MINERS READY TO BOUNCE BACK

AARON JONES RETURNS TO TEAM AFTER INJURY

BY AARON GREEN

The Prospector

The 2015 season was unique for the UTEP Miners football team with numerous players being lost for the season due to injury. Junior running back Aaron Jones had seen injuries like this happen to people around him, but apart from a three-game stretch during his senior year at Burgess High School, Jones had never really faced much adversity himself.

That all changed on a Saturday afternoon last September in Lubbock against the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Not long after rolling off a school record 91-yard touchdown run, Jones was carrying the ball when he planted his foot to pivot and felt a pop in his ankle.

“Initially when it happened, I didn’t think I was going to be cut for the season because I had felt that pain before. I got up and tried to run off on my own and couldn’t and thought it was just a little nudge,” said Jones.

But pop that Jones felt was ligaments tearing in his ankle and it would end his 2015 season after only two games and a total of 201 yards rushing. This often a sophomore season that saw him score 1,371 yards on the ground and 11 touchdowns which would land him on every preseason award watch list of any importance before the disappointing 2015 year.

The team spent the rest of the season searching for a solid rushing option out of the backfield, never fully being able to replace the talent of Jones.

“It was devastating. It was distracting to the team. It was devastating because we did not have a lot of depth there because of injuries and those types of things,” head coach Sean Kugler said.

If the team and coaches were down following the injury to Jones, the one person on the field feeling it more than anyone else was more than likely Jones’ twin brother, linebacker Ahlin Jones.

“I was hoping he was OK. He limped off the field so, I was like, it’ll be fine. But, after the game it set in that he tore ligaments and was out for the season – I really didn’t know what to do. I was just really sad,” Ahlin said.

Immediately following the injury, the football team went back to practicing and preparing for the next week’s game at New Mexico State. Aaron Jones had surgery on his ankle, and moved into his parents’ home temporarily, where his parents would make sure that he was eating right and taking his medication as prescribed.

***JONES on page 12

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From here, their day changes from going to class, getting treatment for whatever injury they received during practice, going to their weights and conditioning sessions and position meetings. On an average day, their obligations have been met by 6 in the afternoon, and then there’s study time.

Oh, and then there’s the weekend. On Fridays, after regularly scheduled practices, the team is essentially pulled out of society for home games or flown to the city for away games. Meetings, treatment and house arrest await them on both occasions, with pregame meetings taking place Saturday morning before heading to the stadium. After the game, win or lose, broken bones or none, the team is free for the night by 10 p.m. and is expected to report the next day at noon for a film review of the game to begin prep for next week.

You must realize that as the season goes on, their schedule remains the same. They are expected to be on time to Sunday meetings, weights and treatment, whether they are heading for a bowl game or trying to scrape their first win—all while earning a degree.

There is nothing societally intrinsic about football, or college sports for that matter. These players play the game because enough students at the university think it is important enough to spend money on. So while the option to play football is available to help pay for school, these athletes put in a hell of a lot of work to play 60 minutes of football a week to entertain you on Saturday night.

Fix Tapes may be reached at fixtape@utep.edu.

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College Assistant Migrant Program awarded $2.1 million

The U.S. Department of Education awarded UTEP with a five-year grant for students who come from migrant and farm worker families.

"The idea is that we want the students to get a really solid first year at the university to prepare them for continued success in their next years at UTEP," said Dorothy Ward, director of the Entering Student Program and CAMP's principal investigator. "The tuition of these students is not paid by the $2.1 million grant. Students are still responsible for applying for financial aid, but the program does offer other financial support for them as well as different workshops and tutoring support services.

"We have a laptop loan program, we will provide some school supplies to help them get started at the university; and then there is the possibility, if they wish to live on campus, we can provide some campus support," Ward said. "We'll have field trips and on-campus activities that we'll do as a group, and we'll give different kinds of workshops to help them learn and explore career options and campus engagement opportunities.

CAMP is looking for students who can meet the program's criteria so they can offer them a different type of school support. First-year UTEP students with a full-time schedule and who are part of migrant and seasonal farm worker families are encouraged to apply.

"The idea is that we want the students to get a really solid first year at the university to prepare them for continued success in their next years at UTEP.

-Dorothy Ward, CAMP principal investigator

Laura Saritana, a student who graduated with a degree in electronic media and public relations in 2013, said CAMP helped her socialize with other students on campus.

