team that uses technology and uses electronic media and social media to recruit and dialog with juniors and seniors and our transfer student population.”

UTEP recruiters are present in area high schools on a daily basis, targeting juniors and seniors on the importance of a college education, along with letting them know about the opportunities that the university can provide them. Those types of visits are followed up with informational packets sent electronically. Last year UTEP emailed an information packet to every single junior and senior in every school throughout Region 19.

The university also works with students in terms of financial aid and scholarships—looking to make their path toward a college education much easier and smoother.

By Luis Gonzalez

The biggest increase recorded for UTEP was in the number of graduate students. A 12.8 percent increase in graduate students is a great sign that the university is headed on the right track towards achieving the coveted tier-one status.

“Raising education throughout El Paso has been a goal for many, many years. We’re really proud of what we’re doing here at UTEP to increase the number of students that are pursuing a college education.”

- Gary Edens, Vice President of Student Affairs

“By Luis Gonzalez

It’s not so much about it being great for UTEP, it’s great for this community,” said Vice President of Student Affairs Gary Edens. “Raising education throughout El Paso has been a goal for many, many years. We’re really proud of what we’re doing here at UTEP to increase the number of students that are pursuing a college education.”

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UTEK to introduce School of Pharmacy

By Alonso Moreno

The Prospector

In continued efforts to improve the university and its educational catalog, UTEP is preparing the final steps for the introduction of a new School of Pharmacy.

UTEK is planning on launching its first full stand-alone School of Pharmacy in the fall of 2017 to replace its current co-operative program with the University of Texas at Austin.

"The university has already named the founding dean for the school, Jose O Rivero, Pharm.D, who currently serves as a professor of clinical pharmacy and the director of the current cooperative pharmacy program. Rivero said that the current program is not only limited, but also represents a disparity in the potential benefits for UTEK. "Currently, we have a cooperative pharmacy program between UTEP and UT Austin, but it’s limited in the number of students we can admit," Rivero said. "We can only admit 12 students per year, they do pre-pharmacy at UTEP, but then they have to relocate to Austin for the first two years of the program, then they come back and finish the last 2 years in the program with us. Furthermore, the program is not financially viable for students or the university. Financially it’s not viable, long term it has major limitations," Rivero said. "All the revenue, once you are in the pharmacy program, goes to Austin, all the expenses are UTEP’s and that’s a mismatch."

The first cohort is expected to start with about 25 to 30 students, but Rivero is hopeful that the program will expand to possibly enter to more students, who might be interested in the field of pharmacy. The school will also seek to change the current way students are selected for pharmacy programs. Currently, the criteria used for admission relies heavily on standardized testing in order to better assess the student candidate. According to Rivero, this is not a bad way to select students, but it will not be perfect to find a more rounded student, specially Latino students.

"The test (known as PCAT) can be somewhat biased against first-generation English-speaking students, so for that reason we are not going to do that," Rivero said. "We will still look at it, but we are interested in the individual as a whole."

Rivero also said that the program aims to help with the disparity between the patients to pharmacists’ ratio. "Here in the region, we have close to 60 pharmacists to 200,000 citizens in population, and in the state the average is about 90. Rivero said. "If we look at that and we have about 800,000 in population, we are about 240 pharmacists short."

Although the numbers may paint an alarming picture, the reality is that the field of pharmacy represents a fantastic opportunity for students. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, pharmacists earn a mean hourly wage of $56.96, and earn a mean annual wage of $116,670. Forbes listed pharmacy manager as the number two highest paying, in-demand job in America. Only physician jobs ranked above pharmacists in terms of job openings and salary.

Carla Stevenson, a junior business major, said that at one point she considered the current pharmacy program, but that she ultimately deferred it due to the financial costs. "It's great that it's coming—a little late for me—but we all (students) know where the money is at," Stevenson said. "Medical, and therefore pharmacy, are big issues, but once you realize the costs of a career in the field, it's too much. Now that we will have a program here, more students will be able to pursue those careers."

