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Women's Basketball
Successful year starts with simple philosophy

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Even on the brink of the second regular season championship in program history, head coach Keitha Adams is sticking to her philosophy: to take it one game at a time and not worry about the future.

"You start thinking about other things and looking off and all and that's how you stub your toe," Adams said. "We just focus on the team and the opponent we're playing and let everything else fall into place. I think it's a good philosophy."

Adams said she gained this mentality from one of her previous coaches and has lived by it her entire tenure at UTEP.

Eleven years and 179 wins later, Adams stands as the most successful Miner head coach in terms of wins, wins in a season and overall record, to name a few; meaning her philosophy may have some sustenance to it. Some players, such as sophomore guard Kelli Willingham, already had that mentality in their head prior to being recruited by Adams.

"As a player, that's what you're supposed to do anyways. You're never supposed to look ahead, just take it game by game, so I'm used to it," Willingham said. "I've always been taught that. You can't just look past people."

Others had to adopt it, which they have credited to this year's 24-2 overall and 13-0 conference record.

"Actually it's not difficult being taught like that just to look at the next game and not at what will happen," junior forward Kristine Vitola said. "You just have to take it game by game and that's how it is in basketball. You lose one, than you look at the next one."

"I think that a big part of the problem is that you've had someone in D.C. for so long that they've lost touch with El Paso," O'Rourke said. "You may have someone up there with the seniority and the relationships, which can be beneficial, but why then is it that our Veteran's Affairs system ranks the worst in the country? Why do we have terrible long bridge lines that affect jobs and the economy here in El Paso?"

Reyes has been advertising himself as a candidate who works, literally, with his "Reyes Works" campaign. According to Reyes, he has worked to see politics on page 4

Candidates fighting for congressional seat

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE
The Prospector

With Beto O'Rourke taking on incumbent Silvestre Reyes, who has 16 years in office as El Paso's congressional representative, the local Democratic primary is becoming what some describe as a heated and exciting campaign.

"I am really fired up about this upcoming congressional primary because it's been a while since the last time we had a heated race in the 16th district," said Julio Diaz, senior Latin American and border studies major.

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Ron Paul is wrong for students

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

Ron Paul is wrong for students

On Feb. 7

The Prospector published a letter to the editor titled “Why so much support for Ron Paul at UTEP?” In all honesty, when I read the title of the letter prior to publication, the first thought that entered my mind was “finally.”

As an aspiring journalist, I have been trying to practice objectivity and I believe I’m able to stay objective because I can’t see how certain issues affect me personally. But when it comes to the topic of Ron Paul and how much support UTEP students seem to be giving him, I can’t help but have an opinion, especially since I would be directly affected if he were elected President.

Paul has stated on the campaign trail that he would do away with federal aid. From a realist’s perspective, and from the point of view of a student whose only source of funding for school is federal student loans, I know that this is just not the reality of modern-day America.

His first point is that it is a family’s responsibility, not the federal government, which shows me that Paul has obviously never been in our shoes. His idea would work in a perfect world, but our reality is that families are never perfect. Not every parent thinks about starting a college fund and not every parent plans the perfect life for their child.

Our reality is that a lot of us come from broken families, families with a single parent, families of immigrants who are happy enough if you even finish high school. It’s completely unrealistic to assume that every family will do what they can to get a student through college.

Paul’s plan is a theory that may work out in the long run, but I’m thinking of the here and now. All I know is that I need to finish school, and I want to continue on to graduate school. I know I won’t be able to do that without federal aid.

People say that federal aid is not the only way to get a student loan, but it is for sure the most student friendly. Payments can be capped at 10 percent of your income, and remaining debt will be forgiven after 20 years. For a student who has no choice but to deal with student loans, that actually sounds like a good deal.

I really feel that students who vote for Paul are just shooting themselves in the foot. No matter how often he says he cares about young people and our generation, I don’t believe him.

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Who are you going to vote for in the El Paso's congressional representative elections?

Photos by Justin Stene, Bob Corral and Greg Castillo

CARLOS DIAZ
Junior criminal justice major
"Jerome Tilghman, because he has a cool name and I'm an uneducated voter."

ALLIE VON GLAHN
Sophomore speech language pathology major
"I'm not voting because I'm registered out of state."

JAZZ MASOUD
Junior special education major
"I recently met Beto O'Rourke. He supports a lot of LGBT issues, his policy on drugs is reasonable and he's willing to take risks for what is right."

