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The Prospector, February 15, 2011

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Back on Winning Track
Miners rebound from loss from 3-game losing skid
Sports • 7

King of the Hill
Miners stay on top of C-USA

By William Vega
The Prospector

The versatility of SMU was ready to spell trouble for the Miners but down the stretch, it was the depth of head coach Tim Floyd's bench that outplayed the Mustangs 67-57 in front of 10,213 fans, Feb. 12.

"It's a team that can hurt you from so many different areas," Floyd said. "They put you in so many situations where you have to double him and decide where you are going to help from."

UTEP (19-5, 7-2 Conference USA) ran out to an early 10-2 advantage within the first three minutes of the game but SMU (15-9, 8-4 C-USA) showed why they are the number one three-point shooting team in the conference. The Mustangs, a team that has overcome four 11-plus-point deficits this season, rebounded from their early flaws with a 20-8 run. Led by 5-foot 10-inch guard Jeremiah Samarripas, SMU went 5 of 6 from three-point range during the run. But Floyd's Miners turned up the defense forcing the Mustangs to miss their last three-pointers of the half en route to a 36-32 halftime lead.

"We got a better feel of their offense," Floyd said. "This is one of the most sophisticated offenses in our league. By guarding it for a half our guys got a better sense of it." The Miners lock-down defense overlapped into the second half forcing SMU to go 2-9 from the three-point range while forcing eight more turnovers.

"We had a couple of their's early but we knew not to fall into that trap," guard Christian Polk said. "We know we can knock down three's and get baskets whenever we want. Everybody did a good job turning up the defense and backing down in the second-half"

Floyd used a barrage of big men to contain 6-foot 9-inch forward Papa Dia allowing his defense to focus on shutting down the three. Junior forward Gabriel McCulley avoided foul-trouble and came off the bench to help shut down Dia.

"I tried to get underneith him a couple of times and get some stops on him because their offense runs through him," McCulley said. "I tried to play a box-in-one on him and get him out of the game. We had to make stops on the defensive end and they all came through Papa Dia and that's what I tried to do."

Once the ball was in their hands, UTEP used accurate shooting and solid ball-control to eliminate missed opportunities. The Miners went 10-19 in the second half while...
Can videogames ever be taken seriously?

Ubisoft, the third largest multi-platform publisher announced Feb. 7 that they will release the third game in the "Call of Juarez" series, developed by Techland. The latest entry, "Call of Juarez: The Cartel," allows the gamer, as the press release says, to "embark on a bloody road trip from Los Angeles to Juárez, Mexico, immersing yourself in a gritty plot with interesting characters and a wide variety of game play options."

Very little, aside from a vague press release and a few screenshots (which really look more like concept art) has even been released on the game. However, just the idea of this game seems to be an affront to everyone here, including the media, which has lumped the game in with the Final Fantasy stone game, "Smuggle Truck: Operation Immigration." Fox News Latino even in- terviewed UPFR's professor of political science, Kathleen Staudt, who said that this game is the last thing citizens of Mexico need.

But when movies or television shows are made about this topic, we herald them. But that's because they are movies and this is a game, right? Games are for kids, right?

Take movies like "No Country for Old Men" or "Kill Bill" (either volume), both of which have multiple characters get shot to death in our own wondrous city. "No Country for Old Men" has one of its major characters get shot to death in the doorway of his hotel room and an innocent woman killed in the pool. "Kill Bill" includes a church filled with people who get assassinated and an injured pregnant woman who barely escapes. The gets to go to a hospital in El Paso… where she is in a coma and gets raped repeatedly during her stay.

Luckily, they do actually show any of this on screen, they usually just cut to the carnage after it is done. That is much better than having a game that has you shoot a group of computer-generated pixels to death. I mean, you see that entire pixel-on-pixel carnage and that is something I don't think anyone could probably take. Especially the children since this might just be the first time anyone hears about violence in Juárez. The very same children that are probably also not 17 yet, which means they cannot actually get the (most-likely) mature-rated game… unless their parents buy it for them (because obviously a game called "Call of Juárez: The Cartel"

"You think kids are going to read and/or buy a game called Call of Juárez: The Cartel" with a man holding a gun on the cover won't set off any warning signs at all), they have some type of credit/debit card (which means they are probably 17 already), or they use their parents' credit card (which means playing a violent videogame is probably the least of their problems).

