



SOMBRILLA

SUMMER 2011 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

We Are Ready.



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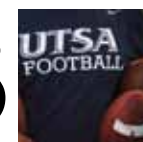
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Head football Coach Larry Coker watches his team as they prepare for the inaugural football game Sept. 3 against Northeastern (Okla.) State.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



THE SOMBRILLA

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Soon, those shirts, and that statement, will be out of date.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

GO ONLINE!

Need more information? Check out these UTSA websites.

Check out the latest sports stats at utsa.edu/athletics

For athletics merchandise, go to utsagear.com

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We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at sombrilla@utsa.edu. Or mail your letters to *Sombrilla* Editor, Office of University Advancement, UTSA, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. You can also comment via *Sombrilla* Online at utsa.edu/sombrilla.

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PRESIDENT

Ricardo Romo

EDITOR

Lety Laurel

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Joe Michael Feist

DESIGN DIRECTION

Thomas Palmer

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Patrick Ray Dunn,
Mark McClendon

CONTRIBUTORS

David Flores, Brian Fox, Jeff Huehn, Steve Kudika, Mark Sobhani, Kyle Stephens

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE PROJECTS AND VISUAL SERVICES

Craig Evans

WEBSITE

Judy Campa, Maria Corral,
Kristina Leh

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Michael Zahn

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Marjie French

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

David Gabler

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI PROGRAMS AND MARKETING

Jim Mickey

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION

Laura Murray

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Eric Gentry

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Send address changes to sombrilla@utsa.edu. To be removed from the *Sombrilla* mailing list or to receive *Sombrilla* Online only, send a message to sombrilla@utsa.edu.



// SCHEDULE //



Sept. 3

Northeastern State University

Location:

Tahle-quah, Okla.

Status: Public.

Enrollment: 9,600.

Nickname: RiverHawks.

Mascot: Rowdy the RiverHawk.

Colors: Green and white.

Founded: 1909.

Famous alum: UTSA

football coach Larry Coker.

Cool tradition:

Players touch the goal posts at the beginning and end of every game.



Sept. 10

McMurry University

Location: Abilene,

Texas. **Status:** Private, religious affiliation,

Methodist. **Enrollment:**

1,500. **Nickname:** War

Hawks. (Until 2005,

McMurry's athletics

teams were known as

the Indians.) **Colors:**

Maroon and white.

Founded: 1923.

Cool tradition: Fans

chant "Ala Cumba"

("On to Victory") at

football games. The

origin of the phrase

is unclear; some

say it comes from

an American Indian

language. >>



A life of cheer

UTSA's head cheerleader has been raising spirits since kindergarten

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

Jamille 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 these 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 [in the Alamodome]."



Marching Orders

Senior music major makes history as UTSA's first head drum major

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

Alana 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 loves 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, who plays the flute and comes from a long line of musicians, is one of three drum majors selected this year. She said their role is "pretty basic."

"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.





Sept. 17
@ Southern
Utah
University

Location: Cedar City, Utah. **Status:** Public. **Enrollment:** 8,000. **Nickname:** Thunderbirds. **Colors:** Red, white and black. **Founded:** 1897. **Cool tradition:** To become a true Thunderbird, students must kiss their sweethearts near the Old Sorrel statue at midnight on the night of a full moon or the night before the homecoming football game.



Sept. 24
HOMECOMING
Bacone
College

Location: Muskogee, Okla. **Status:** Private, religious affiliation, American Baptist Churches USA. **Enrollment:** 1,200. **Nickname:** Warriors. **Colors:** Red, black and white. **Founded:** 1880. >>

Brains and Brawn

Student-athletes must juggle sports and academics

BY LETY LAUREL

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

LYNN HICKEY,
 ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Being 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 solid 4.0.

“We have hard-working students who happen to be athletes, and that’s a good thing for the school,” said Colin Howlett, 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,” Howlett 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 are 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,” Howlett said. “It’s about focus. You have to have the right amount of rest to be a student. You have to live 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 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.”

BY THE NUMBERS

21

STUDENT-ATHLETES
 who made a 4.0
 in spring 2011

OUT OF

303

TOTAL NUMBER OF
 STUDENT-ATHLETES
 in spring 2011

88

STUDENT-ATHLETES ON
 SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE’S
 ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL IN SPRING 2011

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



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

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

Being Rowdy

BY LETY LAUREL

Rowdy might not have the wingspan 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.”