"Almost everyone at the program were first-generation students at college from their families so we had other people at the same boat understanding what we were all going through," said Saritana. "We were able to help one another in a healthy way by talking to one another, having study groups, going to networking events, traveling together, etc.

Ward said the last grant that the UTEP CAMP received ended in 2012, which left the program without funds to help its students but, with this year's funds she said the program can get back on track.

"It's very exciting! It allows the university to support students who are from migrant farm worker families in a way they haven't been able to support them for the last five years," Ward said. "It's really exciting to have that money to really support the success of students."

Ward said for this first semester of the program, CAMP will be accepting 20 students and the program will be helping at least 152 students for the next five years. Out of those students, eight of them can receive a total of $550 each month for a student dorm if the student demonstrates the need for assistance. Students must still pay for deposits and any other costs.

Oscar Núñez is an accounting major who graduated in 2008 and he said he has kept the good study habits he learned while at the CAMP Program.

"The CAMP Program taught me how to study, habits and a better approach to college throughout my freshman year," Núñez said. "They taught me how to register for classes, gave me feedback about professors at campus; they also gave me opportunities to network with other students I could rely on. I could always ask them my doubts and they were always there for me.

For more information on how to apply for CAMP visit utep.edu/camp or contact Dorothy Ward at 747-4331.

INBRIEF

FREE FITNESS PROGRAMS

Miners will have a chance to try out the Bridge to Fitness Programs for free. The programs available during the week include various types of yoga, kickboxing, conditioning and other workouts. Registration for the paid programs begin on Aug. 1 at the Student Recreation Center room 102B.

‘EL SUEÑO’ FILM SCREENING FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK

On Thursday, Sept. 1, Union Cinema will show “El Sueño” at 6 p.m. The film follows two undocumented immigrants whose parents are killed while crossing the border. Chicano Studies and the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies are sponsoring the event.

FREE HIV TESTING

The College of Health Sciences and Nursing School are holding free HIV testing at HSN building, rooms A and B. The confidential tests will be available Sept. 7 and 21, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7.
Trump remains the focus of Clinton’s campaign

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton has a 90 percent chance to win according to the New York Times, but her recent success can be attributed toward her focus on the dangers of Donald Trump and less so on her own platform and appeal.

The back and forth between Clinton and Trump is focused primarily on Clinton responding to Trump and his latest speech. The mainstream media glances over Clinton’s own scandal with a collective “meh” when compared to Trump’s tweets and promises.

Although there are 72 days until the election, that is a long time in the world of politics and many things can be revealed that may sway the election to one candidate or another. Currently however, the candidate most likely to be our next president is receiving far less media attention.

An investigation by the AP has recently found that 84 out of 155 civil receiving far less media attention. An investigation by the AP has recently found that 84 out of 155 civil donors had meetings with state and foreign government officials. But, the AP said that meetings with officials were likely to happen anyway. The focus of the investigation was who she chose to meet with, rather than who she was obligated to as Secretary of State.

While there is no evidence of quid pro quo, meaning there doesn’t seem to be any actions taken by Clinton because of those meetings, it does reveal the process in which individuals with money have personal access to politicians and also brings into question how influenced Clinton was as Secretary of State.

Questions of influence is not a new criticism of Clinton, and recently she responded to her critics by promising if she is elected president, the Clinton Foundation will no longer accept foreign donations and will move some programs to other organizations. The Clintons have also promised to leave the foundation, their daughter Chelsea Clinton will remain on the board.

The investigation does not reveal anything unusual for Washington, people with money get access to politicians. This issue is not new and is what Bernie Sanders brought up in his presidential run. But because Trump is consistently outrageous, the conversation that was taking place during the primaries died out and was replaced with Trump’s latest of finding tweet or another re-tweet of a white nationalist.

Trump has recently alluded to drastic changes in his immigration policy. In Austin, on Fox News show “Hannity” (Sean Hannity has recently become one of Trump’s advisors), Trump discussed how hard deportation is on families and suggested that he will consider changing his stance on policy.