If people are worried that adults playing this game might get the wrong idea about Juárez, I'm relatively sure that most people that do not live close to the border already have the wrong idea about Juárez. Every day, the news brings stories about the real people who are murdered over there and the real violence. Complaining about a videogame demonizing a group of people that the local and national news have already done a pretty good job of demonizing is utterly idiotic. Anyone is doing is continuing to demonize videogames (including "The El Paso Times") in their own special half-ass way, using entire articles on a tiny press release.

After saying all this, do I think this game is in poor taste? Absolutely, this will be an epic PR nightmare for Ubisoft. I'm probably dumb to expect a game that could represent the violence in a sensitive way. But hey, we could hope, right? That is the only way the medium will ever be taken seriously.

"Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector
Texas politicians preach smaller government

BY DAVID ACOSTA

WASHINGTON--Americans have had enough of government spending and federal deficits. This was the message delivered by two of Texas’ best-known politicians Feb. 11 at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Using national health care as an example of how the federal government has expanded, Gov. Rick Perry said the plan passed by Congress was unconstitutional and “a train wreck.”

“If he ran for president, I’d have to look more into his record but I’d consider it,” Perry should run for president.

Greg Koontz, 48, a lawyer from Charlotte Hall, Maryland, who was in the audience, said while he has been a supporter of Paul for some time, he believes Perry would have a better chance at a presidential bid.

“I liked his speech. There is too much government meddling, particularly from Washington,” Koontz said.

While Perry did not seem to have the same crowd support, he spoke firmly about what it is he believes the American people want from the federal government.

“Americans are fed up with this so-called progressive movement,” Perry said. “That very long ago set aside the people’s interests in favor of expanding government and raising taxes.”

He devoted a large part of his time to the merits of the 10th Amendment, which guarantees states’ rights. Americans want a “less intrusive” government, which guarantees states’ rights.

“If he ran for president, I’d have to look more into his record but I’d consider it,” Perry, who is believed to be considering a run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012, did not stop to acknowledge his would-be supporter, nor did he make any comment on his future political aspirations.

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“On this, or any other area of government overreach, we must be united in sending a clear and simple message to Washington. Enough!” the Republican governor said.

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New provost aims to reach tier-one status

BY DIANA ARRIETA
The Prospector

UTEP officials announced the appointment of Junius Gonzales as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, effective Feb. 1.

Gonzales was dean and professor of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida.

“I see that the overarching role of the provost and vice president for academic affairs at UTEP is to provide a collaborative leadership that cuts across all functions and contributes to developing, enhancing and sustaining academic programs and research/scholarship for an enterprise of higher education that exhibits excellence and distinction,” Gonzales said.

As the university continues their quest to reach tier-one status, the role of provost will play a critical part. UTEP is one of six emerging universities vying for tier-one status.

Some of the criteria for reaching that status includes that a university must graduate a minimum of 200 doctoral students annually, satisfy certain academic standards and expend at least $45 million in restricted research funds. The other universities aiming for tier-one status include Texas Tech, University of Houston, University of North Texas, UT Arlington, UT Dallas and UT San Antonio.

“UTEP is recognized as a national leader in creating synergies between excellence and access, and we look very much forward to working with him over the next several years to accelerate our progress toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st century demographic,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said in a press release.

It is through leadership and strong commitment to the university that strategic plans will be developed to help UTEP advance in its mission.

“UTEP is one of six entering universities aiming for tier-one status. Some of the criteria for reaching that status includes that a university must graduate a minimum of 200 doctoral students annually, satisfy certain academic standards and expend at least $45 million in restricted research funds. The other universities aiming for tier-one status include Texas Tech, University of Houston, UT Arlington, UT Dallas and UT San Antonio.

“The provost’s staff works to support the duties and responsibilities of the president and may direct centers for teaching and learning, support the development of undergraduate and graduate curricula, direct faculty credentialing efforts, help faculty and student grievances and develop physical and software infrastructures that support the efforts of faculty and students at the university.”

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“My new job will be a part of fighting cancer,” Cortez said.

Besides learning about the way organizations in the community are helping meet the needs of El Paso, students are able to use the event for networking purposes.

“Getting involved with Project MOVE you get to meet professors, faculty, staff and even deans. It can help you establish relationships. Keeping yourself involved can help with future careers or with life in general,” said Krystal Reyes, senior communications major.

“The University’s effort to become a tier-one university goes beyond academia. President (Diana) Natalicio challenges every office, department, student and faculty member to be the best it can be, and that includes civic engagement,” Aragon said.

According to Gloria, president of the Student Government Association, UTEP has an edge over other UT System universities when it comes to civic engagement.