There is also disparity in the number of Latino pharmacists in the nation. "When you look nationwide, only 4 percent of students in pharmacy are Latinos, whereas the US population is 17 percent, so we should be closer," Rivero said. Due to this disparity, there have been companies in the pharmaceutical industry that have approached the university interested in offering scholarships to Spanish-speaking students. "They are interested (the companies) in hiring bilingual pharmacists that serve populations anywhere in the US, where there is large Spanish-speaking community," Rivero said.

More News may be read at theprospectordaily.com

The first full stand-alone School of Pharmacy is planned to launch in the fall of 2017.

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Who are you supporting in the 2016 presidential campaign and why?

CHRISTINA ROLPH
Sophomore pre-pharmacy major
“I’m voting for Ben Carson, because I read his book “Gifting Hands” and because he holds the future of healthcare in his gifted hands.”

ALEXANDRO CARRIZALES
Sophomore pre-BBA major
“I haven’t really looked into the people running for president, however, I want to vote for a candidate that aims to keep the free-enterprise system strong.”

NAYELI JIMENEZ
Freshman education major
“I want to vote. I’m not really sure for who, but I want it to be a Republican. I want to vote for a person who will grant more opportunities to the people that come here to study for the immigrants.”

DANIEL ALONZO
Junior biology major
“I’m voting for Hillary Clinton because she’s a woman. There’s no other reason.”

CARLA ROSETE
Junior management major
“I am an international student so I cannot vote but if I had the opportunity to vote I wouldn’t vote for Trump.”

DANIEL GARCIA
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“I do plan to vote this year, but due to the many candidates I have not done my research on most of them. So, when I research the candidates, I will decide which one to vote for.”

ITZEL PAYAN
Sophomore political science major
“I’m voting for Bernie Sanders, cause he’s a pro-student boss, who doesn’t care about the media, whipped cows.”

DANIEL REYES
Freshman political science major
“Ben Carson 2016!”

ANA HERNANDEZ
Senior media advertising major
“I am not a resident here but if I could vote, I would vote for Bernie Sanders, I really admire his stand.”

SALVADOR ESTRADA
Freshman civil engineering major
“This upcoming election I will not vote. I am undecided because I’m not waiting for anyone at the moment. Whatever happens will not matter to me as much as it should.”

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Junior wide receiver Jaquan White runs down the field in UTEP's new uniforms.

BY JULIA HETTINGER
The Prospector

Many football fans are familiar with the rules, regulations and plays of football, but there are few who know the amount of work that goes on outside of the playing field. Maintaining a football player’s image and the cost of preserving a player's uniform can be quite shocking.

Nathan Garrido, graduate assistant at the athletics department, said it costs around $28,000 to purchase new pants and jerseys for every player on the team.

“We bought new uniforms this year, and it cost $28,000 to replace the pants and jerseys for the whole team. Although we usually buy extras and blanks ones just in case,” Garrido said.

Alan Luna, a kicker for the UTEP football team, said when choosing a uniform, most choose the one they are most comfortable with.

“It’s like buying anything else, the sizes come in small, medium and large,” Luna said.

Luna also said there's something different about wearing a football uniform compared to everyday clothes like jeans and shirts.

“Everything is tighter, it fits in your body and is comfortable,” Luna said. “But personally, I like wearing a uniform because it makes me feel different than everyone else.”

Garrido said helmets are a separate expense, and it usually costs $35,000 to replace the helmets, although they usually send them in for reconditioning instead.

“We replaced 130 helmets this year,” Garrido said.

To recondition the helmets, the athletics department sends the helmets in to Riddell, a company that specializes in sports equipment for football. There, they re-spray the outside, change out the pads and replace the facemasks.

“Replacing the facemasks is an extra cost and can be anywhere from $35 to $50 per facemask,” Garrido said. “Since we are a university, we receive a reduced cost, as do most high school and university teams, but if we were a random person going in, they would probably charge us double.”