He started by asking the audience if they prefer to “work with” undocumented immigrants who have been in the country for 20 years or to deport them all. The audience surprisingly cheered louder for “working with the undocumented, but there also was a lot of booing and angry outbursts at the idea. Trump replied to those who wish to deport every undocumented person by saying he plans to deport undocumented who have a criminal record; “on that, we agree on,” he repeated, which gave the impression that he does not agree with deporting everybody.

This is a stark difference from the stance he ran on that included a deportation force that would focus on finding and deporting undocumented individuals.

In typical Trump fashion, by Thursday that week, Trump said on CNN that his policy has not changed. Kellyanne Conway, his new campaign manager, told CNN that his deporta tion force is “to be determined.”

His change in rhetoric might just be an attempt to gain more minority voters, with whom he has had a hard time in the polls.

Last Friday, Aug. 19, Trump spoke in Michigan to a mostly white audience, explaining his message to the African-American community.

“You’re living in poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs, 58 percent of your youth is unemployed—what the hell do you have to lose?”

Meanwhile, Trump’s polls are 6.3 points under Clinton’s, according to realclearpolitics.com. His attempts at appealing to minority voters might harm him in the polls in his own party. In a recent polling by Fox News, Clinton has an 18 point lead in favorability in Trump’s own party, with Clinton’s score of 61 and Trump at 43.

According to Politico, Trump is losing in all 11 swing states, which are needed to win the election.
UTEPE student awarded NAACP scholarship

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

The El Paso branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its fourth annual Freedom Fund and Award Banquet on Saturday Aug. 27. The NAACP gave out two scholarships to local students as well as three awards to prominent El Paso members of the community, and during the event UTEP’s Black Student Union helped people register to vote.

The scholarships were given to Julia Clarice Cartwright of Portland High School and Amanda Elizabeth Acosta of Eastwood High School.

I always had a lot of free time, and I thought doing something would better than staying at home doing nothing, so I got myself involved a lot,” said Cartwright. "Which actually helped me out later on in college, I’m really grateful!

She picked UTEP because it was close to home and plans to use the scholarship to pay for her books. She is not involved in any extracurricular activities yet, but plans to join the NAACP soon.

“I’m actually involved in fencing and I’m trying to find the fencing club at UTEP,” said Cartwright. "It’s huge, I got lost a lot.”

The theme for the banquet was “Our lives matter, our votes count,” and was aimed at bringing new justices to see SCHOLARSHIP on page 6.
Scholarship from page 5

the police brutality that has occurred throughout the African-American community as well as discussing the power of the vote. Keynote speaker Carmen Williams, the Southwest regional director of the NAACP, spoke about the NAACP’s fight for social justice.

“I just heard you acknowledge a long list of elected officials that many of you put in office. Elected officials walk into a room and we stand back as if the harp angels are singing,” Williams said. “We elected people to represent us. To take our voice and move it forward. We elected them to stand up for those things that we believe in. But we forget to hold them accountable.”

Darrius Broadnax is a senior majoring in kinesiology and is a member of the Black Student Union. He spoke about the importance of voting and bringing the El Paso community together.

“We are trying to push everybody in that direction because if you don’t vote then nothing is going to change,” said Broadnax. “Once you have a backlog and once you have a following—we’re all peers so there’s no the leader you’re the follower—you have a greater ground of power of multiple voices. Because we’re the students and are just that great of a voice.”

Bringing the community together was a dominant theme at the banquet. Greg Davis, the president of the El Paso branch of the NAACP, talked about the need to bring together all races and religions into the community.

Mohonza Buggs, treasurer of the Black Student Union, said that the BSU is not an exclusive organization and that people of all races and creeds are welcome.

“I know a lot of people are like ‘Oh, I can’t join because I’m not black’ but our last vice-president was Hispanic,” said Buggs. “Yes we’ve called the Black Student Union, but we’re also here to educate people on black lives–what we’ve been through, our history—and not only educate but work with other minority groups to build a relationship to help grow.”

The Dr. Aaron Wilson Award was bestowed to Pierre Boyton, a member of the El Paso branch of the NAACP, for being highly involved in the El Paso branch and outstanding community service.

The second award was the Fanny Lou Hamer Community Service Award and was given to Juliet McClain Hart for community service with the El Paso community.

The third award was the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, which was given to Ousia D. Davis for being a benefit to the humanity of the community. Davis was the first African-American woman to serve in the El Paso courts and is a weekly columnist for the El Paso Times.

