Kevin Baker embarks on a new journey with women's basketball

By Adrian Broaddus

Poised and respectfully, Kevin Baker told his team "last time" for their in-bound drill to cap off another practice.

Baker, who filled the spot of UTEP’s highly acclaimed head coach Keitha Adams, is coming off a teaching-filled summer, a fine-tuning fall and now is embarking on new possibilities for the start of his inaugural season as head coach.

"Family on three. One, two, three… family," the team yells in unison after they finish practice. Its what they do after every practice.

How could eight returning players and four newcomers call themselves family after only knowing each other for less than six months?

Simple, says the team.

"We have great chemistry and that's most of what he's doing," said sophomore guard Katarina Zec, who has adjusted well to the change from former head coach Adams to Baker.

"The way he talks to us and the way he appreciates us affects the way that we play as a team. We can't wait for Saturday's game."

They have two exhibition games under their belt, topping the likes of Division II opponent Sul Ross State, 99-40, but falling short to St. Mary’s, 68-62.

Now the countdown begins to the regular season, where Baker will begin his campaign as head coach when the Miners take on Cal State Bakersfield on Saturday, Nov. 11.

"Honestly it doesn't feel real right now because we're practicing and practicing, and the games aren't real games, they're scrimmages. So it doesn't feel that real to us. Plus, we're working really hard to build a team, so I think it won't be real until November 11th, when we run out there on the floor for the first time," Baker said. "I think that’ll be the moment when I'll feel this is happening, our team's ready to play."

Backtracking to the start of his tenure, Baker was not pressed with all the challenges that most teams have initially with a new coach.

Instead, he believed the team adapted well to the change and continues to impress him.

"It's been remarkably easy to put the kids together," Baker said. "Before we got here, the eight returners were all really close, really tight. The four we brought here have been really good too. My job as a coach—this is probably been the easiest group as far as kids who all get along and see BAKER on page 9.
Mass shooting results in another cry for national policy

By Jason Green

In 2008, a unit was preparing to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Saddam Hussein had been captured five years earlier and the US mission had become vague and the enemy even more so.

We were warned prior to leaving home that almost every civilian in the “fertile crescent” of farmland, where we would be housed for the next year, carried a weapon, which was usually a fully automatic AK-47. Indeed, it wasn’t long before we saw exactly what the intel guys were talking about.

The friendly farmers outside the fence, weapons slung over their shoulders, would wave every time our Blackhaws or Chinooks would fly in and out. The intelligence guys were right to warn us. They were also right to tell us that we were not in any danger from these farmers. Decades of war and occupation from outsiders had made everyone in Iraq a little wary.

Where the Intel guys missed the mark slightly was when we came out of the gate and were believing that every civilian had a gun. In actuality, a survey taken in 2007 showed that 35 out of 100 Iraqis actually owned a gun. A nation at war only had 35 guns for every 100 people—let that sink in.

Meanwhile, the United States had 88.8 guns for every 100 people in the same 2007 survey.

In 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, which killed 20 children, National Rifle Association Executive Vice President LaPierre said, “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.”

The population of Iraq in 2008 was reportedly 29,000,000. This means that there were about 10,150,000 guns owned by mostly “good guys.”

During the year that I was there, the U.S. lost 314 military members in total.

During the same year, the U.S. population was 304.1 million, with about 267,608,000 guns in the hands of what the NRA would like to think, are “good guys.”

In 2008, 31 people were killed in mass shootings in the U.S. and none were stopped by the “good guys.”

I know what you’re probably thinking as you read that last sentence. “Wow, only 31 people?” No. Just 31 people in 2008. It has come to these days. “Only 31 people,” especially spread out over five or six different shootings. That’s really not so bad.

Until you realize that our minds have been warped by the NRA constantly telling us that there is nothing that can be done. The politicians telling us that “thoughts and prayers” are all that can be given to help prevent anything. That the best we can do is to come out on, that 31 human lives—some one’s parent, someone’s husband or wife, someone’s 7-year-old daughter or son.

We’re not talking about the 314 mass shootings that they actually have lived in their lives to serve their country: We’re talking about the 314 mass shootings that they are talking about a family opening Christmas presents. We’re talking about joggies running on a New York City bike path.