Along with the yearly maintenance performed on the helmets, the managers also work to preserve the uniforms by washing them carefully.

“We spray them down after games, and then wash and hang them out to dry to avoid issues with the dryer,” Garrido said. “The head manager prefers we that so none of them shrink. If they are torn, we sew them and stitch them up to make them reusable again, but if it’s real bad we will replace them altogether. But usually they’re small holes that don’t do much damage.”

The coach managers will try to preserve the uniforms for as long as possible, but will replace them if they are not reusable.

“We replace uniforms yearly only if they are damaged or torn, so that’s when we’ll order new ones,” Garrido said. “If not, well use them as long as they are needed, but sometimes we have to replace them if they are damaged really badly during the game by the paint.”

Unless they are badly damaged, uniforms are passed down from player to player once a player graduates.

“Their names are nameplates sewn onto the jerseys, so once they graduate we remove them and replace them with the next player’s nameplate,” Garrido said. “It’s like a bumper sticker, just to put it into perspective.”

Although the paint used on the field can damage the uniforms, Garrido said they rarely have to actually replace the jerseys during the game.

“I think we only had to once when a lineman had a small hole in his jersey and someone grabbed him and completely ripped the shirt to where his chest was exposed. We had to run and get him a new, blank one,” Garrido said. “Just in case it does happen though, during the game we’ll give a player a blank one and then have it remade with his name.”

A football uniform consists of a helmet, facemask, jersey, pants and padded shirt to protect ribs, sternum and shoulders. Many of them like to wear tight, fitted shirts under their jerseys. Under their uniforms they also wear girdles, which provide them with padding on their hips, thighs and buttocks.

“In the past, the girdles came with extra pads and players had slots to put the pads in instead. Players, like linebackers and running backs, wear other padding like kneepads to protect them from rough low hits,” Garrido said. “For the centennial, we brought back the style of the helmets from the ’80s because coach Kugler played then,” Garrido said. “It was a big thing, we brought back the logos, and it was a good walk down memory lane, reminiscing good times.”

Brittany Huerta, junior health promotion major, said she was unfamiliar with the maintenance of football uniforms.

“I’m more of a hockey person than a football fan, but I didn’t realize maintenance for the uniforms was so extravagant,” Huerta said.

Although she was unfamiliar with the process, trying to preserve a jersey is something she can relate to.

“I own a hockey jersey, but I haven’t washed it yet because I’m kind of scared to,” Huerta said.

Jorge Vasquez, executive director of Special Events, said when choosing a uniform, most choose the one they are most comfortable with.

“We want our fans to have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment,” Vasquez said.

“Over the years the uniforms have remained consistent, there have been slight changes and improvements made to them in recent years. “Over the years the uniforms have changed in the sense that they’ve become tighter, more fitted and better suited for protection against rough plays,” Garrido said. “They’re thinner, more stretchable and more durable.”

A recent trend for the uniforms is to bring back helmet styles from different decades.

“The Prosector
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PAGE 9
What you need to know about this year’s tailgates

BY FERNANDO LEON

Now that football season is here students at the University of Texas at El Paso and Miner fans in general are starting to get ready for UTEP’s first home game. Along with supporting the UTEP football team, the tradition of tailgating is the most common form of socializing before a game.

Carlos Sanchez, senior Spanish major, said tailgating is about having a good time with friends and family.

“At the same time tailgating supports the college sports teams in a nice and family oriented environment,” Sanchez said.

Many of the rules and regulations have changed for this fall’s tailgating events in order to improve the safety of the tailgaters. Some spots inside campus have changed from regular tailgating, to picnic style tailgating. A regulation that has been added is the prohibition of drones on university property for the safety of the public.

With the recent opening of the Centennial Plaza, people will be able to tailgate in the area, but it won’t be the usual tailgating experience.