The blue and orange roadrunner is more bird than any of the other ones. And the self-professed drama king knows it, too.

Rowdy, who says he studied awesomeness at UTSA, is 33 years old, though you’d never know it—there’s not a streak of white in his royal blue feathers. And, though he’s been at UTSA his entire life, he has no intentions of ever leaving.

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.

We may not know much about him—where he lives, what his full name is, what he does all day. But, we do know one simple thing: Rowdy is UTSA.



FAVORITE EXPRESSION

Whether at an exciting ball game or walking down the corridors of UTSA, Rowdy is always smiling. “Why not smile? It confuses people,” he said. “What’s not to be happy about? I’m a Roadrunner, baby.”



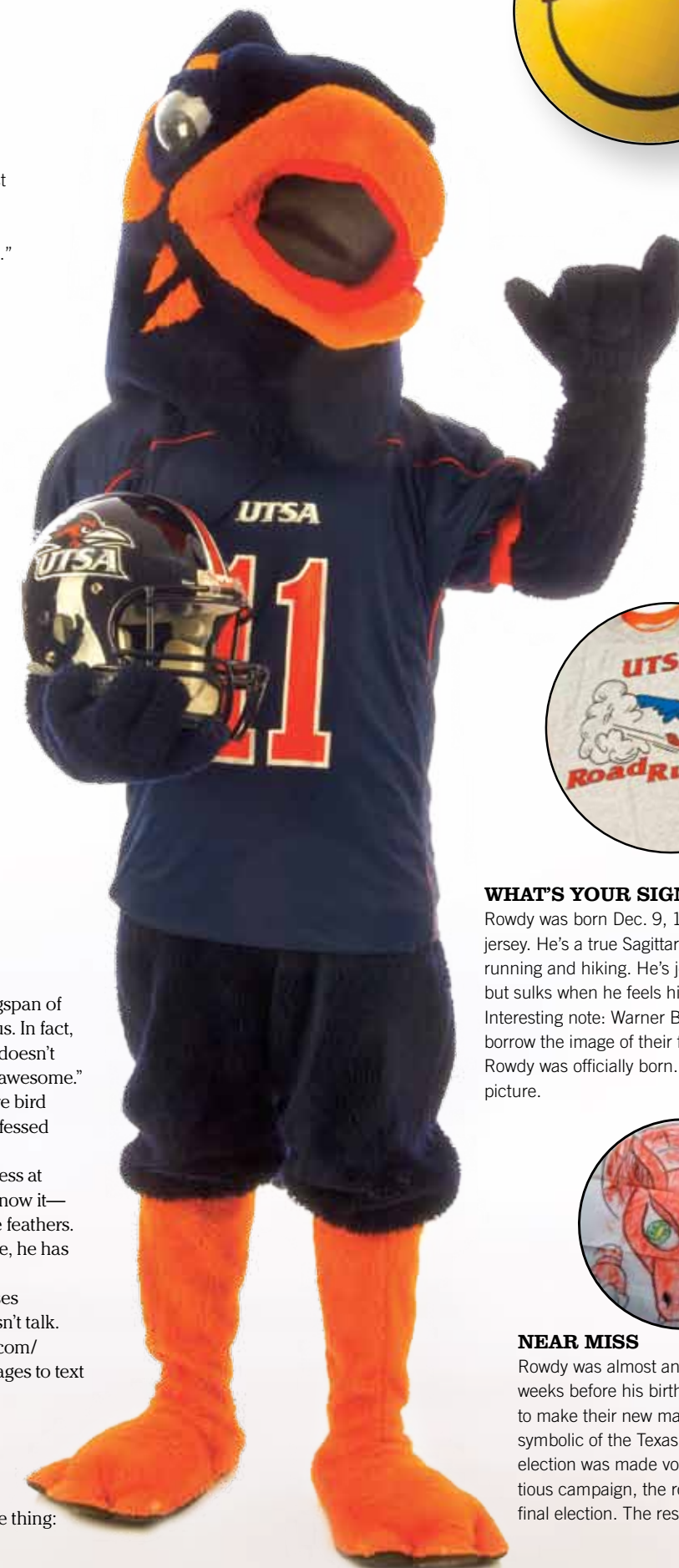
WHAT’S YOUR SIGN?

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. Interesting note: Warner Bros. Entertainment let UTSA borrow the image of their famed roadrunner before Rowdy was officially born. Consider this his sonogram picture.