“When I go to Austin, we’re supposed to report on what kinds of community service universities do,” Gloria said. “We’re one of the few that actually do something throughout the year.”

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Union Cinema plays critically acclaimed films for $1

BY JACKIE DEVINE

The Prospector

Between rushing to classes and grabbing lunch on the go it’s easy for students to overlook the unobtrusive, inconspicuous theater on the first floor of Union Building East. For many students, the Union Cinema, which screens both independent films and blockbusters at a discounted price, is still an undiscovered campus treasure.

The Cinema Novo Film Society—a group of UTEP students and faculty who decides what to play at the Union Cinema—screens films that usually fly under the Hollywood blockbuster radar. Independent films, documentaries, art house films and even old classics are shown at the Union Cinema. This month “Fair Game,” starring Academy Award nominee Naomi Watts and Academy Award winner Sean Penn will play. In the future, they plan to show “The King’s Speech” and “Black Swan,” which are currently nominated for Academy Awards.

“We use the Union Cinema to show films that may have been overlooked at the bigger cinemas around town,” said Gustavo Barraza, student film co-director and senior history major. “For example, when you go to Tinseltown there’s like 10 to 15 movies on the marquee and some of the smaller movies have pretty obscure names or titles, and so the normal movie goer will simply dismiss them and go with something with a flashier name like ‘Iron: Legacy.”

For regular moviegoers, seeing a film at the Union Cinema is just like going to see a film at some of the bigger movie theaters.

“It’s a very friendly environment and there are concessions like popcorn,” said Becky Montes, program coordinator for UTEP Special Events. “It’s the whole movie experience, plus tickets are cheap and the location is very convenient, since it’s right on campus.”

Students are charged $1 to see films, while tickets for the general public cost $2. Parking is not a problem, since most films are screened after 5 p.m.

“What can be better than meeting new people, watching great movies at a low price and getting easy access to parking?” said Oscar Moreno, student film coordinator and junior creative writing major. “The UTEP community needs to utilize this cinema. It’s too good to go unnoticed.”

The Cinema Novo Film Society wants its audience to grow to include anyone who has a love and appreciation for films. The film society was originally created for students interested in studying cinema, but encourages participation from all members of the El Paso community. According to Barraza, the Union Cinema’s setting and location is more inclined to creating conversation about films, unlike larger theaters.

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Reviews

Profoundly simple, ‘The Sunset Limited’ is a masterpiece

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector

Take Cormac McCarthy’s interpretation of chaos and mix in a modern setting with Samuel L. Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones and the result is the masterful “The Sunset Limited.”

Directed by Jones and using a single apartment room as its only setting, this adaptation of the McCarthy play of the same name at times felt like the best parts of the ABC series, “LOST.” Jones plays an unnamable suicidal professor who, before the start of the movie, tried to take his own life by jumping in front of the Sunset Limited, a commuter train in New York City. Jackson is the ex-convict who rescued Jones and now takes up the challenge of making the suicidal professor not try to jump in front of the Limited.

What follows is something that re minded me of the play “Night, Moth ers,” written by Marsha Norman. In that play, a daughter tells her mother that at the end of the night she’ll commit suicide and the mother tries to talk the girl out of it. Like that play, “The Sunset Limited” sets up a sort of chess match between the two men and has the viewers watch as each man tries to refute the other’s point.

Jones and Jackson’s characters are rooted firmly in their stances on des ertion and religion. Jackson’s convict believes that God does not want him to take his own life and Jones’ professor doubts the existence of a higher power and finds the world a breeding ground for nothing but misery.

The last film that Jones directed was the incredible “The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada.” That film, a complex morality tale with an un compromising view of the west, demon estrated that he possessed the same directorial prowess of John Huston and Sam Peckinpah. This McCarthy adaptation contains the same complex morality of that film, while still providing a similar uncompromising view of the setting (this time, a ghetto neighborhood in New York City). The only times that the outside world comes into contact with the two men are when the neighbors are shooting. Some could criticize this movie as a dialogue that two drunk and possi bly stooped philosophy students might have in their dorm room one night. However, hearing lines about that demonstrate Apollonian and Dionysian theory come from the mouths of Jackson and Jones as they argue about the notion of an all-seeing higher power that seemingly allows chaos is something that is incredible to watch.

Watching these two actors at the height of their careers delivering monologues written by the author of “Blood Meridian” is completely worth the price of a subscription to HBO. Comparing this release to the recent theatrical offerings, I don’t un derstand why this could not get some other type of theatrical debut, just due to the craft of Jackson and Jones.

