We Are Ready.
Football Without Tailgating?
It’s almost impossible to imagine Texas football without the tailgating parties beforehand. What does UTSA have planned?

A Life of Cheer
UTSA’s head cheerleader has been raising spirits since kindergarten

Marching Orders
Senior music major makes history as UTSA’s first head drum major

Brains and Brawn
Student-athletes must juggle sports with academics

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Rowdy, UTSA’s favorite mascot, reveals his inner thoughts and passions

Meet the Coaches
Profiles of football coaches Larry Coker, Travis Bush and Neal Neathery

For the Love of the Game
Exhibit celebrates the excitement and mystique of football, plus other sports updates

Parting Shots
Tailgate recipes and things every Roadrunner should know

A Season of Fun
Season tickets are still available
Still Undefeated

For years, this tongue-in-cheek statement has been emblazoned on UTSA T-shirts, taunting students and administrators, daring someone to make the first move toward creating a football team.

Soon, those shirts, and that statement, will be out of date. And what a good thing that is.

Roadrunners, we’re about to make history. We’re just days away from that first kick off, the first snap and the first of many touchdowns to come.

But it’s not only about the touchdowns, is it? It’s about the opportunity, the traditions, the culture that football brings. In this special issue of Sombrilla, we wanted to capture the thrills of football—all of them. As much as football is about the team on the field, it’s also about the staccato rhythm of the drums from the marching band on the field. It’s about the flair and excitement that the cheerleaders bring. It’s about Rowdy, pumping up the crowd. And of course, it’s about you, the fans.

Football, and this issue, is for you.

So grab your popcorn, hotdogs, pompoms and pennants. Take a seat in the stands and get ready for history to be made. We’ll see you there.

Saludos,

Lety Laurel
A life of cheer
UTSA’s head cheerleader has been raising spirits since kindergarten

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

Jamielle Henderson gets an almost dreamy look when she describes running out on the field to cheer at an athletic event. “That feeling is unlike any other feeling. I believe,” said Henderson, a junior and captain of the cheerleading team. “It’s just amazing.”

And, with football, it’s going to get better and better, she said.

Henderson, a Houston native and graduate of Kingwood High School, has been on the cheerleading team since her freshman year. In fact, the team is why she’s here.

“I came to UTSA, honestly, because of the cheer program,” she said. “I had already made the team, and I had been accepted by the school. I made friends on the team. I loved the program. I loved the campus. I just loved everything about it.

“And the scholarships,” she added, laughing. “They offered me the most money.”

Henderson, a business management major, has been cheerleading since she was 5 years old. “I started cheering for my older brother’s football team, and then I started doing competitive cheerleading and gymnastics,” she said. “And later I quit gymnastics and just did cheerleading.”

When she enrolled at Kingwood High, cheerleading was a natural fit.

“Living in Texas, football is a big deal,” she said. “Cheering for a high school team is nothing like cheering for a collegiate team, a Division I team.”

Henderson said cheering at UTSA’s spring game in the Alamodome gave her a taste of what Sept. 3 will be like when the Roadrunners take the field against Northeastern (Okla.) State.

“The Alamodome is massive,” she said. “And the fact that it’s going to be so loud. We’ll be cheering in front of thousands of people; we’ve never cheered in front of thousands of people. It’s going to be big. It’s going to be amazing to see the turnout.”

She recalled going to an LSU football game in Baton Rouge when she was a high school student.

“I’m just sitting up there in the stands and I look at those cheerleaders,” she said, again with that dreamy look in her eyes. “You just want to be down there. And there are so many people. I can’t even explain that feeling. It’s going to be crazy.”

Marching Orders
Senior music major makes history as UTSA’s first head drum major

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

Lana Urbano, the UTSA marching band’s first head drum major, was the last drum major at her high school, South San Antonio High School West Campus, before it closed in 2008. She lives the symmetry.

“It’s so neat that I was able to close out that history and begin this new one at UTSA,” said the senior music major.

“It’s really exciting to get those feelings back, that passion, that gung-ho attitude about marching band and having music and football, those two things together—my favorites. It’s unbelievably awesome that this is happening,” Urbano said.