DANIELA REYES
Sophomore psychology major
"I don't follow it."

MICKEY PEDROZA
Senior art major
"I just know Reyes and O'Rourke, so I'm ignorant to the subject."

JORDAN HARTSHORN
Junior political science major
"Not Beto O'Rourke, not Reyes and I'm not well enough informed on the other two."

JEREMY BLANDIN
Instructional specialist graduate student
"I suppose Silvestre Reyes. I like the fact he's trying to clean up the city and make it more advertisable."

LLUVIA ALMANZA
Junior theatre major
"I will vote for Silvestre Reyes. I can tell he cares about El Paso and its people."

LUIS AMADAR
Junior digital media major
"Honestly, I'm not familiar enough to make an overall decision."

JESSICA GARCIA
Senior biology science major
"I'll vote for Silvestre Reyes, he's been there for close to 20 years, so he must be doing something right."

ADAM VALLES
Senior pre-engineering major
"Silvestre Reyes has been in office for a while, I think I will vote for him."

MARIANA SOTELO
Freshman international business major
"I'm not a U.S. citizen and I can't vote."

ALAN GARCIA
Senior organization communication major
"There's not a lot of propaganda or campaign material out there. I feel like not everyone is informed of what's going on. I'd rather not vote."

LAURA CUEVA
Sophomore education major
"I will vote for Beto O'Rourke, because of his focus on the future and our youth."

MARCO LOPEZ
Sophomore digital media production major
"To be honest, I don't know who the candidates are. I don't think I'll want to vote not being 100 percent informed of what's going on."
get more than $6 million in funding to improve the UTEP campus, $128 million for road construction projects and more than $1 billion to build the new William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Reyes promotes himself as a seasoned candidate who knows who to work within Congress to better the situation for El Paso’s middle class. “I stand with President Obama, thank him for his leadership and implore him to continue to fight for working-middle-class Americans. I also stand committed to helping the President protect Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and veterans’ benefits to ensure that our heroes and some of the most vulnerable groups in our society have the support they need,” Reyes said in a recent statement.

O’Rourke is challenging the incumbent as a young politician with fresh ideas, which is something that attracts voters such as Luis Santos, senior history major. “Some things I’ve heard, and I’m taking a few liberties here, is that Reyes doesn’t show up to vote a lot and O’Rourke has called him out on that, that he spends more time in Washington than he does down here,” Santos said. “I believe that with that kind of attitude it’s demonstrating complacency with his position, it’s more of a privilege than a public duty to his constituents in his district. To me, I believe Beto O’Rourke would do a better job of listening to his constituents.”

O’Rourke is a former member of the El Paso City Council, where he was involved in such initiatives as helping draft an anti-minuteman resolution and the downtown revitalization plan. He also attracted controversy over his advocacy of using eminent domain in conjunction with the plan. O’Rourke believes that Reyes’ seniority has not produced much for El Paso.

“Well obviously I dispute that because I live here,” Reyes said. “Every week I commute to Washington D.C. to do the business of representing the 6th district in Washington D.C. I live here, I shop here, I meet here with people as much as I can, I know these issues firsthand.”

Reyes said his experience of working in this district makes him stand out in Congress when dealing with issues like border security.

“I think in terms of my background I’m the only member of Congress that has experience with border issues like border security and I have border policy experience out of all representatives,” Reyes said. “So I think it’s important to highlight my record and let people do the deciding.”

The fourth candidate, Ben Mendoza, a former educator and Army man, a former educator and Army man, is focused on bringing more jobs to the borderland to help increase El Paso’s tax base, one of his ideas is to build a transnational mirror from El Paso to Juarez that would take people up and down I-10.

“I really like to follow politics in general and would like to say this election is very important,” Santos said. “We have the first serious challenger to an incumbent in 16 years in the El Paso area.”

With four candidates in the running, Diaz said there is an array of issues that are important at multiple levels of government that the candidates should be ready for.

“At the state level, there are issues like redistricting, college tuition, the Dream Act, voter ID law and the prevention of immigration law enforcement by local police,” Diaz said. “At the federal level, issues such as immigration reform, union workers and their collective bargaining rights, the economy and the presidential election are also important for me, among many other issues.”

An upcoming debate for the candidates will take place at 7 p.m. March 1 at Canyons High School. The Texas primary election is scheduled for April 1.

El Paso has traditionally experienced low voter turnout. According to the El Paso County election summary report, the last time Reyes was on the ballot only 13.1 percent of all eligible voters cast their votes.