“The use of Centennial Plaza and the new spaces changed from regular tailgating to picnic ‘soft tailgating style’” said Jorge Vasquez, executive director of the Office of Special Events at UTEP. Vasquez said this means that the areas that are labeled as “soft tailgating” will not allow tents, chairs, grills and tables. Only blankets and picnic-style activities will be allowed in Centennial Plaza, geology laws and areas around Old Main.

On the other hand, outer lots and parking spaces will allow regular tailgating activities. During regular tailgating activities, glass containers, kerosene, beer cans, beer coolers and other similar objects will not be permitted around campus. In order to prevent unfortunate situations like a fire that occurred last year during a tailgating party before the game against Texas Tech on Sept. 6, the UTEP Police Department will take special measures.

“UTEP Police Department and other law enforcement agencies will be on site as they are every season to ensure the safety of our patrons as they partake in the football festivities,” Vasquez said. “We want our fans to have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment.”

“"We want our fans to have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment. Students, faculty and staff members, as well as the general public, may begin tailgating at 8 a.m. in the outer lots. For inner campus tailgates, the public may begin arriving at 2 p.m.”

“I’ve never experienced a problem, everything is always very calm,” said Diego Ferrillo, senior art major. “I’ve always seen police vigilance, but I’ve never seen a conflict.”

No ticket purchase for the game is required to tailgate at UTEP! Everyone is welcomed. Tailgating is free, Vasquez said. "Corporate or company parties should call the athletics department to make arrangements if they wish to use Kidd Field." Kidd Field is located next to the Sun Bowl Stadium. Tents are available for rent, with availability for groups of 50 or more at a starting price of $425, which includes tables, chairs and optional catering.

Season and single game passes to tailgate at the Kidd Field are also available at different prices. The single game passes for adults are $20 and $5 for children and seasonal passes are $100 for adults and $25 for children. Each pass includes a meal, drinks and give-away.

Free parking will be offered at lots S3, P1, P2 and P3—which also includes ADA parking—and P4. Shuttle service will be available for the south lots only.

For the safety of the public, UTEP tailgate events are enforced with different rules and regulations that will ensure an enjoyable football experience and, at the same time, help provide a great experience for all the Miner fans.

“There is no doubt that we all can be part of events like these and form a community where everyone can enjoy a good time without having to spend too much,” Sanchez said.

For more information, contact the UTEP Police Department, athletic department or the Office of Special Events or visit the website www.tailgate.utep.edu.

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‘ESPN Fantasy Football’ app a must amongst football fanatics

BY ADRIAN BROADUS

The Prospector

The fall season marks the start of many things, but nothing symbolizes the arrival of the season like the glorious sport of football. For the 2015 football year, the tradition of fantasy football once again takes center stage for easy fans.

One major fantasy football app is “ESPN Fantasy Football,” which allows the NFL fans to showcase their knowledge of the game and play head-to-head against each other. “ESPN Fantasy Football” allows the user to either create a team or join a league, ESPN-sponsored drafts are nationwide, which allow you join the league and draft against random people. This feature is interesting because often one feels stranded or hopeless after drafting a bad team. However, this feature also allows the user to join a new league.

Although the draft itself on the app is at times confusing, it can be broken down into these different sections: top player available, top player per position and draft order. For the top player on the board, the player can find the best player to draft on the squad. It is easy to see the team the player is on, their position and their projected points they can give to the team.

The next section, the top player per position, helps show the correct position that you need to fill on the team. For example, if you forget to get a kicker in the late rounds while drafting, by clicking on the top player position feature, you are able to snag the best kicker that is still available.

The last, and definitely least likable, feature in the drafting process is the draft order tickler. Not only is the order of the draft very confusing, but it is nearly impossible for one to know when they are about to draft. It requires constant attention in standing for the league, and simply looking a restroom break can mean an auto draft on your team. Next season, ESPN should offer a more organized and designated drafting order for the viewers.