Urbano, who plays the flute and comes from one of three drum majors selected this year. She said their role is “pretty much everything.”

“From an audience perspective, you go out there and you’re the conductor of the band,” she said. “You conduct them and you [mark] time so that everybody is on time with each other, left foot, right foot; everybody follows your hands. That’s what everybody sees.”

But behind the scenes, she added, the drum majors represent and advocate for the band.

Urbano said her career plans include music composition.

“So basically I’m aspiring to be somebody like Beethoven or Mozart,” she said. “I plan to write music for video games or movies, but it’s really hard. It’s all about networking. When you’re a composition major you’ve got to know you can’t just do one thing. You’ve got to be a jack-of-all-trades. You have to be able to write for high school, middle school, marching bands, jingles, pretty much everything.”

“It’s about finding your niche, where you want to start. It’s like being an entrepreneur almost.”

Urbano also plans on getting a master’s in music immediately after receiving her bachelor’s. But for now, her attention is on band and football.

“It’s going to be a crazy mix of emotions marching out at the Alamodome,” Urbano said. “I’m going to be so excited because this is what I’ve been waiting for to walk out there and show UTSA what we have as far as a music department, as a new marching band. It’s just going to be so incredibly exciting. And I’ll also be a little scared because it will be the first time. It’s going to be a whole new game, a whole new world!”

Web Extra
Scan here for more about the UTSA band, or go to utsa.edu/band.
Bearing a student-athlete is about more than athletic ability. These students must also be strong in the classroom to play. But for some, it goes beyond meeting the minimum GPA to remain on the field. In spring 2011, there were 11 football players who made a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Five of them made a 4.0.

“We have hard-working students who happen to be athletes, and that’s a good thing for the school,” said Colin Howell, associate athletic director of academic services. “It’s one thing to want to be successful in one part of your life. But it’s another thing to want to be successful in all parts of your life. They want to be the best they can be.”

It’s not an easy thing to do. In season, student-athletes can work up to 20 hours a week in their sport. That’s the same as a part-time job. But, unlike most jobs, it’s physically grueling. Even the off-season is demanding.

“Lots of students have to work even full time while going to school to make ends meet,” Howell said. “[With our student-athletes], there’s a time management issue, there’s a travel issue. But I think the biggest thing to me, you have to have the energy to stay in your sport. The unique things they face is the incredibly physical demands. So it’s a time management issue but also an energy management issue.”

For football players, the hours can be exhausting. A typical day might include two hours of lifting weights, immediately followed by a quick shower and then three classes back to back. Then there’s team practice later in the day, which can last between two or three hours, and team meetings to plan out the strategy for the next game.

“That can really put people through the wringer,” Howell said. “It’s about focus. You have to have the right amount of rest to be a student. You have to lose a certain way to be this kind of student physically.”

But it is possible, and UTSA’s student-athlete stats are impressive. He said. Having almost a dozen football players who have been recognized academically means the coaches are recruiting the right students, he added.

“We’re recruiting people who have the right attitude about academics,” he said. “Hopefully we will be able to maintain the level of accomplishment that we have right now.”

The entire athletics department is something to be proud of, said Lynn Hickey, athletics director. “This past school year was an outstanding one for our athletic teams,” she said. “Overall our 17 sports averaged a 3.0 GPA and we are graduating more student-athletes in a timely manner each year.”

“I am very proud of the dedication and responsibility our student-athletes show in handling their academic services,” she said. “It’s one thing to want to be an outstanding student-athlete, but it is an even greater accomplishment to do so in a timely manner.”

“I am proud of our coaching staff and the quality of students they are recruiting. I am proud of our academic staff for the outstanding programming and resources they support our students with. And I am very proud of the dedication and responsibility our student-athletes show in handling their academics.”

“Overall our 17 sports averaged a 3.0 GPA and we are graduating more student-athletes in a timely manner each year.”