“Voter turnout is important, you have to do the tools to make a difference for your country and for your voting,” Santos said. “People don’t think it makes a difference — look, it can make a difference if Reyes is voted out and Tilghman or O’Rourke is voted in.”

Mike Loya donated $10 million to UTEP Oct. 19, the largest in the university’s history.

Mike Loya, El Paso native and UTEP alumnus, received the honor of having a building on campus named after him. The building students currently know as the Academic Services Building was renamed the Mike Loy Academic Services Building. The UT System Board of Regents approved the naming decision Feb. 9.

Last October, the university announced that Loya, who earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at UTEP in 1977, had pledged $10 million to support the development of integrated engineering and business education models. Loya also earned an MBA from Harvard University, and said he donated the money in the hopes of enhancing the preparation of students for successful 21st-century careers. He also hopes the funding will help students directly through scholarship programs.

“My very proud to be a strong supporter of the school,” Loya said. “UTEP was a key to my business career, and I’m happy to be able to give back to the school and help students get a solid start to their careers.”

According to UTEP President Di- mina Natale, the renaming of the Academic Services Building is a fit- ting tribute to Loya as it recognizes his exceptional achievements, gener- ous spirit and commitment to UTEP. During his career, Loya has worked at Esso Eastern, Tenneco Oil and Transocean, and is currently president of one of the world’s largest energy trading companies, Vitol Inc., which spans all of North and South America.

Loya grew up in El Paso and at- tended Burgess High School. He was the first in his family of seven younger brothers and sisters to earn a college degree.

“I wasn’t a first-generation college student, but I still think it’s a wonder- ful idea to congratulate him for being from El Paso and making it so big,” said Jorge Cardenas, sophomore communication major. “He’s defi- nitely a great role model for UTEP students.”

Students are benefiting from Loyals contribution through fellowships such as the Anita Modin Loya Graduate Fellows Program, which provides aid to graduate engineering students. The fellowship supports the practical application of the College of Engineering’s initiatives through entrepreneurship and provides start- ups for projects with technol- ogy-transfer potential. The money he donated aims to foster collaboration between the colleges and engineering and business.

All of these factors were taken into account when the decision was made to rename the Academic Services Building.

“I think, at first, the name change might be a bit confusing for stu- dents,” said Alejandra Dominguez, senior psychology major. “But when you look at the bigger picture, it’s totally appropriate to recognize a dis- tinguished alumnus for supporting UTEP.”

Loya’s goal is to help set an example for UTEP students to aim high and achieve their goals. Also, Loya hopes that other alumni will follow his lead and donate to the university.

“My hope is that my example of success inspires other students who have been successful as a result of this great university to also find ways to give back to the school and its stu- dents,” Loya said.

Rebecca Guerrero may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
This Means War’ means bromantic break down

By Andres Rodriguez
The Prospector

Directors McG's latest action flick takes a romantic turn in "This Means War," that is if you consider watching a relationship of two best friends coming to a near end over a girl, romantic.

It is as bad as it sounds, but not nearly as bad as it could have been. Following a streak of rom-coms decide who to stay with. Best friends, FDR and Tuck do everything together and their chemistry is so spot on that at times it makes better sense to have the two end up together instead. But also, Reese Witherspoon comes into the picture.

Witherspoon’s character, Laura is as dimwitted as they come. She is a catty, but assertive product analyst who left everything back home to be with her cheating boyfriend. Trying to regain control of her love life after a breakup and with the help of her friend, played by a show-stealing Chloë Grace Moretz, she joins an online dating site where she meets Tuck. Later she meets FDR and thus her dilemma begins. But to call it a dilemma would be glorifying things. This is clearly what the film wants to portray, but the implied expectation to feel sorry for her dating two attractive guys is a little far-fetched.

This marks Witherspoon's latest attempt at romantic comedies (previously "How do you Know"), and as talented an actress as she’s proven herself to be, her portrayal here is not helping the troubled sub-genre. With Katherine Heigl at the lead, the romantic comedy has taken to the trend of showcasing the work-savvy woman with a troubled love life; making for an overtly sentimental and weak portrayal of women, which I’m sure is more offensive than funny.

Written by Timothy Dowling (“Just Go With It”) and Simon Kinberg (“Sherlock Holmes”), the script is largely at fault for failing to mesh action, comedy and romance well. On their own, neither of the three elements are very well played out, less so together. But the film largely relies on McG’s fast paced direction to keep the film from flopping.