Once teams are assembled and the season starts, the fantasy begins on Tuesday when league members are encouraged to start/stay players, request trades amongst other teams and pick up “free agents” in the draft. To start/stay players, ESPN offers a very efficient helper. Notifications remind users that a bunched player on their team is projected to do better than one of the starters, so users are given more tips than ever. Fantasy updates that are given from the app, tips to trade for players and pick up free agents are very accessible also.

However, another side pop up on the page and the fantasy icons are extremely redundant and tedious. The last day to fix teams is Thursday before the first game of the week starts. After that, teams battle head-to-head. The Fantasy Football scoring works is players are given points based on how they play during the certain week.

For example: a real Tom Brady is your starting quarterback and he passes for 466 yards and has three touchdowns, he gets 28 points. Those points add in with all the other points of the starting players and accumulate for the final score. At the end of Monday night, the user with the highest points wins. After Monday, a player is set up against a new opponent and the cycle restarts on Tuesday.

The simplicity of navigating through different leagues is also a notable feature on the ESPN app. The home screen offers quick links, such as news and analysis to help better the player’s team. The best feature on the home screen is the “Your Teams” feature, which allows the current player to see the overall record and provides a shorts-cut to the different leagues. However, notifications throughout the week sometimes can be an annoyance.

Whether playing for bragging rights or to win national recognition, the “ESPN Fantasy Football” app is easily accessible for the football die-hard fan, while adding the challenge of picking the right players during the season. Despite the excessive advertisements throughout the app, the user is able to see past that and enjoy the addictive worldwide game.

Alcohol drinks may be served at theProspector and may be charged to credit cards.

The ESPN Fantasy Football app is an accessible for both Google Android and iPhone users.

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Local hotspots get ready for football season

BY JOSE SOTO
ThisProspector

Not many things are synonymous with the fall season quite like football. Sport enthusiasts will be herding over to stadiums all across the nation to partake in one of the biggest American traditions: college football. Whether watching it live or through broadcast, millions of people take these sporting events seriously. This not only means that Saturday nights at the Sun Bowl at the University of Texas at El Paso will be exuberant with thousands of game goers, but also that local businesses will be catering to these same people as well.

Here at UTEP, the Sun Bowl is conveniently located in one of the most thriving areas of El Paso. Whether grabbing a bite to eat before the game, or enjoying a celebratory adult beverage, or drinking your sorrows away, game attendees have an array of options when it comes to choosing where to visit before or after the game.

Union Plaza, downtown El Paso and the Cincinnati Bar District are some of the few local hotspots where football fans can gallivant through on game nights.

Geo Geske, commonly known as G2, is situated in the Cincinnati Bar District at 2701 N. Stanton St. Arturo Duarte, one of the managers of the location, said that the business caters to fans with some specials.

“We usually offer different specials during game nights,” Duarte said. “We like to offer different menu prices during the football season to cater to those who go to the games. We also extend our patio to accommodate the crowd.”

Duarte said that although Geo Geskes thrives with the help of those attending the football games, it is actually the basketball season when the restaurant/bar cashes in from the UTEP community.

“We tend to get people after the games, but it isn’t anything outstanding,” Duarte said. “It does help the local scene though.”

The recently opened TradeCraft, located at 3737 N. Mesa St., is one of the bars that are closest to the Sun Bowl. Robert Read, one of the managers of the bar, said TradeCraft would be offering different specials to those attending the games.

“We will be offering revolving daily specials for fans in Miner gear before and after the game,” Read said. “Each day will be different, but I believe die-hard fans will be satisfied with our specials.”

Read said that that UTEP football games equal traffic and that all bars and restaurants in the area should take note.

“UTEP games equal UTEP traffic, especially on Mesa,” Read said. “Traffic is always good and hopefully frustrated drivers will stop by for a refreshment or two and wait for the traffic to subside. Read said TradeCraft will schedule more employees during the football season to cater to the crowd.

“TradeCraft will have more employees during UTEP home games,” Read said. “We project to see a lot more foot traffic during games due to the unfortunate closing of some bars in the Cincinnati district.”