BY LETY LAUREL

BRAINS AND BRAVON

Student-athletes must juggle sports and academics

BY LETY LAUREL

UTSA FOOTBALL

BRAINS AND BRAVON

Student-athletes must juggle sports and academics

BY LETY LAUREL

# BY THE NUMBERS #

21

17

OF

FOOTBALL

OUT OF

303

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

32

in spring 2011

The Southland Conference Honor Roll recognizes students who maintained a 3.0 GPA during the semester of their competition season.

2011-2012

HIS IDOL

Rowdy idolizes Ricky Bobby, the dimwitted “fastest man on four wheels” from Talladega Nights, the Ballad of Ricky Bobby. Because, in the profound words of Ricky Bobby, “If you ain’t first, you’re last.”

HIS GROOVE

Rowdy enjoys a better version of “All My Rowdy Friends.”

Being Rowdy

BY LETY LAUREL

Rowdy might not have the winnipes of other birds, but he’s not jealous. In fact, if you ask him, he’ll tell you it doesn’t take long wings to be “totally awesome.”

WHAT’S YOUR SIGN?

Rowdy was born Dec. 9, 1977, already clad in his first jersey. He’s a true Sagittarian too, loving long-distance running and hiking. He’s joyful and outgoing at times, but sulks when he feels his wings have been clipped. And, though he’s been at UTSA his entire life, he has no intentions of ever leaving.

Connecting with UTSA

A lover of riddles and pranks, Rowdy uses unique ways to communicate. Since he doesn’t talk, he has his own Facebook page (facebook.com/RowdyRoadrunner) and he somehow manages to text and type with his bulky wings. We don’t know how he does it, but the enigma adds to his mystique.

FAVORITE EXPRESSION

“Why not smoke? It carouses people,” he said. “What’s not to be happy about? I’m a Roadrunner, baby.”

NEAR MISS

Rowdy was almost an armadillo. Weeks before his birth, students voted to make their new mascot an armadillo, symbolic of the Texas hill country. But the election was made void and after a conten-
tious campaign, the roadrunner won in a final election. The rest is history.

FUTURE HOME

Bacon College


DRIVING FORCE

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Nothing makes Rowdy move more than Hank Williams Jr.’s song “All My Rowdy Friends.”

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Football without tailgating? Nah.

Tailgating is such an integral part of college football’s tradition, pageantry and culture that it’s difficult to imagine game day without fans partying outside the stadium, hours before kickoff.

College football without tailgate parties and pregame activities that bring students, alumni and the community together on fall Saturdays would be like having Thanksgiving turkey without the dressing.

The game, like the turkey, is and always will be the main attraction. But there’s no doubt that tailgating, whether it’s grilling in a parking lot or taking part in an impromptu pep rally, adds flavor to the game-day experience that makes college football one of America’s favorite sports.

Since the Alamodome opened in 1993, fans of other universities have partied outside the 65,000-seat facility before Alamo Bowls, Big 12 title games and an assortment of other college football matchups. Even Notre Dame played at the dome in 2009.
The north plaza will be called Rowdy Town and will feature a fun play area for kids and the official tailgate party with live music.

Starting this year, UTSA students and alumni finally will get their chance to join the fun. After years of anticipation, the Roadrunners open their inaugural season Sept. 3 against Northeastern (Okla.) State at the Alamodome. All six UTSA home games this season start at 1 p.m.

“This is something that I’ve wanted for our students for the past 10 years, to have a major college experience,” said John Goodman, UTSA vice president of alumni programs and marketing. “As Lynn Hickey says, ‘San Antonio doesn’t throw a party; it hosts one.’

The proximity of the Alamodome to the River Walk gives UTSA fans another option for pregame revelry. Hickey said UTSA will work closely with restaurants downtown to promote business on Friday and Saturday nights.

“When you ask 10 people what they mean by tailgating, you get 10 different answers,” Hickey said. “That excitement has never, ever left.”

“The north plaza outside the Alamodome—which will be called Rowdy Town—will be the epicenter of pregame fun. Rowdy Town will open three hours before kickoff and offer free entertainment for young and old. There will be play areas for children, complete with inflatable fun, and live music. Food and drinks will be sold at concession booths.