The action sequences are well-staged, but muddily cut. In the opening scene, where FDR and Tuck are on a mission to stop Heinrich (Til Schweiger) in Hong Kong, there are several blows and gun shots interchanged, of which we see little of. Nonetheless, the glass shattering, mandatory explosions and car chases are quickly paced and energetically driven.

As FDR and Tuck decide to let Laura choose between the two, they concur that her decision will not affect their friendship. Granted, realistic plot devices have long been discarded by this point, the idea that these two best friends will not budge to give their dearest “brother for life” the girl they just met, or be affected by any of this is just silly.

The film thrives on silliness, though. Tuck and Laura’s second date consists of a very well-lit, but random, trapzone session. And on a later date, Tuck brutally defeats an entire squad of innocent paint ball competitors while Laura watches in shock.

They all make for funny moments and to be certain it is a funny film. The premise, if not ridiculous, is entertaining to watch unfold as FDR and Tuck go at it to fight for the girl with their top-notch spy gear and sometimes followery banter.

Her image was used at the Proscperor's website.
Celebrities die to be remembered

BY OSCAR GARZA

The Prospector

Celebrity deaths seem to grace the covers of magazines, TV stations and newspapers almost immediately after their passing thanks to their status as public figures.

The recent death of pop star Whitney Houston Feb. 11 received news coverage from almost every news media outlet across the globe, which dedicated hundreds of pages and minutes to talk about the 48-year-old singer. The cause of her death is unknown as of Feb. 23.

When Michael Jackson died June 25, 2009 CNN and networks everywhere dedicated special coverage for his funeral. Many broadcasted the event live and created multiple montages dedicated to his life achievements.

Guillermina Nunez-Mchiri, assistant professor of anthropology, said the reason why these incidents are so fascinating to people is because they are directly in the spotlight.

“We want to know what happened to them and can connect with the artist, without having not knowing them. We mourn that we lost an extension of (Whitney)” Nunez said. “When artists bring music, art, we feel joy. It makes us human.

Steve Jobs whose battle with cancer ended Oct. 5, 2011, is only one of many recent celebrity deaths. Singer Etta James passed away Jan. 20 due to leukemia and actor Heath Ledger died due to a drug overdose Jan. 22, 2008. Both were successful artists who have not out lived their fame in their respective fields.

Oscar Lozoya, graduate student in anthropology, said the media turns these celebrities into consumer merchandise.

“These celebrities are products that make money, for TV stations, magazines, film industry, and these celebrities are sold as a product. They invest time and money in them because they will turn a profit.” Lozoya said.

For junior psychology major Ana Rodriguez it is the moments that are connected to the celebrities that make their deaths so advertised and remembered.

“I think everyone has had an external interaction with them, “ Rodriguez said. “We love Houston and James because their music is beautiful and speaks to everyone. Their songs are also used at weddings, and when people heard that they died, they instantly remember the special moments they had with their loved ones dancing to ‘At Last’ or ‘I will always love you.’”

Some people are often shocked when celebrities die, especially when they are young like in the case of Ledger.

Cynthia Jimenez, junior advertising major, said she thinks these deaths are so publicized because of the timing in each celebrity’s respective lives.

“I think it’s because a lot of the time, celebrity deaths are very sudden and a lot of people are shocked that it happened out of nowhere.” Jimenez said. “People want to believe they are invincible and get to live the majority of years possible.”

According to Jimenez, the combination of publicity and the suddenness of their death add to the shock value. And in turn, this lends these figures an almost mass consumption-like send off.

“They forget that life is fragile and in any moment, anything can happen,” Jimenez said. “People want to believe they are invincible and get to live the majority of years possible.”

To advertise call (915) 747-5161 or email prospectorclass@utep.edu.
The Miners improved their largest winning streak of the season to four in historic fashion. UTEP overcame the largest deficit in school history by rallying from 16-points down against league-leader Southern Miss to win in double overtime, 86-78, Feb. 22 at the Don Haskins Center.

“I feel we played hand down by 16. We could have easily given up but we kept fighting,” freshman forward Julian Washburn said. “It tells about our character as a team. We are starting to win close games now.”

Freshman guard C.J. Cooper sent the game into its first overtime by hitting a fade-away jumper with 10 seconds to go from the top of the key. Heading into double overtime, Cooper had four of the Miners’ five points in the final period with less than a minute remaining. With game-changing defense by freshman forward Cedrick Lang—initiating two charging fouls—the Miners were able to pull away in double overtime.