That was not a 64-year-old white man named Stephen who committed the largest mass murder in U.S. history only a month ago. That was a 20-year-old African American man named Devin who opened fire on a church service this past Sunday, killing the fourth-largest number of people in modern U.S. history. No, what Sayfullo Saipov did in New York last week, killing 8 people and injuring 12 people cycles in a rented truck in what was quickly labeled “an act of terror” and classified as a terrorism attack, with the top 10 in mass shootings had he used a gun.

But, how quickly did President Donald Trump head to Twitter to threaten to end the green card lottery that-this mass murderer was talking about as he went to Twitter to send his “warmest con- dolences” to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting, whatever the hell that means. The same speed at which he told the media late Sunday evening that America has a mental health problem, not a gun problem.

Of course, there were no bills or executive actions made following this shooting that would change anything.

Following the most recent shooting Sunday night here in Texas, Trump once again called for endorsement along with Governor Greg Abbott. Neither acknowledged the fact that the shooting was reportedly done, yet again, with an automatic or semi-auto- matic weapon like the ones used in the Las Vegas shooting.

Abbott was reminded, however, by many Twitter users of his recent tweet berating Texas for failing to second in any gun purchase- er’s list.

I’ve written before about the continued thoughts and prayers that politicians send to the vic- tims of these mass shootings and the emptiness that they hold when nothing is being done at the executive level. As at time between shootings lessens, the hypocrisy shows even more from the people of Texas and Texas state show ponies.

Nothing will happen until we, as a people, demand to stop be- ing targeted and decide to live in a country that is actually safer than Iraq at the height of Opera- tion Iraqi Freedom. There is no need to live in a warzone, where the NRA funds corrupt leaders, keeps people scared, and forces all law enforcement to be a bad man who so chooses.

In Iraq, it took overthrowing a criminal despot, who was cor- rupt and fueled by greed, in or- der to help the people feel safe. I saw it firsthand.

In America, we have ways of getting are leaders to be held through democratic means. If the system isn’t working, it’s time for a change.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter (@jasongreenwtu)
Making Movies uses music to voice political reason

The concept embraces the Mayan phrase, “in lak’ech a’kin,” which translates to “I am another you, and you are another me,” as the band wrote on a pledgemusic.com post last year.

"This happens to immigrant people. It happens to anyone who travels or has left their home to live somewhere else, but you realize that the people who are in your environment, they have their own concerns, stresses, social issues,” Chi said. “Although they might be completely different, it has nothing to do with what is another person in another part of the world. Because the feeling human beings… giving anybody who’s part of this negative rhetoric against immigration a choice in the situation and they’re just spewing out fear-mongering stuff. He is still doing it to this day. We have this person who has enormous power and is just spewing uneducated nonsense about human beings, and we couldn’t stay silent,” Chi said. "That (the message of the record) evolved into now that we put this in music how do we take this and say ‘look, we will not stand for hate speech to be spoken—not on our watch.’"

As part of their more politically focused approach, the band is planning on delivering a new EP of protest songs titled “You Are Another Me” on Dec. 1. The EP focuses on covering songs that align with distinct political messages and will feature a new track every month over the span of a year. Two of the announced tracks have been Mana Chao’s "Clandestino" and Los Tigres Del Norte’s "De Paisano a Paisano," both of which focus on the lives of immigrant workers.

"After making the album, Donald becomes president and he starts spewing out fear-mongering stuff. He is still doing it to this day. We have this person who has enormous power and is just spewing uneducated nonsense about human beings, and we couldn’t stay silent," Chi said. "That (the message of the record) evolved into now that we put this in music how do we take this and say ‘look, we will not stand for hate speech to be spoken—not on our watch.’"

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Multicultural rock band Making Movies uses their musical platform to advocate for the importance of the DACA program.

"Making Movies is currently on a pledgemusic.com project, they did see a change in their approach to using their platform as influencers."

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"Making Movies is currently on a pledgemusic.com project, they did see a change in their approach to using their platform as influencers."