“Your party starts here,” said Goodson, who graduated from the UTSA School of Public Health. “As Lynn Hickey says, ‘San Antonio doesn’t throw a party; it hosts one.’

“People will determine through experience how and where they want to tailgate,” Hickey said.

“We’re just trying to set up something for the fans, give them a place to get excited talking about UTSA football.”

“I've never seen the students more excited than they've been about football,” Kaulfus said. “There’s definitely a buzz on campus. You can feel it.”

Athletics Director Lynn Hickey said UTSA officials have a responsibility to provide a fun atmosphere before games. “We want to provide different opportunities and allow fans to choose what they want to do,” she said. “We have classy fans and want to provide classy pregame opportunities—just like those experienced at the Alamo Bowl games and other games played at the Alamodome.”

Hickey said UTSA will work closely with restaurants downtown to promote business on Friday and Saturday nights.

“We want our games to draw some value downtown,” Hickey said.

The north plaza outside the Alamodome—which will be called Rowdy Town—will be the epicenter of pregame fun. Rowdy Town will open three hours before kickoff and offer free entertainment for young and old. There will be play areas for children, complete with inflatable fun, and live music. Food and drinks will be sold at concession booths.

“As Lynn Hickey says, ‘San Antonio doesn’t throw a party; it hosts one,’” said Jim Goodman, associate athletic director for marketing. “We want that whole area to be a place where people will mingle, get something to eat, drink and listen to music before going into the Alamodome. Included in this will be our new Light Stage with various bands.”

Roadrunner Station, located just north of the Alamodome at historic Sunset Station, also will have live music and a family-friendly atmosphere.

“We’ve tried to create an environment where there will be something for everyone—students, alumni, children, families and the general public,” said Larry McKinney, director of student activities. “If you’ve got a family, Roadrunner Station is going to be affordable. You can take your family and make a day of it.”

“People will determine through experience how and where they want to tailgate,” Hickey said.

McKinney said it’s important to remember that tailgating and football are new for UTSA. “We don’t have a 100-year college football history like some other Texas schools,” he said. “The neat part about that is our students, alumni and the city of San Antonio get to create new Roadrunner traditions. These traditions will evolve from game to game in year one and over time as we build our program to the top of the SEC.”

The Alamodome is the home for UTSA’s pregame festivities, or go to us.utsa.edu/gameday.

“One highlight of pregame activities at Roadrunner Station will be when the UTSA band and football team walk through the venue en route to the Alamodome.

“Three hours prior to kickoff before each home game. Rowdy Town will feature a play area for kids, and an official tailgate party with live music.”

Since the Alamodome has only about 2,500 parking spaces, slots for traditional tailgating will be limited in the facility’s parking lot.

Football season ticket holders with Alamodome parking passes may tailgate in lots B or C. Student organizations and UTSA alumni will have designated tailgating areas in these same lots.

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UTSA, which added football to its athletic program in 2009, will compete as an independent in the Football Championship Subdivision, formerly NCAA Division I-AA, this season. The Roadrunners will move up to the Football Bowl Subdivision, formerly Division I-A, in 2012 when they start playing in the Western Athletic Conference.

Larry Coker, who guided Miami to the 2001 BCS national championship, was hired as UTSA’s head coach in March 2005. Coker, his coaching staff and the Roadrunners’ players drew a big ovation last October when they were introduced at a pep rally on campus.

“That excitement has never, ever left,” McKinney said. “There’s a lot of anticipation in the air.”

Given that anticipation, the atmosphere inside and outside the Alamodome should rock on Sept. 3.
Meet the Coaches

Larry Coker
HEAD COACH

Larry Coker was named the first head coach in UTSA football history on March 6, 2009. The Okemah, Okla., native came to UTSA after spending two seasons as a college football analyst for ESPN. Prior to that, Coker arguably was one of the nation’s top head coaches from 2011 to 2016 at the University of Miami.