“Cedrick Lang took two charges in the final minutes of the game and the big one with a three-point lead when he got his lip split so it was a real special effort there,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “Tonight, C.J. played well for us. I love the fact that we came back 13 at Memphis and we were down 16 and came back. We have a reference point on how to come back.”

Cooper was substituted in during the second half and provided the Miners with the spark they needed to overcome the 16-point deficit, due to a 23-4 run by Southern Miss. Cooper finished the game with a career and team-high 16 points.

“Tonight was good. We started slow and started the second half bad. Coach Floyd asked me to step in and be ready and I was. It was an effort from everybody for this win. Second game in a row to come from behind is big for us,” Cooper said. “We believed and fought to come back and get the victory.”

Cooper was coming off a slump, shooting 3-of-28 in his last nine games to come up clutch in this victory.

“After I hit the first shot, I felt like I could hit anything,” Cooper said. “That is what pretty much got me going. It was big for me to grow my confidence.”

UTEP found themselves in a hole in the first half trailing by seven to head into the locker rooms. The Golden Eagles shot 54.5 percent from beyond the arc as senior guard Darnell Dodson led the way, hitting all three of his 3-pointers in the first half. Dodson finished the game with a team-high 16 points.

Washburn once again shutdown the opposing teams top scorer making it his third-consecutive lockdown defensive performance. He held sophomore guard Neil Watson to only seven points for the game and completely shut him down in the first half when he had no points.

“They were pretty tough and I hate guarding point guards but if coach wants me to do it, I’ll do it,” Washburn said. “I feel it wasn’t all me. I felt my team gave me a lot of help because he beat me a few times so I give credit to my team.”

The Miners had five players who contributed on the defense finishing with double-digit points. Sophomore center John Bohannon had 14, junior guard Jacques Streeter finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, Washburn had 14 points and senior forward Gabriel McCulyard had 12.

“We did a lot of things well the last minutes of the game. We made shots,” Floyd said. “Cooper came in for (sophomore guard Michael) Peretz who was struggling. C.J. just made plays, made shots and guarded well.”

This is the fifth time UTEP was able to win this year when trailing with five minutes left in the game. “We are playing well right now and this will have to continue to get better for the Conference tournament,” Floyd said.

UTEP will take the winning streak back on the road when they face UCF Feb. 25 in Orlando, Florida.

The Miners are preparing to compete in their most important meet of the season when they travel Feb. 25-26 to Birmingham, Alabama for the Conference USA Indoor Championships. Head coach Mika Laaksonen was surprised on how focused the team was in the meet prior to the championships. He said previously that there’s always a bit of a letdown in the weeks before a conference championship, but that was not the case this year.

“I think for the most part, we surprisingly had a good last meet before the conference. I think everybody is getting mentally ready and we avoid any major set backs when it comes to injury,” Laaksonen said. “Everybody’s performance is getting better and they’re ready to go.”

The Miners are coming off an outdoor meet in which they showed well in several events including first place finishes by senior thrower Matt Dudley, senior sprinter Endurance Abinuwa, senior distance runner Justice Chirchir, sophomore hurdlers/sprinters Janice Jackson and junior sprinter Anthony Wright.

Laaksonen is hoping to get a good performance from Abinuwa in the meet as she comes into the championship as one of the top athletes in the conference.

“She’s probably one of the best female athletes going there from all teams, if not the best,” Laaksonen said. “We’ll try and get a couple of good events out from her. This is the first one that really counts. All these other ones have been prep work.”

Abinuwa also feels like the team chemistry gives them a good chance to perform well in the championships and will likely see her toughest competition so far against UCF’s freshman Octavian Freeman. Freeman ran a nation-best 7.19 seconds in the 60-meter dashes at the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Arkansas. UCF’s women’s team currently ranks 11th in the nation.

“I really want to do my best. I’m preparing very hard,” Abinuwa said. “So far, I think we have a great team, we just have to be focused and I think the sky is the limit. I strongly believe we have a great team this year.”

**Team’s expectations high for C-USA Championship**

**Track and Field**

Senior thrower Matt Dudley prepares to make a toss during a practice this year. Dudley is one of five Miners to win an event during this season’s indoor campaign.

**Men’s Basketball**

**UTEP erases 16-point deficit, wins in double OT**
CUSA from page 7
Ever since UTEP joined C-USA in 2005, the team has fared well during indoor conference championships. Both the men and women teams have finished in the top five each year with each team finishing first at least once. The women won in 2010 and men in 2006. Laaksonen, a UTEP graduate, has been with the Miners for 14 seasons, but this is only his second as head coach.