The Black Student Union’s first meeting will be at noon, Friday, Sept. 2, at the Liberal Arts Building, room 222.

Color憔悴 may be found at theprospectoronline.com.
Juan Gabriel concert becomes a memorial

Juan Gabriel died Sunday, Aug. 28, in Santa Monica, Calif. the morning of his show in El Paso. Fans gathered anyway at the Don Haskins Center where the concert would have taken place to mourn his passing, and to celebrate his music and life.
Are football games worth going to?

BY ANDRES GALEGOS

The Prosector

The UTEP football team ended their 2015 season 5-7 with no chances of a bowl game. This performance seemed to disclude some students from spending their Saturday nights at the Sun Bowl.

The Kaplan era began in 2013 with a disappointing 2-10 record, but then showed promise during the 2014 season with a 7-6 record, 5-3 in conference.

Even if the football team is not doing well, the general feeling seems to be that most students enjoy the game-day atmosphere. Alejandro Ga- mez, a graduate student in kinesiology, claims that as a graduate student, she doesn’t really attend the football games, but did as an undergraduate.

“Play’s always school spirit at the games,” Gamez said. “I liked the cheerleaders, the band, the half-time shows that they usually do.”

There is a roaring energy that is prominent in the student section. Rebecca Melo, a communication major, enjoys the electricity that is present during the games.

“There are always exciting, especially the big games,” Melo said. “She refers to the games that seem to always surprise the crowd, like the Battle of F-10 against NMSU, or the 2014 Texas Tech game, where UTEP lost only by four points.”

Savvas Vicencio, who is a marketing major, said there is a special kind of relationship between the team and the crowd.

“They both share an energy that drives them, either to play or cheer better,” Vicencio said. “Doesn’t matter if they’re not winning, it may be a tie or it may be a loss, as long as the game is entertaining.”

Of course some would say that the enthusiasm of the game is enough. Erick Garcia, a mechanical engineering major, believes that a victorious football team would surely be more attractive than one that just tries.

“The only reason people would start going to games is if they start winning,” Garcia said.

The Sun Bowl may not be packed with colors like other universities on football nights, but that may be because UTEP is a commuter school. At the end of the day, students find it easier to go back home.

Gamez added that even if the football team doesn’t win, even if they don’t reach their goal, the students who attend the games go not only to show support, but to have fun.

The Sun Bowl’s ambience is what the students go for. The food, the drinks, the cheers, the occasional cock of the other team’s quarterback and the touchdowns are what everyone goes to savour.

UTEP’s tradition and school spirit may not be as electrifying or important as other colleges, but it doesn’t mean that it is not trying. The school is growing and there’s nothing that can impede it from reaching that level.

Adolescente may be reached at theprosector@utep.edu.

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‘Grease’

OCT. 27 AT 6:00
‘The Omen’

OCT. 28 AT 6:00
‘Hotel Transylvania’

OCT. 28 AT 9:00
‘The Conjuring 2’
FOOTBALL PLAYERS SHARE THEIR PREGAME PUMP-UP JAMS

BY ANDRIA GRANADO
The Prospector

The pregame pump-up is a ritual. With no more time to practice, no more time for film, all that is left for the team to do is to relax and trust that they have done all they could to prepare them for the game. With a few minutes to prepare mentally, we asked the Miners what songs they queued up before it's time to go to work.

1. GREGORY LONG
Position: Left tackle
Classification: Freshman
Major: Criminal Justice

2. WARREN REDIX
Position: Wide Receiver
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Multimedia Journalism
On his playlist: Lil Uzi Vert, Childish Gambino, Chief Keef

3. DANTE LOVILOTTA
Position: Inside Linebacker
Classification: Junior
Major: Kinesiology
On his playlist: Young Thug, Lucci

4. TERRY JUNIEL
Position: Wide Receiver
Classification: Junior
Major: Mechanical Engineering
On his playlist: anything by J Cole

5. NICK USHER
Position: Outside Linebacker
Classification: Senior
Major: Communication
On his playlist: The Game, Nipsey Hu$$le

6. WILL HERNANDEZ
Position: Right Guard
Classification: Senior
Major: Kinesiology
On his playlist: “Sangre Azul” by Gerardo Ortiz, “6 a.m.” by J. Balvin