NEAR MISS

Rowdy was almost an armadillo. Mere 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 contentious campaign, the roadrunner won in a final election. The rest is history.





FOOTBALL WITHOUT TAILGATING? NAH.

BY DAVID FLORES

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 Kaulfus, associate dean of students. "From the time they wake up on Saturday until they go to bed, I want them to be thinking of UTSA and major college football. It's going to be so much fun for our students to have the chance to experience this."

"For years, we were a commuter school, but we have become a traditional residential campus. Having a traditional football game day is another step toward becoming a Tier One research university. Football is really going to bring our students and the San Antonio community together."

UTSA, which has an enrollment of about 31,000, will provide park-and-ride shuttle bus service to the Alamodome for UTSA students at a discounted price.

Kaulfus, a Seguin native who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992, heads a committee that's spent a good part of the past 18 months planning UTSA's pregame festivities.

"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 pre-game 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 drive 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 inflatables, and live music. Food and drinks will be sold at concession booths.

"As Lynn Hickey says, 'San Antonio doesn't throw a party; it throws a fiesta,'" said Jim Goodman, associate athletics 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 the Bud 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 Barry 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."

The 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, said Jim Mickey, associate vice president of alumni programs and marketing.

"We want to have a spirit line at Roadrunner Station and create a tradition," Mickey said. "We want Roadrunner Station to be a fun place for people to congregate before Roadrunner games and get excited talking about UTSA football."

Mickey said the goal is to create different events in multiple places, allowing people to choose how to participate. "Our pregame festivities

FANTASTIC!

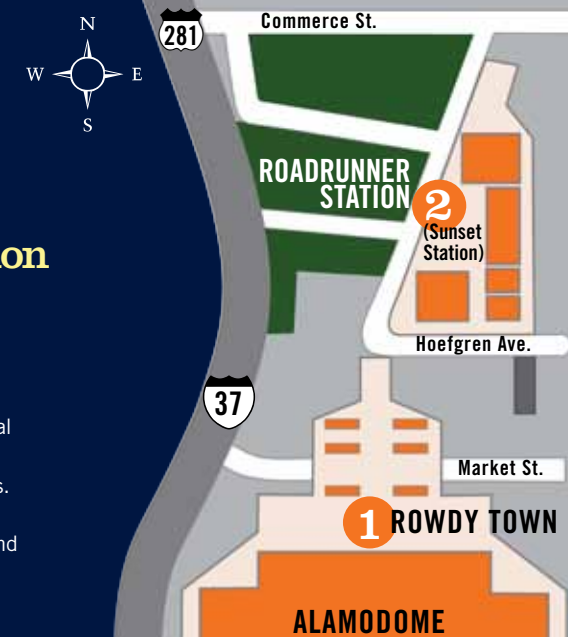
Introducing **Rowdy Town** and **Roadrunner Station**

1 **ROWDY TOWN**

Located in the North Plaza outside of the Alamodome, Rowdy Town opens 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.

2 **ROADRUNNER STATION**

Sunset Station will be renamed Roadrunner Station for every game day and will be the central meeting place for all Roadrunners. There will be live music, activities, giveaways and concessions. Roadrunner Station will be open from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Arrive by 11 a.m. to see the team and band march into the Alamodome.



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.

will almost be like a menu," he said. "We just want people to have fun. We don't want to have cover charges because we know people will want to move around from place to place. We want our fans to have fun with us however they choose to."

A 1978 UTSA graduate, Mickey said football has drawn alums back to the university. UTSA has about 85,000 alumni, with about 55,000 living in the San Antonio area.

"There's no doubt that our alumni are excited about UTSA football," Mickey said.

Goodman said the Roadrunners' pregame festivities outside the Alamodome will be a work in progress.

"We're just trying to set up something for the fans, give them some structure, but things probably will change from game to game. It's all going to evolve," Goodman said. "The great thing, the cool part, is that we get to start it. We get to put stuff out there and see what stuff takes root."

The proximity of the Alamodome to the River Walk gives UTSA fans another option for pregame revelry.

"When you ask 10 people what they mean by tailgating, you might get eight different answers," Goodman said. "We're not like other colleges. We're playing in downtown San Antonio and there's an attraction, the River Walk, nearby. To some people, tailgating is going to mean going to the River Walk before a game."

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.

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

Mickey 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 tier."