“The Sunset Limited” is the first great movie of the year and it is avail able at home on your television as long as you have a subscription to HBO.

5 out of 5 picks.

Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
“Since we are at the union, there’s a lot of sofas and comfy couches where people can sit on and hang out before the movie. They don’t have to stand in line or on a corner, they can sit, relax and hopefully start up conversations with the stranger next to them,” Barraza said. “In that way, it is very different from the big cinemas, you basically go there with friends and aren’t really given an opportunity to chat it up with strangers. Big cinemas can be pretty hostile places for conversationalists.”

The Cinema Novo spring schedule lasts through April 30. For movie listings, visit utepspecialevents.com.

Jackie Devine may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

CINEMA from page 5

Unstoppable

DVD/Blu-ray
MSRP: $34.99

Denzel Washington and Captain James T. Kirk (aka Chris Pine) face off against an unstoppable train. Things get wrecked and Tony Scott adds in really nauseating effects.

Last Tango in Paris

Blu-Ray
MSRP

A release of a movie that haunted its stars due to the sex scenes they filmed. If you want to see Marlon Brando screw someone the age of his granddaughter and never think of but- ter the same way. This is one movie for you.

Network

Blu-Ray

Yet another re-release of an old movie on Blu-Ray. This movie features the classic line “I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore.” It also has the less famous (as in not at all famous) line, “Good morning, Mr. Beale. They tell me you’re a madman.” If I allow myself a second to not be snarky, “Network” is a really great movie. Okay, that non-snarky moment is over.

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Films

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Classifieds
Brown's big game lifts Miners

The UTEP Miners finally found their way out of their losing trend Feb. 13 beating the Tulane Green Wave 65-61 at the Don Haskins Center.

"We've been working on (turn-overs) and we did a better job on that," head coach Keitha Adams said. "I thought we played hard and our team is showing a lot of character and fight. I'm real proud of them." Adams noted.

The Miners (13-10, 3-6 Conference USA) committed only 12 turnovers against the Green Wave (17-7, 6-5 C-USA) at home compared to their 21 against UAB Feb. 6 and 33 at Tulane Jan. 30.

The difference maker against the Green Wave was forward Gloria Brown who contributed with 21 point and 17 rebounds in just 19 minutes. "Today we had 21 rebounds from seven defense (and) ties her for the seventh-highest in a game in program history," Adams added. "That's what motivated me to be the one-two punch of Randy and that will to play and compete in the way I go at it," Brown said. "I just think every shot is a miss and that's the way I go at it, " Brown said. "I'm real proud of them."

"I thought we played hard and our team is showing a lot of character and fight. I'm real proud of them," head coach Keitha Adams said. "Today we had 21 rebounds from seven defense (and) ties her for the seventh-highest in a game in program history," Adams added. "That's what motivated me to be the one-two punch of Randy and that will to play and compete in the way I go at it," Brown said. "I just think every shot is a miss and that's the way I go at it, " Brown said. "I'm real proud of them."

"When (Brown) gets the ball I always know to dive and that off-post needs to get the ball," Brown said. "I just try and do a little team work and we have a connection where we can just find each other and get an easy basket." For her efforts Feb. 13, Brown was named C-USA Co-Player of the Week, being the second time this year she has received this award.

Next up for the Miners is a showdown at Rice at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 in Houston.

Profile

Double threat plays on the field and court

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA AND SAL GUERRERO

The Prospector

Standout athletes are a dime a doz- en at the collegiate ranks, but to find a player who can excel at more than one major sport, that’s left to only the hardest working players. Standing at 6 feet 5 inches tall, freshman Kevin Perry has used his size to find a spot on both the football and basketball team at UTEP.

Coming out of Houston Westbury Christian High School in Oakpoo sa, Louisiana, Perry was selected for the All-State basketball team as a forward and was all-district in football as a de- fensive end and wide receivers.

As a multi-sport athlete, it took a certain type of demeanor for Perry to succeed at the prep level.

"I think a lot of it has to do with growing up, being around the envi- ronment of a bunch of coaches, not just the basketball coaches, and that will to play and compete in anything I’m doing," Perry said. "It’s having a lot of people around me that didn’t accept failure and didn’t accept me not trying to compete. I think that’s what motivated me to be the athlete I am now."

As outstanding power forward, he was rated as the best big man in Texas by Hoop Scoop Online and was posted as the no. 97 power forward in the country by Scouts, Inc.