Hoppy Monk, another business located in close proximity to the Sun Bowl, is located at 4141 N. Mesa St, and is also gearing up for the upcoming football crowd.

“We definitely get some of those attending the game before and after,” said Jesus Puga, one of the managers of Hoppy Monk.

“We usually get a lot of people pre-gaming here at our location.” Puga said that although the game goers do hit the bar, it isn’t anything drastic. “The increase of business isn’t anything drastic, but if we do see that the numbers are going up, we tend to add on more employees,” Puga said.

Hoppy Monk offers a Monk’s Pick, a daily beer offering that switches daily.

“Last year we tried a lot of people tend to tailgate more than hitting up a bar or restaurant,” Puga said. “We do see a lot of people coming in before and after the games though. Fortunately, our experience has all been positive. We’ve never encountered any problems with those who are attending the game.”

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Miners ready for home opener against Incarnate Word

Robertson-Harris going out on top in senior year

By ADRIAN BROADUS

Two opening losses to teams from the power five conferences, Aaron Jones sidelined for the season, squeezing past rivals New Mexico State 50-47 in overtime — these are the storylines the Miners bring to the forefront entering the fourth week of college football.

UTEP football will look to break 500 Saturday, Sept. 26, at their first home game of the season against the Incarnate Word Cardinals at Sun Bowl Stadium.

Despite being the only Football Bowl Subdivision team who has not had a home game, this will be the ninth time since 1983 that the Miners have had their season opener against a Football Championship Subdivision team. UTEP has a 7-1 record when facing a FCS team and a 57-34-4 all-time record in home openers. The last time UTEP faced a FCS school was in 2011, when they defeated Stony Brook 31-24 in overtime.

In the 50-47 victory over the NMSU Aggies, the Miners scored 50 points for the first time since 2008, and for the first time under head coach Sean Kugler. The squad is 9-0 since 1999 when scoring 50 points or more. However, the Miners stole the win without running back Aaron Jones and without starting quarterback Mack Leftwich, who left the game in the third quarter with a severe concussion.

Throughout the game, the Miners overcame 14-point deficits three times, 23-9, 39-14, and 44-30, to match up to beat the Aggies. When Leftwich went out of the game, hometown Andrean high school graduate Ryan Metz took his spot.

Metz, with four minutes in the game, trailing 44-30, conducted two touchdown drives to tie the game and force it into overtime. Coach Kugler called the comeback one of his proudest moments in his coaching tenure as the headman in El Paso.

"The team kept fighting and kept responding, even when they were down 14-kind of in tough situa-
tions," Kugler said. "That was one of the most exciting games I’ve ever been a part of as a coach, maybe one of the proudest moments I’ve had about my team because of their resil-
ience in the game."

On the visiting side, the 2-1 Divi-
sion II team, based in San Antonio, is coming off a 20-10 win over Nicholls. Led by head coach Larry Kenanon, an ex-NFL quarterback coach for the Los Angeles Raiders.

Incarnate Word brings forth a strong defensive player in outside linebacker Myke Taureas. A trans-
fer from the University of Arkansas, Taureas leads the Southland Confer-
ence with 8.3 tackles per game and 8.0 tackles for loss. In addition to be-
ing a key component of the defense, Taureas is also the starting kick re-
turner for the Cardinals.

Although Jones will be sidelined for the remainder of the season, the Miners will continue on the ground with Darrin Laufasa and LeQuintus Dowell. Laufasa scored on a 66-yard run against the Aggies and ended the night with 76 yards.

Adding diversity to the receiving core, the Miners were able to complete passes to receivers JaQuan White, Austin Deese, and Cedrick Lang. Lang caught a six-yard pass from Metz to win the game in overtime.

With the even distribution on of-
fense, Kugler claims that his offense will be more balanced against the Cardinals on Saturday and will be able to break the rest of the season.