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 2009. 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



Oct. 1

@ Sam Houston State University

Location: Huntsville, Texas. **Status:** Public.

Enrollment: 17,000.

Nickname: Bearkats.

The nickname, spelled with a K, comes from a popular saying in the 1920s—"tough as a bearkat." The animal in question is more myth than real.

Mascot: Sammy Bearkat.

Colors: Orange and white. **Founded:** 1879.



Oct. 8

University of South Alabama

Location: Mobile, Ala. **Status:** Public.

Enrollment: 15,700.

Nickname: Jaguars.

Mascot: South Paw.

Colors: Red, white and blue. **Founded:**

1963. **First year**

played football: 2009.

Cool tradition: Jag

Prowl, lead by the

USA marching band

and cheerleaders, is

the procession of the

Jaguars football team

prior to home games.

Players walk through

the student tailgating

section and enter the

stadium's main gates to

their locker room. >>



Travis Bush

ASSISTANT COACH (OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QUARTERBACKS)

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

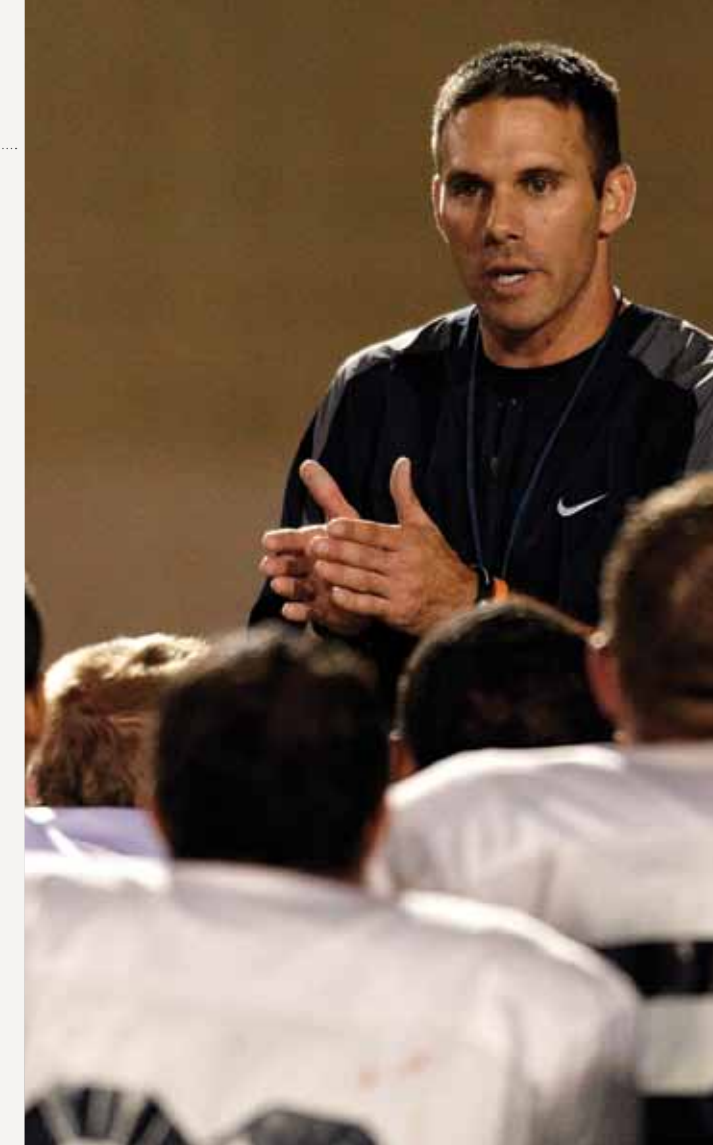
Bush came to UTSA from Texas State, where he completed his sixth season overall and third season as the associate head coach, co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at his alma mater in 2009.

Bush began his coaching career at San Marcos High School where he tutored the Rattlers' 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 J.C. Kellam Award in 1999, which honors Texas State's most outstanding senior football student-athlete.

Bush graduated from Texas State in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in exercise and sports 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, Treyson and Tyler.



Oct. 15

@ University of California, Davis

Location: Davis,

Calif. **Status:** Public.

Enrollment: 32,000.

Nickname: Aggies.

Colors: Yale blue and

gold. **Founded:** 1908.

Cool major: Viticulture and Enology (the sciences of cultivating grapes and winemaking).