Perry began his career as a Miner playing football under head coach Mike Price as a tight end. He sat out during the 2009 season due to a knee injury but in the 2010 season he saw significant playing time in all 12 games.

But now with football season over, Perry has had to transition from the gridiron to the hardwood, a feat that has not been an easy one for the freshman.

"The transition, conditioning-wise, was terrible, but I was thankful I was able to do both sports, I love to play, and I didn’t want to pass up the op- portunity that was provided to me," Perry said. "It’s something I love, so I don’t mind doing it at the same time." Price and basketball head coach Tim Floyd have agreed to allow Perry to participate in both sports, expect- ing a lot from him.

"I felt he could help the basketball team. I think they’re impressed with his attitude and his athletic ability," Price said. "I think the kid can play basketball and football. I don’t know if he’s going to be an NBA player, I think he’s got a better chance to be an NFL player. It’s not really going to help him to play football and basket- ball. But he’s a heck of an athlete.

As for Floyd, he does recognize Perry’s athletic ability, but has his de- mands as well.

"I think ultimately he can help us at some point. He missed so many post games, it’s been difficult to get him out there and try that stuff," Floyd said.

"He’s got a lot of potential, but he’s got a lot of learning to do. He and I have the same thought process, he’s going to have a role on the court and we’re going to see how it goes."

The Green Wave trailed most of the first half, cutting the lead with a few big shots from Barnes but they closed the game down 30-22. Tulane was a second half team, chomping away at the Miners lead. The Green Wave went 13-for-27 from the floor and thanks to Asido hitting a 3-pointer with 8:31 left in the sec- ond they cut the lead to 43-41.

But the Miners prevailed with Brown and forward Ashley Milian contributing most to the teams sec- ond half effort. Milian finished the game with 14 points and eight re- bounds, eight of her points came in the second half.

Milan and Brown led against Tulane Feb. 6 and 33 at Tulane Jan. 30.

Perry has found a spot on the basketball team after being recruited to play football by head coach Mike Price.

Despite these minor setbacks, it has been the one-two punch of Randy Culpepper and Julyan Stone that has saved the team. On Jan. 22, Culpep- per scored a team-high of 18 points, but it was Julyan Stone’s three-pointer with 19 seconds left that sealed the game for UTEP at Houston. On Jan. 26, Stone dished out six of his seven assists and racked up nine of his 10 rebounds to spark their second-half comeback win against Tulane. Cul- pepper scored 29 points and almost gave the Miners the game-winning three-pointer during their loss to Tulsa Jan. 29. Stone scored a career-high of 23 points to help UTEP hold off Rice Feb. 5.

The two will also be remembered in the record books because of this season. On Dec. 12, Stone recorded his 565th assist in a victory over Ar- kansas-Pine Bluff to become UTEP’s all-time assist leader. On Dec. 15, Culpepper scored 18 points against Louisiana-Monroe to pass Brandon

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only giving the ball up four times in the final 20 minutes. When the Miners caught up, they never looked back. With the game tied at 52, Randy Culpepper found an open Julyan Stone from three-point range giving the Miners their first lead of the second-half. UTEP never trailed from that point finishing 8-8 from the free-throw line.

The Miners built a bit of separation for themselves in the C-USA standings, moving SMU to one-and-a-half games behind them. UTEP has now played at least one game less than the rest of their C-USA opponents leading up to a demanding schedule the rest of the way.

UTEP has only three games left on the road starting with the current fourth place C-USA team, Southern Miss Feb. 16. The Golden Eagles (18-6, 7-4 C-USA) trail the Miners by only one game in the C-USA standings but Floyd talked of his return home to Hattiesburg, Mississippi during the Miner’s practice Feb. 14. "My father coached there and was there when they opened the building," Floyd said. "Some of my best memories are in that building but I've dealt with all those sentimental parts of it. It's always fun to go back home. That's my second home."

Floyd will also have a former assistant awaiting him in Southern Miss head coach Larry Eustachy. Floyd hired Eustachy as an assistant coach for his staff at Idaho from 1986-87 and was succeeded by Eustachy at Iowa State following Floyd's stint from 1994-98. The two will meet for the first time since 1991. "He talks a lot of smack and trash and it won't be fun to get beat by him," Floyd said. "I'm very proud of him, respect him, like him and admire him. He's helped me too, he's evolved and we have as well so it will be just getting ready for another opponent." Eustachy's team is lead by the second-highest scorer in C-USA with forward Gary Flowers averaging 19.9 points per game. As he has done all year, Julyan Stone may be a key factor to closing down his opponent’s top scorer.

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