“I like the chemistry, for the most part, we have on the team. We really don’t have too many student-athletes pulling their own direction. I think everybody is pretty much pulling the same direction, so I like that part,” Laaksonen said. “But we also have a very young and inexperienced team. This year is the first year at UTEP where 60 percent of our student-athletes are underclassmen.”

Laaksonen added that 40 percent of those underclassmen are freshmen and 20 are transfers.

Assistant coach Scott Roberts is experiencing his first stint with UTEP serving as sprinters and hurdlers coach. Much like the rest of the team, Roberts’ unit is doing its best to stay healthy for the meet.

“We’re very excited and optimistic about the conference meet coming up. We’ve made some really good strides over the last few weeks. The hallmark of our program is we want to improve from the first meet to the last meet. I think we’ve done a good job at doing that,” Roberts said. “For us, we’re just kind of sharpening, resting, getting healthy and getting ready to strap it on there for the conference meet.”

Coaches and athletes have been pleased with the performances the team had and the sentiment has echoed in the days prior to the championships.

“I think for the last meet before the conference, everybody was prepared mentally... everybody was trying to improve,” Churcher said. “It shows that people are ready.”

Former UTEP forward Izabella Piekarzho hosts the trophy over her head after the 2007-08 team won the regular season title en route to a 16-0 league record and NCAA Tournament berth.

BASKETBALL from page 3
But UTEP has not forgotten their past losses. According to Adams, what has made this year different from the rest is that sense of redemption following a 16-14-10-11 team that lost 12 games by single digits, six by five points or less.

“That’s something that really hurt and last year, we carried that inside of us. We’ve just tried to take those experiences from last year and this year, turn those into positives,” Adams said. “So it’s what we experienced last year that’s helped us and motivated us and kept our focus this year.”

The Miners have done just that by turning last year around from the eighth best team in the league, to the No. 1 team for the conference tournament. UTEP will have the opportunity to win the Conference USA regular season title when they take on SMU for the second time this season Feb. 25 at the Don Haskins Center.

The last and only other time the Miners have won a regular season title was the 2007-08 team that went 16-0, leading the tournament championship game but received an at-large bid and made the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. They won opening round before falling to the national runner-up team, Stanford, in the round of 32.

As expected, this year’s team has been compared to that team, which finished with a program-record 28 wins and four losses. While depth is the most noticeable difference, Adams feels there is something much deeper that lies in this year’s team.

“What I’m really, really proud of with this team having all this depth and how it’s worked is that our players have had a willingness of being unsullish and truly being in it for the team,” Adams said. “Every night, there’s someone on our team that would have liked to have played some more minutes, but they had to do it with their sister... and they’re bought into that.”

Unlike that team, UTEP has not been ranked, partly due to a low strength of schedule and RPI. They have been receiving votes all year, however, such as back on Dec. 20 when they began the season 10-0 and over the past four weeks.

Yet again, the Miners are not worried about that, but Adams did admit it could help her in the future when it came to recruiting.

“I think it’s an honor and it’s a positive (to be ranked), but our focus has been who we’re playing and us being on this journey,” Adams said.

Ranked or not, UTEP’s sights are still set on the near future, focusing on one opponent and not taking anyone for granted. Even with a C-USA title on the line, the Miners will not be satisfied until that final buzzer sounds, when they begin concentrating on their next opponent.

“Thank I’d be more excited for (our fans if we win a conference title) than for us because we still have two games remaining to focus on after that,” Williams said.

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Track and field adds new runner for 2013
Assistant head coach Paul Ereng announced Feb. 21 that former Yale head coach Tom Williams has been appointed as the sprints coach at UTEP. Williams replaces Al Simmons, who recently accepted a job at Colorado State.

Williams brings with him 11 years of collegiate coaching experience as well as NFL knowledge, having been a defensive assistant for the NFL’s Jacksonville Jaguars.

During his tenure at Yale, Williams guided the Bulldogs to a record of 16-14 over three seasons.

Williams was the co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at San Jose State from 2005-06, helping the defense decrease its points allowed by 21.8 per game in that timeframe. Additionally, Williams spent three seasons at Hawaii (1996-98), including one in charge of the defense.

Williams left Yale in December 2011 after falsely claiming that he was a Rhodes Scholar on his application.