7. ALVIN JONES
Position: Linebacker
Classification: Junior
Major: Communication
On his playlist: “Shyack Remix” by Montana 300

8. AUGIE TOURIS
Position: Tight End
Classification: Junior
Major: Creative Writing
On his playlist: “Sympathy for The Devil” by The Rolling Stones, “Thunderstruck” by AC/DC

9. DEREK ELMENDORFF
Position: Left Guard
Classification: Senior
Major: Criminal Justice
On his playlist: “Boom Boom” by Cumbia Kings, “Bricks” by Carnage and Migos, “Master of Puppets” by Metallica

10. CHRISTOPHER THUMMEL
Position: Offensive lineman
Classification: Junior
Major: Kinesiology
Big Truck “Southside Da Realist”
Big Krit “King without a Crown”
The Great American Rockabilly Riot held its fifth-annual show this weekend. Festival goers were able to check out more than 50 custom cars, motorcycles and vintage hot rods while bands played country swing, honky-tonk and rockabilly, all genres that can be described with two words: upright bass. The mix of music, cars and people transformed Ascarate Park into a hub for El Paso's rockabilly culture. Although the idea of slicking your hair up into a Travolta-esque pompadour may occur only around Halloween, for some, the look is a lifestyle. Ria Von Strudel is a pin-up girl. She fixes her hair up in sweeping curls and loves to wear high-waisted jean shorts and heels. For Von Strudel, a contestant in Rockabilly Riot's pin-up girl pageant, her style makes her feel powerful. “Being a pin-up is like being sexy and classy at the same time,” Von Strudel said. “I like the feeling of being tough too.”

Burciaga grew up in El Paso and has been around cars all his life. He said that rockabilly is closely connected to the car culture associated with it, if not dependent on it. “Your car was your pride,” Burciaga said, gesturing to the lot of shining automobiles around him. “But you had to know how it worked too. Too many kids roll up with these flashy cars but can’t even work the radio.”

Burciaga is not far from the mark. Almost every car in the lot was supervised by its owner in a lawn chair a few feet away. Anyone wanting to talk about their car was not met with begrudging conversation and a wax rag, but a genuine dialogue about the car. Conversations went on about finding the shell of it in an abandoned lot in Juárez, or haggling with a specialized dealer in Colorado over a certain part he needed, and still others about how long they’ve kept their car running since the ’50s. “El Paso has a deep car culture. Believe it or not,” said Michael John, one of the festival’s organizers and owner of Dominic’s Italian Restaurant. “There was this car called the Orbitron, this super futuristic car designed by Big Daddy Roth with a glass bubble as a hood that got lost and was found in Juárez of all places.”

Next to some of the cleanest cars, several rusted up vehicles, looking like they belonged in the post-apocalypse, demanded attention. These were rat rods, a rebellion against the shining hot rods that only people with money could afford to keep up. For Burciaga, having a rat rod is a matter of pride. “It says ‘Look, I can build a car by myself,’” he said. The Great American Rockabilly Riot is the closest gathering of car culture and rockabilly until you reach Phoenix, Ariz, and has people coming from as far away as California and Colorado to partake in the festivities. Although the night was cut short by Saturday’s rainstorm in the last hour, El Pasoans and visitors alike were able to spend an entire day with people who share a common love of cars, tattoos and rockabilly music.
Sports

Gunslinger Greenlee adds experience to the Miners

BY ADRIAN BROADUS

As he stepped on El Paso's grounds for the first time, transfer quarterback from Fresno State, Zack Greenlee, did not know his home state of California to be another number on a depth chart. Rather, the 6-foot gunslinger came to the Sun City to make a difference where difference needed to be made at the quarterback position. It seemed like perfect timing and a perfect place for Greenlee. Back at Fresno State, the junior quarterback said he dealt with too many personnel difficulties with the program. He had battled all of the 2015 season for the starting gig, but did not receive complete playing time.

Here in El Paso, almost 1,050 miles from California, UTEP head coach Sean Kugler said an extra option at quarterback back in June when he said the Miners had four head coach, Kugler expected to have three quarterbacks—MacK LeBlanc, Ryan Metz, and Zack Greenlee. However, LeBlanc suffered a shoulder season-ending injury in the offseason. The Miners seemed to struggle throughout the two major spring games. Greenlee joined the mix at the perfect time.