He posted a 60–15 record (.800 winning percentage) in his six seasons, leading the Hurricanes to a pair of Bowl Championship Series title game appearances, three BCS bowl games, a total of six bowl contests overall and three consecutive Big East Conference Championships from 2011 to 2013 during his tenure.

Coker has coached 26 first-team All-Americans and 96 first-team all-conference picks during his career and also mentored 73 student-athletes who earned academic all-conference accolades. In fact, his 2005 team graduated all 21 players, a total higher than any other program in the country. His teams annually were honored for their excellence in the classroom by the AFCA.

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Travis Bush
ASSISTANT COACH (OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/ QUARTERBACKS)

A rising star in the offensive coaching ranks, Travis Bush was hired in January 2010 as an offensive coordinator at UTSA. He also will tutor the program’s quarterbacks.

Bush came to UTSA from Texas State, where he completed his sixth season overall and third season as the associate head coach, co-offensive coordinator and quarterback coach at his alma mater in 2009.

Bush began his coaching career at San Marcos High School where he tutored the Buffaloes’ quarterbacks, running backs and special teams.

From 2001 to 2003, Bush was a graduate assistant coach at TCU, working with the Horned Frogs’ offensive line.

Bush graduated from Gregory-Portland High School in 1995, where he was a UIL 4A all-state quarterback. He moved on to Texas State, lettering four seasons as a wide receiver. He was also awarded the JC. Kelly Award in 1999, which honors Texas State’s most outstanding senior football student-athlete.

Bush graduated from Texas State in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in exercise and sport science and holds teaching certificates in mathematics and physical education. He earned a master’s degree in education administration from TCU in 2003. He and his wife, Diana, have two sons, Treyton and Tyler.

Neal Neathery
ASSISTANT COACH (DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/ LINEBACKERS)

A 15-year coaching veteran, Neal Neathery was hired in March 2010 as UTSA’s defensive coordinator. He also will tutor the program’s linebackers.

Neathery comes to UTSA from Drake, where he served as assistant head coach, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach from 2008 to 2009.

He was the associate head coach at Washburn College from 2001 to 2007 and was named the American Football Coaches Association NCAA Division III Assistant Coach of the Year in 2007.

A 1993 graduate of Wheaton (Ill.) College, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in business economics and Bible and theology from Wheaton in 1993. He earned a master’s degree in education and human performance from Fort Hayes State in 1995.

He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children: Parker, Michael and Hannah.
### Tailgate Recipes

#### Blue Moon Chicken with grilled oranges and corn

**Chicken Ingredients:**
- 4 split chicken breasts
- (passwordly with skin on)
- 4 small oranges, quartered
- 4 teaspoons honey
- Spice rub

**Rub Ingredients:**
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt

**Chicken Directions:**
1. Place chicken in large baking pan to marinate in beer for 24-48 minutes. Remove and pat dry.
2. Drizzle 1 teaspoon honey on each chicken breast, skin side down. Follow generously with rub, evenly distributed between chicken.
3. Prepare grill for direct heat grilling.
4. Grill, skin side down, 3 minutes. Rotate chicken 90 degrees to create marks, and grill additional 3 minutes on same side.

**Roasted Corn:**
6-8
- large corn ears without skin, leaves pulled back
- 7 ounces feta, finely crumbled
- 1/4 cup finely chopped mint
- Salt to taste
- Vegetable oil to rub corn

1. Rub corn leaves inside with oil, push leaves back up, prepare grill for heat.
2. In a large bowl, stir to combine the mint, butter, feta and salt.
3. Grill corn, turning as necessary, until just cooked through and some grill marks appear.
4. Toss the corn in the mint feta mixture to coat.
5. Cut corn cobs into 3 to 4 equal length, depending on the number of people or desired serving size.

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### Reality sports documentary showcases inaugural season

**UTSA Football: The Birth of a Program**

In May and will continue through October with six 30-minute episodes that follow the Roadrunners to their inaugural season opener on Sept. 3 against Northeastern (Okla.) State.

The series will reach more than 10 million cable and satellite TV homes in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. In addition to FOX Sports Southwest, it also is airing on FOX Sports Houston and FOX Sports Oklahoma.

