



2010-2011

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

BY EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER DAN MCCARNEY

It started poorly enough, with news that the Southland Conference had re-written its bylaws to require full membership, effectively dashing UTSA's plan to enter the Football Bowl Subdivision as an independent.

What unfolded over the next 12 months was the most successful calendar year in the history of UTSA athletics, highlighted by an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference, the first NCAA tournament victory in school history (men's basketball) and the second Southland Commissioner's Cup since 2008.



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Nov. 18, 2010 The Roadrunners cap fall football camp with a scrimmage in front of more than 2,000 fans at the Alamodome, site of all future home games.

June 4, 2010

The Southland board of directors votes 11-1 to require full membership, forcing the Roadrunners into a quandary: earn an FBS conference invitation within the next year, or remain in the Southland. Their options are further reduced when the Sun Belt Conference and Conference USA express no interest in subsequent talks. That leaves the WAC as their only viable option.

July 29, 2010

Despite not having played football, his original love, since high school, four-time track All-American Teddy Williams signs a free-agent contract as a cornerback with the Dallas Cowboys. The Cowboys are intrigued by Williams' speed, which allowed the Tyler native to set five school records.

Aug. 18, 2010

UTSA's only shot at FBS membership suddenly, almost serendipitously, materializes when Fresno

State and Nevada announces their intent to leave the WAC, putting the league in dire need of new affiliates.

Sept. 7, 2010

While the Roadrunners ponder their future, the football team holds its first practice, nearly 18 months after the hiring of head coach Larry Coker.

Sept. 28, 2010

UTSA athletic director Lynn Hickey makes a formal presentation to the WAC in Dallas, after which an invitation to join is a foregone conclusion.



Nov. 7, 2000

Maria Jose Rojas (above) scores a goal in extra time against Southeastern Louisiana and clinches the first league soccer title in school history.

Nov. 11, 2010

The formality becomes official, with WAC commissioner Karl Benson announcing the additions of UTSA, Texas State and Denver. In doing so, he predicts the Roadrunners will soon be playing in bowl games.



March 16, 2011

Melvin Johnson III (left) scores a career-high 29 points — at one point waving to his image on the video board at the Dayton Arena — as the Roadrunners defeat Alabama State, 70-61, for the first NCAA victory in school history.

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

Nov. 21, 2010

The volleyball team rallies from a deficit in the fifth set to upset Central Arkansas 3-2 and earn its first NCAA tournament berth since 2000.

Feb. 3, 2011

UTSA signs its second football recruiting class.

Feb. 18, 2011

Volleyball coach Laura Neugebauer-Groff is inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame.

Feb. 26, 2011

The men's track & field team matches a Southland record by winning its sixth consecutive indoor championship. Fueled by six individual titles, the Roadrunners scored the second-most points (153) in the meet's 32-year history. Coach Aaron Fox would later be named Southland Indoor Coach of the Year for the sixth straight season.

March 5, 2011

A half away from missing the Southland men's basketball tournament, the Roadrunners rally from a 10-point halftime deficit to win at UT Arlington. The comeback kicks off a string of wild victories that continues...

March 9, 2011

In Katy, where star point guard Devin Gibson records his second triple double of the season (career-high 28 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists) to help UTSA storm back from a late 14-point hole and stun No. 2 seed Northwestern State, 97-96.



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March 11, 2011

Richard Garrett Jr. (above), the Southland's Outstanding Indoor Field Performer of the Year, earns second-team All-America honors in shot put at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

March 12, 2011

The seventh-seeded Roadrunners earn their third-straight upset in the Southland tournament, beating McNeese State 75-72 in the final to earn their first NCAA berth since 2004 and the first under head coach Brooks Thompson.



ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

March 18, 2011

Gibson (above) plays his final game for the Roadrunners, a lop-sided loss to No. 1 overall seed Ohio State in the second round. He finishes his illustrious career with school records for assists, steals, free throws made and starts.

April 8, 2011

Garrett Jr. throws the discus 178 feet, 1 inch to break UTSA's 25-year-old school record. It was one of nine track and field marks the Roadrunners would set in 2011 (four indoor, five outdoor).

April 20, 2011

Led by Southland Women's Golfer of the Year Paola Valerio (left), the women's golf team wins the first conference championship in program history. The Roadrunners would later finish 18th at the NCAA West Regional.



May 14, 2011

"UTSA Football: Birth of a Program," a six-episode series documenting UTSA's efforts to start a football team from scratch, debuts on Fox Sports Southwest.

May 22, 2011

UTSA wins the Southland Commissioner's Cup for the second time. The Roadrunners edged Stephen F. Austin by a single point for the award, given annually to the league's most successful all-around athletic program.

June 11/12, 2011

Garrett Jr., Keith Benford (high jump) and Devon Bond (triple jump) earn All-America honors at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, pushing UTSA's all-time total to 12.