"The conversation about children seems like a black-and-white simple thing to talk about. They don’t have a choice in the situation and they’re here, so we decided that with all this negative rhetoric against immigrants… giving anybody who’s part of the DACA program a free ticket to our show,” Chi said. “We are also reaching out to organizations and inviting them to the show to continue to educate people and connect people to resources that might be able to help them as they encounter these issues. We are not lawmakers, but we can let people know that these resources do exist and that there are people on their side.”

Chi’s sense of social responsibility stems from his multicultural upbringing and his fascination for the lyrical component of music. “I take inspiration from Ruben Blades, a salsa artist who was very socially conscious and now is actually involved in politics in Panama, and he wrote about the streets and I really resonate with him. I also listen to The Clash and they are talking about Jamaican immigrants in the UK afraid of being gunned down by police officers. And then I go and listen to Kendrick Lamar and hear about his experience with the LA police as a black man,” he said.

This multicultural perspective has inspired the message in the band’s creative process, especially in “I Am Another You,” which tells this story of three people from different parts of the world, who each face a crisis and go through a rough stretch.

Although one of them is from Venezuela, one is from Mexico and one from the Midwest in the United States, the dynamics and the way their suffering is related reveal that they are the same person.

The electoral process of 2016 was also a turning point for the band. Although they had already finished recording their latest full-length album, among other benefits as of 2016. It happens to anyone who travels or has left their home to live somewhere else, but you realize that the people who are in your environment, they have their own concerns, stresses, social issues,” Chi said. “Although they might be completely different, it has nothing to do with what is another person in another part of the world. Because the feeling human beings… giving anybody who’s part of this negative rhetoric against immigration a choice in the situation and they’re just spewing out fear-mongering stuff. He is still doing it to this day. We have this person who has enormous power and is just spewing uneducated nonsense about human beings, and we couldn’t stay silent," Chi said. "That (the message of the record) evolved into now that we put this in music how do we take this and say ‘look, we will not stand for hate speech to be spoken—not on our watch.’"

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Program gives first-time marijuana offenders a chance

Claudia Duran, the project administrator for the El Paso County District Attorney’s Office, said people who are caught for marijuana possession in addition to another charge will not qualify for First Chance.

“First Chance is a program for first-time offenders of possession of marijuana—four ounces and under—offenders who have no convictions,” she said.

If there is probable cause for stopping a person for possession of marijuana, a law enforcement officer will detain the offender for a couple of minutes while they make a phone call to the district attorney’s 24-hour program, DIMS.

“Our office will then determine whether that person qualifies or not,” Duran said.

The El Paso Police Department and the El Paso Sheriff’s Department will be the ones offering the program to the offenders, who will have the chance of choosing between the program or getting arrested.

If the offender chooses the program, they will have five business days to report to the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department. If the offender fails to show up to CJJC, they will be arrested and charged with marijuana possession.

“They will have to complete eight hours of community service and pay a $100-dollar fee within 60 days,” Duran said.

During a February 2016 debate, Esparza said marijuana was a “gateway drug” and that marijuana crimes should be prosecuted.

“If I don’t think it’s a big change at all, I don’t think we’re letting these offenders go at all,” Duran said.

“All we’re saying is that they get one chance without being arrested and if you don’t comply with the terms, you’re gonna get arrested.”

Colt DeMorris, executive director for El Paso NORML chapter, an organization dedicated to achieving the legalization of non-medical marijuana in the U.S., said this is a program that will help a lot of people in the city.

“It’s a small step in the right direction. It will benefit people who have never offended before, it will benefit a lot of students that are receiving financial aid,” DeMorris said.

He said these kinds of programs should expand more and cover people who have chronic diseases.

“Another step that we can take is expanding this program to include people with cancer or multiple types of sclerosis, people who can show why they need it,” DeMorris said.

“I would also like to see the stop going after and stop arresting people with minor possessions. Yeah, they take their weed, but don’t put them in jail.”

The Prospector contacted UTEP Police Chief Cliff Walsh for a statement on the program and asked if First Chance would be offered to students by UTEP officers, but did not receive a clear response.