The show offers an all-access look at how the UTSA football program was started from scratch two years ago by UTSA President Ricardo Romo and Athletics Director Lynn Hickey, the only female athletics director in Texas to oversee both football and men’s basketball.

**Roadrunner Fire Crackers**

**Ingredients:**
- 4 cups pretzel sticks
- 1/2 stick unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup finely chopped mint
- 7 ounces feta, finely crumbled

**Directions:**
1. In a large bowl, stir to combine the mint, butter, feta and salt.
2. Grill corn, turning as necessary, until just cooked through and some grill marks appear.
3. Toss the corn in the mint feta mixture to coat.
4. Cut corn cobs into 3 to 4 equal length, depending on the number of people or desired serving size.

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### The Roadrunner

**What do your friends call you?**
The roadrunner is also known as “Californian Earth-Cuckoo,” but what do your friends call you? Is your name meaningful to you?

**What’s your favorite meal?**
The roadrunner’s diet is varied, and it feeds on a variety of insects, small birds, lizards and snakes. It usually feeds on the ground, but it may also hunt from trees or bushes.

**Walk or fly?**
The roadrunner is a fast-moving bird that can run up to 40 miles per hour and fly at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour. But it prefers to walk rather than fly.

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- 1/4 cup finely chopped mint
- Salt to taste
- Vegetable oil to rub corn

1. Rub corn leaves inside with oil, push leaves back up, prepare grill for heat.
2. In a large bowl, stir to combine the mint, butter, feta and salt.
3. Grill corn, turning as necessary, until just cooked through and some grill marks appear.
4. Toss the corn in the mint feta mixture to coat.
5. Cut corn cobs into 3 to 4 equal length, depending on the number of people or desired serving size.

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### Reality sports documentary showcases inaugural season

**UTSA Football: The Birth of a Program**

In May and will continue through October with six 30-minute episodes that follow the Roadrunners to their inaugural season opener on Sept. 3 against Northeastern (Okla.) State.

The series will reach more than 10 million cable and satellite TV homes in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. In addition to FOX Sports Southwest, it also is airing on FOX Sports Houston and FOX Sports Oklahoma.

The show offers an all-access look at how the UTSA football program was started from scratch two years ago by UTSA President Ricardo Romo and Athletics Director Lynn Hickey, the only female athletics director in Texas to oversee both football and men’s basketball.

**Roadrunner Fire Crackers**

**Ingredients:**
- 4 cups pretzel sticks
- 1/2 stick unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup finely chopped mint
- 7 ounces feta, finely crumbled

**Directions:**
1. In a large bowl, stir to combine the mint, butter, feta and salt.
2. Grill corn, turning as necessary, until just cooked through and some grill marks appear.
3. Toss the corn in the mint feta mixture to coat.
4. Cut corn cobs into 3 to 4 equal length, depending on the number of people or desired serving size.

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### The Roadrunner

**What do your friends call you?**
The roadrunner is also known as “Californian Earth-Cuckoo,” but what do your friends call you? Is your name meaningful to you?

**What’s your favorite meal?**
The roadrunner’s diet is varied, and it feeds on a variety of insects, small birds, lizards and snakes. It usually feeds on the ground, but it may also hunt from trees or bushes.

**Walk or fly?**
The roadrunner is a fast-moving bird that can run up to 40 miles per hour and fly at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour. But it prefers to walk rather than fly.
A Season of Fun

Season tickets are still available at prices ranging from $120 per seat to $1,250 per seat. Season ticket holder benefits include having the same seat for every game and a commemorative inaugural season ticket.

Founders Level and Premier Level season tickets include a parking pass with the purchase of at least two seats. This is the only way to still get parking at the Alamodome.

Individual game tickets are on sale online. Prices start as low as $10.

In fall 1998, students competed to create the lyrics for the new UTSA Fight Song. On Nov. 8, 1998, Go Roadrunners Go! was selected as the winner of the student competition.
In the 1980s, UTSA founded the city's first NCAA Division I athletics program. Today, that program has grown to include 17 men's and women's competitive sports, including football.