“We talked about being a running back, not by committee, but run-
ning back by team,” Kugler said. "I think (against NMSU) we accom-
plished that.”

For special teams, the Miners continue to improve, according to coach Kugler. Due to his 64-yard punt return for a touchdown in the NMSU game, JaQuan White was honored as Conference USA’s Spec-

erious for the Miners. As of the third week, Jones leads the defense with 18 tack-
les, eight tackles for loss.

Going into the game Saturday, the Miners will start Metz at quarter-
back, and coach Kugler was more pleased than with his ability to per-
form at the position.

"I can’t say enough about Ryan Metz," Kugler said. "I always knew when he got his opportunity he was going to shine. What a gutty per-
formance by him (against NMSU)."

Juan Carlos Navarrete can be reached at the prospector@sports@gmail.com.

By JAVIER CORTEZ

The Miners are 5-34-4 all-time in home openers.

Roy Robertson-Harris led the Miners last season in tackles for loss with 9.5.

By JOHN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector

He is often thought of as the face of the defense; a three-year starter and there’s no reason why he shouldn’t be. Now the Miners are without Aaron Jones, Roy Robertson-Harris may become the new face of the team.

For Robertson-Harris, his football career is something he can thank his stepfather for. He didn’t start playing until he was 12 years old. It was his last year in California and it was the first of many changes that would come to him thanks to football.

In high school at Grand Prairie, Texas, he was considered a three-star recruit by rivals.com. It was during his senior year that he realized he could play at the Division One level. He got offers from numerous pro-
grants, but chose UTEP for one rea-
son only—more playing time.

"Just the small feel of it. I got calls responding, even when they were down 14-kind of in tough situa-
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“No name”-Ryan Metz comes to the forefront in Miners first win

That no-name quarterback was Ryan Metz, an Andrews High School alumnus, who is now the Miners’ new starting quarterback.

In two quarters, Metz completed 15-of-19 passes for 218 passing yards, with four total touchdowns (three passing, one rushing). Metz finished with a quarterback rating of 90.6, which is the highest QBK of any quarterback in the Sun Belt era.

“I think a lot of people were not sure [when Ryan came onto the field],” said senior linebacker Junior Muázagwe. “It was his first time coming into the game. But once he took control of the offense, it was amazing to see.”

More impressive than his final stats was the way Metz transformed the UTEP offense. Known for their slow and methodical approach, the Miners looked quick and explosive, whereas the “old” offense looked bland and predictable.

Despite the change in offense, there were still some detractors. “I think if Lebich was there, he would’ve thrown it just as well,” said NMSU head coach Doug Martin.

NMSU defensive back Jacob Ngwango added: “I don’t think he was just as good as he was.”

The Aggies biter post-game statements most likely stem from the fact that the Miners are their main rivals, and the statistics were off base. The MNSU secondary was under constant threat once Metz took over.

In the 11 pass attempts, Lebich never threw a pass of 15-yards or more. Metz threw the ball down the field consistently and accurately. The Miners scored 28 points on offense in the second half, all through Metz.

Three weeks ago, coach Kugler said that the Miners would use all four quarterbacks over the course of the season; Mack Lebich, Kavika John- son, Garrett Simpson and Metz.

Coming out of fall camp in New Mexico, Lebich was the prototypical game manager, Johnson was the all-around athlete, and Simpson and Metz were the pocket passers. All four quarterbacks bring something to the table, but Metz separated himself from the pack with his clutch play in the fourth quarter.

Twice the Miners found themselves down by two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and twice Metz erased the deficit. But his last two drives in regulation were the most impressive. A three-play, 71-yard drive cut the Aggie lead to seven with three minutes left. Followed by a pivotal stop by the UTEP defense, which was one of the few positives for the Miners on that side of the ball.

The Miners got the ball back down by a touchdown with 2:09 left on the game clock, no timeouts and 98 long yards to the Aggie end zone. What was once an unlikely scenario turned into a reality.