“All university procedures adhere to local, state and federal laws. We cannot speculate on the outcome of policies that are not yet in place, but we look forward to learning the outcome of this discussion so we can better assess its impact on our campus community,” Walsh said in an email.

According to the UT System and UTEP Policy, “any student who is guilty of the illegal use, possession and or sale of a drug or narcotic, including any amount of marijuana, on the campus is subject to University discipline in addition to possible criminal prosecution by civil authorities.”

If a student is found guilty, the minimum disciplinary penalty is the suspension from enrollment or attendance for a specified period of time and or the suspension of rights and privileges for a specified period of time.
Hearing for down syndrome research has positive results

BY CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ

Sitting before Congress in late October, Kerry McKee, a prominent actor and activist for individuals with Down syndrome, advocated for increased research funding for the first ever congressional hearing on Down syndrome research. “We want hearing for Down syndrome and my life is worth living,” Stephens said at the hearing. The hearing Down Syndrome: Updated on the State of the Science and Potential Discoveries Across Other Major Disorders was aimed at looking at current research in Down syndrome and the potential treatment of other diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer’s and immune system disorders. Stephens’ testimony was also aimed at those who are tariffing into Down syndrome is unnecessary because of prevalent screens, which detect the disorder and allow parents to abort if they choose. A report by CBS News found that in 2015, 140,000 percent of women from the screening and tested positive for Down syndrome chose to abort their pregnancy. The report sparked a debate about the ethics of abortion and was met by many pro-life activists as a form of eugenics. “Let’s be clear, I completely understand people that put a particular final solution are saying that people like me should not exist. They are saying that we have too little value to exist.” That view is deeply prejudiced by an outdated idea of life with Down syn-
drome,” Stephens said. Kerry McKee, the executive director of Every Little Blessing Preschool, which is a preschool for children with Down Syndrome and children of similar age who have individual participation as they enter elementary school. The preschool is also a part of the Down Syndrome Community Foundation. McKee supports the idea of funding further research, but also said that research is not something that sits well with her as a parent of a child who has Down syndrome. “The only research that I’m opposed to is the research that is intended to eliminate individuals with Down syn-
drome, if it’s research to identify Down syndrome earlier so that people have a better opportunity to terminate, I have a hard time with that. Because I’m just thinking about what makes a judgment call on what makes a quality of life is tough. I think it’s a slippery slope,” McKee said.

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, the Ohio House of Representatives passed HB 214, a bill that would outlaw an abortion if the reason for the abortion was because of the prenatal screening test positive for Down syndrome. The bill still has to go through the state senate. Stephens called people who have Down syndrome a “caryn in the en-
gine room of society.” According to the CBS News report, the U.S. has a 67 percent termination rate for Down syndrome. France has a 77 percent termination rate and Den-
mark has a 98 percent rate. Iceland also has a law that allows a pregnancy for up to 16 weeks if the fetus has Down syndrome. “I’m hard to judge but the reality is, are you or I to judge what is a quality of life? Would this same judge decide that they are a boy and not a girl, so at what point do we get to say what makes our perfect child?” McKee said. Testimonies in the hearing also high-
lighted the disparity in funding for Down syndrome research compared other developmental disorders. **The only research that I’m opposed to is the research that is intended to eliminate individuals with Down syndrome.**

Kerry McKee, executive director of Every Little Blessing Preschool

“Despite being the leading cause of developmental delay in the U.S. and the world, Down syndrome is one of the least funded genetic conditions by the NIH,” said Michelle Sue Whitteman, president of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, dur-
ing her testimony. In 2016, out of the $3.2 billion budget the National Institutes of Health receives, only $26 million was allo-
cated to research Down syndrome. Compared to autism research at $243 million and $97 million in research for multiple sclerosis.

“We are helping to defeat cancer and Alzheimer’s and we make the world a happier, kinder place. Is there really no place for us in the NIH budget?” Stephens questioned at the hearing. The actual statistics on the number of individuals with Down syndrome in El Paso is hard to come by, according to McKee.

“I can tell you that El Paso County has the highest birth rate for Down syndrome in the state of Texas,” McKee said, and continued to say that there is speculation, but no solid reasons for the high birth rate.