Through five months, Greenlee learned new offensive coordinator Brent Pease’s playbook, and continued to build relationships among his offensive. In the winding down scrimmages and practices of August, Greenlee started working a lot more with the 1st team tweet, and he took the starting snaps for the team.

"Greenlee is a great guy, a good quarterback," 5-foot junior running back Aaron Jones said. "He’s very accurate and a hard worker.

"Greenlee, on the spread and balanced offense that Pease brought in, the main thing that helped him stand out was his accuracy. "Zack Greenlee is our starting quarterback for 2016," Kugler said. "It was a three-way competition and Miners fans are going to see both of them. Every time we practice and in the scrimmage that we held on Saturday against St. Mary’s, Zack won the job." It was as if Greenlee was still in Fresno State—he left a team where he was in a quarterback battle for an entire season, and also acquired a quarterback battle. But this time, Greenlee came out on top. "I have played in games, as have the other players, but he is more comfortable with the offense," Greenlee added.

What is so surprising is the immediate connection Greenlee made with receivers such as Tyler Batson and Cole Fyfe—two key components to the receiving core this season. Throughout training camp and summer scrimmages, the Greenlee-Batson and Greenlee-Fyfe connection seemed so smooth and as though it had been in place for a long time.

When asked about practices and scrimmages, Fyfe and Batson both expressed how much of an asset Greenlee was to the offense.

"I think he’s really thriving in it," Batson said. "He opened it for the receivers, so he’s helping us a lot.

A BATTLE TURNED TO A REVISING GAME PLAN

Although Greenlee got the starting job, the UTEP personnel has expressed their optimism of utilizing each quarterback—Greenlee, Metz, and Johnson—one way or another. In fact, during the Miners’ last scrimmage of training camp on Saturday, Aug. 20, Johnson lined up at the receiver position and even caught a deep ball. Kugler has never shied away from adding talent to the mix; whenever defensive should not be surprised when they see two quarterbacks on the field.

The idea is to spread the strength they have at the position. It seems as if the entire squad is confident that if one opposing team does not handle it well, they can still pick things up with another quarterback.

The Miners can win all of their first two games, according to Greenlee, but Ball, and the Miners can win all of their first two games.

"I think that the offense is really clicking," Ball said. "I think we’re ready to roll and the team is really clicking."

A LOOK AHEAD

Now that the starting job is announced, all that’s left for the offense to do is tweak their impromptu and prepare for New Mexico State on Saturday, Sept. 3.

Last season, it was Metz who rallied the Miners in a thrilling overtime win; however, this year it will be Greenlee leading the charge in preparation for the Aggies.

"We go into game week, game preparation, watching film," Greenlee said. "I experienced that last year and it helped me. It will help me going forward.

Fire-tuned UTEP team seeks bowl season

BY JASON GREEN

As he stepped on the El Paso's grounds for the first time, transfer quarterback from Fresno State, Zack Greenlee, did not know his home state of California to be another number on a depth chart. Rather, the 6-foot gunslinger came to the Sun City to make a difference where difference needed to be made at the quarterback position. It seemed like perfect timing and a perfect place for Greenlee.

Back at Fresno State, the junior quarterback said he dealt with too many personnel difficulties with the program. He had battled all of the 2015 season for the starting gig, but did not receive complete playing time.

The Miners head into the 2016 football season with a vastly different depth chart than they had this time last year.

The team returns 13 of 22 starters to the roster and an influx of new talent and players returning from injury. Last season 17 players were lost, which has reshaped the roster across the board looking to improve last year’s 5-7 record.

Star running back Aaron Jones was injured during the second game at Texas Tech. Starting quarterback Mack LeBlanc was lost due to a concussion at New Mexico State and then at other points during the season due to various injuries.

Although LeBlanc will miss this entire season due to a shoulder injury, and back-up running back Tervon Hughes will miss the entire year following a knee injury, the rest of the Miners’ roster is intact.

Transfer quarterback Zack Greenlee from Fresno State secured the starting quarterback spot and running back Aaron Jones is healthy. The offense has a plethora of weapons at receiver with emerging freshman Eddie Stroil in camp and the further improvement of senior Javelle Cook.