“Unbelievable for a freshman,” Kugler said. “He called his own plays during both of those drives and took the offense right down the field.”

The play at the end of regulation, that was a beauty because I probably would’ve never called that, but he did. It took a lot of (guts) on his part to do it.”

The last play Kugler was referring to was a quarterback draw by Metz, who scored on an eight-yard run. Metz capped the night off with a six-yard touchdown pass to tight end Cedrick Lang in overtime to win the game.

UTEP players after the game used an assortment of adjectives to describe Metz on the 98-yard drive: calling it insane, crazy and amazing.

In the last two drives and in overtime, Metz was 11-for-15 for 154 yards, with three total touchdowns (two passing, one rushing).

Although Metz was responsible for the vast majority of the Miners’ success in the second half, the redshirt freshman was humbled as ever after the game. “I think we know that it was all business,” Metz said referring to the last two drives of regulation. “These guys just responded, and I trust the receivers made me look good because I don’t think every pass was perfect, but these guys bailed me out.”

Mitz might not be good enough to completely turn the Miners’ season around because of the loss of Aaron Jones and the struggling defense, but he does solve the quarterback dilemma. Come Saturday and for the remainder of the season, the Miners have found their new starting quarterback.
Change at quarterback will bode well for remainder of the season

You could argue that pivotal stop late in the fourth quarter by the defense were just as important as the Miners’ success on offense. Nevertheless, the Miners still gave up 47 points and 541 total yards.

Kugler’s rationale for his slow and predictable offense is to simply keep his defense off the field, which makes sense only if the offense that is employing is sustainable. The Miners slow and predictable offense without Aaron Jones is not sustainable.

If the Miners can manipulate the clock, then they are in a good shape. But the Miners have been blown out plenty of times even when they were the time of possession bottleneck, which shows that this line of thinking is not the best.

The combination of Darrin LaFon and LaQuintus Dowell in the backfield against the Aggies was solid, as both combined for 161 rushing yards on 19 attempts, with two touchdowns. But the probability of either of those players putting up numbers like that week in and week out is unlikely. Former UTEP head coach Mike Price, had atrocious defenses throughout his nine years in El Paso, but his teams were still competitive with a pass-heavy offense. In fact, you could argue that Price’s offensive scheme was the only reason why the Miners had success.

Which is why a case can be made to reverse the offense and center it around Metz. To be fair it might be a little premature to anoint Metz as the savior of this offense. He picked apart a ferocious NMSU secondary and has yet to play against a legitimate defense.

The risk of being premature with Metz is a far more viable option than going back to past. Lachman for the current system, he manages the game, limits turnovers, and most importantly, hands the ball off. But with no legitimate playmaker in the backfield, things will get hairy.

With Lachman under center, defenses can stack the box and eliminate any type of running game that the Miners try to impose. Having a predictable running attack on first and second downs leads to third and longs.

And passing the ball down the field is not Lachman’s forte. His 5-foot, 9-inch frame is not what you would call ideal for a passing quarterback. Although during summer camp in Bardos, Lachman had balls batted down at the line of scrimmage.

The 6-foot, 4-inch Metz does not have that problem. And Metz can make the throws Lachman would never attempt.

Also unknown to most is the athleticism of Metz. The redshirt freshman was also a track and field star at Andrews High School, winning the district title in the 400-meter dash in 2011. Wildcat quarterback Kai’valle Johnson is the better runner, but Metz’ ability to move the ball vertically combined with his mobility is superior to any other quarterback on the Miners’ roster.

On one particular throw Metz found sophomore receiver Tyler Butson running a streak down the sideline for 30 yards and put the throw on a dime. Garrett Simpson might be able to make that throw, but Johnson and Lachman do not have those types of throws in their arsenal.

Not to backtrack, but the Miners do not need to turn into a high-powered spread offense. They simply just need to integrate more vertical passing into their offense. The Miners still have a decent running game, but they still need to find a way to exploit the talents of Metz come this Saturday.

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