Today, there is an estimated 300,000 people who have Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s, which means that the cost of care will rise. With the expected lifespan ris-
ing from 28 years to 60 years since the 1980s, the population is expected to grow significantly.

“When my daughter was a baby and I started reading a little bit about Down syndrome...one of the things that I read was that there’s a shortness of life expectation, and that was very dif-
cult as a parent to process, because as parents you’re not supposed to outlive your child,” McKee said. McKee said that in the 1980s there were some doctors who refused to treat children with Down syndrome with lifesaving treatment. Heart condi-
tions such as congenital heart disease is common, and it was not until recently that children with Down syndrome were treated.

“These conditions tended to mean that they died with me, but not any longer. So with that comes the other end of the spectrum where we are starting to deal with the health issues at the advanced ages,” McKee said.

People with Down syndrome also have a high likelihood of developing Alzheimer’s. By 60 years old, almost 90 percent will have the disease, and also are more likely to have a form of a leukemia. Yet, it is rare for someone with Down syndrome to suffer from solid tumor cancers, such as breast or prostate cancer, or heart attacks.

“We are not going just to support our daughter for our life but for her life. Would that mean living with us, would that mean a home somewhere, what would her level of independence be? You never know with any child, but with kids with special needs there is another level to that question,” McKee said.

According to Whitteman, half of the U.S. population will die because of one of these diseases, which, advocates say, just the genetic group of people with Down syndrome is such an in-
teresting and potentially helpful field of research.

Take Alzheimer’s for instance—almost six million people have the dis-
case, according to the Alzheimer’s Association. The cost of care for the dis-
case is why the genetic makeup of people with Down’s, and treatment is cur-
ted, McKee said.

“By researching the genetic makeup of individuals with Down syndrome, scientists have discovered a copy of a gene that leads to Alzheimer’s in those with Down’s, and treatment is cur-
rently being tested. William Mobley, executive director of UC San Diego Down Syndrome Center for Research and Treatment, believes that clinical trials are in the near future. For individuals with Down syn-
drome, short-term memory can be an issue and that might be related to the link to Alzheimer’s, so that may hinder their ability to learn. It could be sig-
nificant for the individuals with Down syndrome, but it could also be sig-
nificant to the population as a whole,” McKee said. **Follow Christian Vazquez on Twitter @HispanicTerror**

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Who is the best basketball player of all time?

AVERY OLIVER  
Junior communication major  
“Tobieene Michael Jordan. I guess since he is not only a very successful basketball player, but also he is a black man who is a role model for me.”

ANDREW MORALES  
Freshman marketing major  
“Kobe Bryant because he had determination, something that we can every time his team was losing.”

AUBREY OLIVER  
Junior psychology major  
“I think Michael Jordan is. I guess because is notable and has given to the black community some good figures to look to.”

KEVIN RUIZ  
Junior industrial engineering major  
“Russel Westbrook because he won MVP last year.”

CECILIA GUTIERREZ  
Freshman nursing major  
“I don’t watch basketball and I don’t know any basketball players.”

EZRA MITSAK  
Freshman mathematics major  
“Michael Jordan is definitely my favorite basketball player because you just got to be like Mike.”

JORGE CAMARGO  
Junior multimedia journalism major  
“Larry Bird, because he meant a lot for the Celtics, which is my favorite team.”

CAMILA HERNANDEZ  
Sophomore theatre arts major  
“Michael Jordan, because he was in Space Jam.”

LUIS JAVIER GUTIERREZ  
Freshman mechanical engineering major  
“I am big Boston Celtics fan and I hate Kobe, but I had to accept he was the GOAT.”

PRISCILA RODRIGUEZ  
Sophomore nursing major  
“I’m not a basketball fan but I think Kobe Bryant, since he is still progressing with his career although he is not in the league anymore.”

What does your college experience look like so far?

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✓ Attend a school sports event
✓ Partake in campus tradition
✓ Join a club, volunteer or get involved on campus
✓ Get a part-time job on or near campus

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Look up in the sky, it’s a bird, it’s a plane, no it’s Spiralmind

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

Spiralmind may not be known to much of America, but the comic book hero is a legend in the Southwest and in its hometown. Spiralmind, also known as Ben Landry, is an engineer by day and a Jewish, werewolf/demon-fighting, high tech superhero by night.