A beefed up offensive line will depend on the continued impressive play of center Deron Garwood and right tackle Jerrod Brooks. With the offensive line showing depth at four or five receivers each play, defenses will no longer be able to stack eight men in the box against the Aaron Jones running attack. Expect Jones to eclipse his high of 1,321 rushing yards in 2014, if he stays healthy, with a stronger offensive line, a genuine passing attack and only six men in the box.

On defense, the Miners return leading tackle, linebacker Abdiel Altamirano, defensive end Alex Moss, who will play in new defensive coordinator Tom Mason’s 3-4 defense. Several transfer are on Mason’s new defense, which means that the unit could be considered adapted on the defensive line. The unit is experienced in the secondary, where sophomores Nils Neumann and Kyle Johnson return, as well as senior free safety DaShone Smith.

Unlike last year when Beverly and Neumann stressed the need for an island in man coverage against some of the best receivers that the SEC Big 12 and UTEP teams rely on, Mason’s 3-4 defense will have the secondary in a zone majority of the time. Smith, Beverly and Neumann all finished the season with one interception each; but, in a zone defense, considering all three players’ intelligence and athleticism, there is no reason to think that all three should not improve on those numbers this season.

A look into the season

vs. New Mexico State (Sept. 3)

The Miners will open Saturday against the FCS Aggies, who look like they may be without their own star running back, Larry Rose III. In last season’s 50-17 overtime win by the Miners at NMSU, Rose rushed for 186 yards and a touch-
Junior running back Aaron Jones will return against New Mexico State on Saturday Sept. 3, at the Sun Bowl Stadium.

It did not take long for two very important things to happen in the football lives of the Jones brothers to take place. First, Aaron found out that he would be receiving a medical redshirt which would mean that he would gain back a year of eligibility. Not only would he have a year of eligibility to work out and get ready for 2016 but he would also be back as a junior with his brother Alvin who had redshirted in 2013.

Second, Alvin decided that he would dedicate his 2015 season to his injured brother.

"I always wrote ‘AIIZ’ on my tape on my wrist and I guess I just played for him because I couldn’t be out there with him,” Alvin said.

"This may have been one of the most important decisions made all season, in football terms. linemen. Alvin Jones would come out on a mission the very next week in UTEP’s stunning 50-47 come from behind win at NMSU. Alvin tallied a career-high 11 tackles and a career-best five tackles for loss. Alvin’s performance lifted the UTEP fans’ performance in his brother’s absence but more importantly, lifted his brother’s spirits.

"The way it ended, I’m over there trash talking around just jumping around on one leg. It was a lot of fun. That was definitely a game to remember,” Aaron said.

Aaron Jones ended the season with a phenomenal 93 tackles. This Saturday as New Mexico State enters the Sun Bowl, the UTEP fans will have their spirits lifted once again for a whole different reason. This time the team captain and star running back Aaron Jones will once again be back on the field.

The bad part for the Aggies—and every other team on the Miners’ schedule—is that Jones has spent almost a full year bulking up and adding even more speed. But, more importantly—according to Jones—in the learning that he has done on the sideline.

"I got in the weight room and got a lot bigger,“ Aaron said. "I picked up a lot of football IQ, picking up the defense being there and watching the game, just watching the game, I picked up a lot of that.”

Alvin Jones is excited as a linebacker in UTEP’s new 3-4 defensive scheme to have the team’s star running back healthy once again.

“Alvin made a lot of mistakes,” Alvin said. "The defense is not going to be on the field as much. We’re going to score a lot of points so, now I’m just worried about stopping people.”

When pressed for an answer as a proud brother and less as a football player, a smile came to Alvin’s face.

“I’m glad he’s back. I’m his biggest fan,” Alvin said. "I didn’t like seeing him sitting on the sideline in his jersey last year. So now I’ll see him out there scoring touchdowns and things like that— I don’t think there’s anybody more proud of him than me.”

The whole team seems proud to have him back. Kagler could not be happier to have a proven leader and all around good person back to lead his team.

“It’s an emotional lift because he’s a team leader,” Kagler said. “When you lose a great player, you lose statistics and all of those things but when you lose a great leader, you lose a lot more than that. He’s one of the leaders of our team. He’s the face of the program and having him back just gives everyone a lot of confidence, myself included.”

Dr. Cindy Jay - Director and Ruben Gutierrez - Pianist Rehearsals: Tues. 5:15; $50 per semester + $20 Uniform fee

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