Spiralmind’s story began on the eve of Landry’s bar mitzvah, when he witnessed the demonic possession and loss of his mother, leaving him orphaned.

After being raised by religious figures with a heavy focus on academics, Landry joined the CIA’s Special Operations Group, and after a few close calls he was given a job by Conraid Industries, a large military-manufacturing conglomerate.

With some of his experimental crime-fighting devices and his ability to witness past and future events, Landry sets out to investigate the higher rate of exorcisms and higher crime rate, giving birth to their company, Psi3 Comics. How-...
Lil Peep brings emo trap to Tricky Falls

Rapper and songwriter Lil Peep is bringing his emblematic emo-infused trap sound to Tricky Falls as part of the “Come Over When You’re Sober” on Nov. 14.

Deemed the “future of emo” by popular music website Pitchfork, Long Island native, Gustav Åhr, is coming off the successful release of his first LP, “Come Over When You’re Sober (Part I).” While critics found the project polarizing, it is hard to argue with Peep’s success on music streaming services. Aside from his strong presence in the SoundCloud rap scene, all of the tracks from the album have over a million plays on Spotify.

Peep’s collective the Goth Boi Clique will be present, and London rapper Bexey will open for Peep. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Here is what we thought of “Come Over When You’re Sober (Part I)” when it released:

While Peep successfully crafted an unorthodox and inventive blend of trap-infused emo with this album, the sound quickly grows stale thanks to uninspiring vocal performances and painfully dull lyrics.

At first listen, the somber lo-fi guitars and the trap beat’s 808 snares and boosted bass all seem to coexist smoothly, creating a sound that improves on what other “emo rappers” have done. For example, the opening track “Benz Truck (Г елик)” features a fast-paced beat that plays to the strengths of the simplistic guitar arrangement.

However, the sonic passages in this album feel limited and repetitive because of how little producer Smokeasac does to keep the sound fresh throughout the project. It doesn’t help that Peep mumbles and moans his way from one shallow verse to the next.

Tonally, Peep manages to hit many of the tropes that fans of emo music have come to expect from the genre. However, that is not necessarily a positive. The tiresome and unhealthy over-romanticizing and over-fetishizing of depressive mental states and emotional instabil-
The season for UTEP turned around March 10 in Birmingham, Alabama. The Miners are ranked in the polls with a final victory in the 2015 NCAA Tournament. That was also the last time the Miners were ranked in the polls. Since then, the Miners have not been ranked in the polls.

The Miners opened up the season with a 90-60 victory over the Mustangs. The Miners scored 60 points in the second half and had 19 rebounds, while the Mustangs scored 31 points and had 15 rebounds. The Miners also had 19 assists and 13 turnovers, while the Mustangs had 10 assists and 15 turnovers.

The Miners will meet the winner between North Carolina-Wilmington (29-1 season) and Western New Mexico this past Friday. The Miners will be home for the entire season with the first two league opponents for the third season. The Miners will have a three-game C-USA road swing from Jan. 20-27 (at UTSA, Middle Tennessee (away), Old Dominion (road)). The Miners will have a three-game C-USA road swing from Jan. 20-27 (at UTSA, Middle Tennessee (away), Old Dominion (road)).

The Miners join Appalachian State, Eastern Michigan, with games scheduled for November and December.

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Women’s basketball season features a new era

The Prospector

Women’s basketball season features a new era

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

Last season not only marked the end of coach Keitha Adams' tenure with the UTEP women’s basketball program, but it also came with the graduation of 571 point-scorer and program, but it also came with the end of coach Keitha Adams’ tenure last season and her 18 points per game ranked fourth in C-USA during the 2016-17 campaign. This season is different. The Miners will have a new coach guiding the hardwood this season along with another lone senior—Kevin Baker and Tamara Seda. Baker became the eighth head coach in program history, with the regular season concluding at home against conference foe Western Kentucky on March 3, 2018.

"We are focusing on a new defensive scheme that will help us get the stops we need," Baker said after his team’s season opener against the Don Haskins Center. "The Miners will have a total of 14 home games this season. The season opener at the Don Haskins Center this Saturday, Nov. 11, will be against CSU Bakersfield, with the regular season concluding at home against conference foe Western Kentucky on March 3, 2018.

On Nov. 30, the team will face rival New Mexico State at the Don Haskins, and on Dec. 10, the Miners will continue the Battle of I-10 rivalry series when they travel to face the New Mexico State Aggies in Las Cruces.

The Miners will open up Conference USA play on the road as they face Florida International on Jan. 5, 2018, with the conference home opener coming against Charlotte at noon on Jan. 11, 2018. The C-USA championship tournament will begin on March 7, 2018, with championship action concluding on March 10, 2018 at The Star in Frisco, Texas.

The biggest hurdle for the Miners this season will be how long it will take for the team to figure out the defensive scheme. "We are focusing on a new defensive scheme that will help us get the stops we need," Alexander said. "Defensively, we need to work on our defense and rotations."

The Miners will have their hands full as they face two preseason All-WAC team senior Jasmine Barthe and senior Aja Williams for their season opener this Saturday afternoon against Cal State-Bakersfield at the Don Haskins Center.

Williams as a junior averaged 11 points, four rebounds and scored 35 points against the University of California, Berkeley, last season in the 86-63 loss. She tied the Cal-State Bakersfield school record for the most 3-point field goals in a game with nine against the Golden Bears. The 5-foot-10 forward will look to continue her shooting streak this season.

Bartee was named second-team All-Conference and was selected to the WAC’s All-Defensive Team last year. The 6-foot-2 Bartee broke the school record for most blocks in a season with 74 in 2016-17, and will look to bring her defensive attitude as her team prep for UTEP. Tip-off against the Roadrunners is scheduled for 1 p.m.

The Miners tip-off the 2017-18 season against CSU-Bakersfield this Saturday afternoon at the Don Haskins Center.

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Adams’ last season with the Miners was really impressive with that. "We are focusing on a new defensive scheme that will help us get the stops we need," Baker said after his team’s season opener against CSU Bakersfield, with the regular season concluding at home against conference foe Western Kentucky on March 3, 2018.

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The Miners return eight players from last season. Seda led the team in scoring with 9.6 points per game with an average of nine rebounds a game, also a team best last season. Returning Miners include junior guard and forward Naja Howell, sophomore forward Jakara Ford, senior forward Seda, sophomore guard Katrina Zec, sophomore guard Faith Cook, sophomore guard Rachel Tapp, sophomore guard Roeshonda Patterson and sophomore forward Zymere Price.

One of the new faces, freshman guard Jordan Jenkins, will look to have an impact in the offense. Jenkins has started at the guard position for the Miners in their exhibition games. Jenkins was a three-time district MVP and defensive player of the year, helping Buffalo High School (Buffalo, Texas) earn runner-up honors in the 2017 Texas UIL 3A playoffs.

Junior guard and forward Jordan Alexander, junior forward Arizona Gill, junior guard Neidy Ocuane and Jenkins are the newest Miners. Gill and Ocuane are slated to be red-shirted this year.

"A lot of kids early in the season don’t know each other very well and they will walk away from a tough situation," Baker said after his team’s recent exhibition loss against St. Mary’s University. "And our kids today fought back a little bit. Which is a testament to their great character. I was really impressed with that."

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-Jordan Alexander, Junior guard and forward

The Miners will be tested early as they face Arkansas from the SEC in the opener of the sixth-annual Thanksgiving Classic at the Don Haskins Center on Nov. 25. The Miners will then face Texas Southern in the opener this Saturday afternoon at the Don Haskins Center.

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Harris will lead Miners in 2017-18 with high expectations

BY MIKE FLORES

The Prospector

With eight newcomers (five of them being freshmen), the departures of Kelvin Jones and Joey St. Pierre and the loss of All-Conference second teamer in Dominic Artis from last year, the Miners will be looking at one basketball player that has brought consistency and much-needed leadership for the Minors—senior guard and captain Omega Harris.

In his time with UTEP, Harris has scored a total of 1,041 points (11.8 points per game), has made the seventh-most three-pointers in school history (128 3-pointers), and has 96 total steals, needing just three assists to tie his own program history. Harris scored a total of 1,041 points in 88 games with the Miners in three seasons.

Senior guard and team captain Omega Harris has scored 1,041 points in 88 games with the Miners in three seasons.

SERGIO MUNOZ / THE PROSPECTOR

For many, Harris is the offense at the point guard position—a go-to scorer, but will also need to run point guard from Bethany, Okla., be UTEP's top scorer in 14 games. Due to his leadership for the Miners—senior guard and captain Omega Harris.

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Harris said that it's really clear what is being asked of him this year on the defensive side of the ball and that he is going for the Defensive Player of the Year award. With a lot of added pressure on Harris' shoulders for his final season with the Miners, he has never been more ready to lead a group than he is now.

"You're going to see a more composed guard, see more assists and less turnovers. Of course, everyone is still going to see the scoring from me, too. But the fans are really going to see the leader that I can be," Harris said. "Being more vocal, taking over and helping my team to do what it takes to win. All the coaches have been in my ear so I know what they want from me."

"There is no ceiling for this team. I feel like we have all the talent and the right pieces. We added a senior transfer guard whom a vet with a very high IQ in Keith Frazier, we also have Matt (Willems) down low and Paul Thomas back," Harris said. "I want to win conference and take UTEP back to the NCAA tournament to finish my senior year."
Miners stay on road against UNT

The UTEP footbal team has beaten North Texas in two consecutive seasons.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

Miners hope to set aside a ‘rough weekend’ as they go against UNT. At 0-9, there’s not much left to resurrect from the Miners’ crucifixion of a season.

Here’s a stat for the books: UTEP is one of just two wireless teams in all of FBS. The only other team is Georgia Southern, the Sun Belt-affiliated team that actually has been in arms’ reach with their league opponents, giving them some hope at a win down the line.

UTEPO’s chances at a win, on the other hand, look slim as the team takes on North Texas (6-3) this Saturday, then LA Tech (4-5) at home and UAB (6-3) to close off the year.

‘Not a happy camper right now: Not going like we thought it would be,” interim head coach Mike Price said.

First, the Miners have to shake off a 30-3 loss to Middle Tennessee that Price called “a rough trip.” Against the Blue Raiders, the Miners gained just 137 total yards of offense and just put up a field goal in the game. To make matters worse, starting running back Quadraiz Wadley, who just returned to the gridiron from a knee injury, suffered a clavicle injury to his neck and is out for this week against North Texas.

Quarterback Ryan Metz also has a sore shoulder and the coaches will be “analyzing” who will be starting at quarterback this week, according to Price.

‘Rough weekend, rough trip,” Price said. “I don’t think we moved a step forward, I think we took a step back as a team. A loss we want to forget as soon as possible.”

The loss and lack of offense set the Miners back to the worst team in the country for total offense, averaging just 213.0 yards per game. They’re the second-worst team in scoring, averaging 11.4 points a game. To make matters worse, starting running back Mason Fine, who is second in C-USA for passing yards per game (288.8), passing yards (2,599) and is tied for first in passing touchdowns (18).

“I don’t think we moved a step forward, I think we took a step back as a team.

–Mike Price, interim head coach

“He’s a sophomore, but he’s a really good player,” Price said. “You have to stop Mason Fine.”

This North Texas team also likes to score points. They currently average 35.9 points per contest, which ranks them second best in the league.

Their defensive pressure will require much defensive attention because of their air raid attack. They are led by sophomore quarterback Mason Fine, who is second in C-USA for passing yards per game (288.8), passing yards (2,599) and is tied for first in passing touchdowns (18).

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Their defensive pressure will also be an issue for the Miners as they like to bring up safeties close to the line and aggressively attack their opponents.

“Defense is different than anything we’ve seen,” Price said.

While North Texas is hunting for their program’s first-ever spot in the C-USA championship, the Miners will fight for their first win of the season.

Kickoff will be at 3 p.m. MT and will be televised on ESPn 3.