Cool tradition: The school's marching band, called Aggie Band-uh!, rings the hallowed Tavernetti Bell once for every point scored after home victories.



Oct. 29

Georgia State University

Location: Atlanta, Ga.

Status: Public.

Enrollment: 31,000.

Nickname: Panthers.

Colors: Blue and white.

Founded: 1913. **First**

year played college

football: 2010.

Cool (and very new)

tradition: The school's

new fight song, *Fight,*

Panthers, is played by the

new marching band after

every score. >>



Neal Neathery

ASSISTANT COACH (DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/LINEBACKERS)

A 17-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 Wabash 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 was a four-year starter at defensive end from 1989 to 1993, Neathery served as a captain his senior year. He earned the James Parmalee Most Respected Player Award.

The Stillwater, Okla., native earned his bachelor's degree in business/economics and Bible and theology from Wheaton in 1993. He earned a master's degree in health and human performances from Fort Hayes State in 1995.

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

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 2001 to 2006 at the University of Miami.

He posted a 60-15 record (.800 winning percentage) in his six seasons, including wins in his first 24 games, and led the Hurricanes to the 2001 National Championship in his first season, becoming just the second coach in NCAA history to do so and the first in 53 years.

Coker was a two-time National Coach of the Year (2001-2002), American Football Coaches Association Region Coach of the Year (2001, 2005) and Big East Coach of the Year (2001-2002) honoree.

He led 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 2001 to 2003 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, and the Hurricanes' 84-percent graduation rate a year earlier was far higher than the national average. His teams annually were honored for their excellence in the classroom by the AFCA.

Coker has been successful in every stop of his 36-year coaching career, including 22 seasons as an assistant

at the collegiate level. He has been on college teams that have made a total of 18 bowl appearances and those squads have been victorious 14 times.

He served as Miami's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach from 1995 to 2000 and the Hurricanes won all four of their bowl games during that time.

Prior to his arrival at Miami, Coker was an assistant at Ohio State (1993-1994), Oklahoma (1990-1992), Oklahoma State (1983-1989) and Tulsa (1979-1983).

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Northeastern (Okla.) State University in 1970 and earned his master's in guidance counseling and physical education three years later from the same school.

Coker and his wife, Dianna, are the parents of a daughter, Lara, and the grandparents of twin boys, Daniel and Dillon.

One feature of "Football: The Exhibit" at the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures is this running test. Participants race against such wild animals as turtles, sloths and bears. Warning: You can't beat a bear.



Nov. 12

@ McNeese State University

Location: Lake Charles, La. Status: Public.

Enrollment: 9,000.

Nickname: Cowboys.

Colors: Blue and gold.

Founded: 1939.

Cool tradition: *Jolie Blon*, sometimes called the Cajun national anthem, is the school's unofficial fight song. It's played before each game and after every touchdown as Cowboys fans sway and clap.



Nov. 19

Minot State University

Location: Minot, N.D. Status: Public.

Enrollment: 3,850.

Nickname: Beavers.

Colors: Red, white and green.

Founded: 1913.

For the Love of the Game

BY JAMES BENAVIDES

When he was 13 years old, John Frederick stood 4'11" and realized football was nowhere in his future. But that didn't stop him from finding a way to take part in the tradition, pageantry and the culture the game has created, both on and off the field.

He joined the band.

"Sometimes, playing in the band got in the way of watching the game," said Frederick, now provost and vice president for academic affairs at UTSA. "If we happened to be playing a song and they resumed the game and our team made a big play, the song kind of got disorganized toward the end because of those of us who were watching the game."

Frederick shares a common experience with other members of the UTSA faculty and staff, as well as legions of players, bandmen, cheerleaders and fans who have taken to the field to cheer on a football team. These memories were captured in oral history interviews for a new exhibit at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, "Texas Football: In Their Words."

Told from the perspectives of 10 Texans, the exhibit was designed to complement "Football: The Exhibit," a traveling exhibit organized by the Arkansas Museum of Discovery, which studies the science behind the game. Both exhibits run from May 14 to Sept. 18.

"Texans do football better than anyone else on earth," said Rhett Rushing, oral history program coordinator at the ITC and researcher for the new exhibit. "No one on earth invests as much of their spirit, energy and even self worth into football like Texans."

Rushing laughed, recalling experiences of driving through small Texas towns abandoned on Friday nights and getting stuck behind convoys of busses and cars driving to rural football stadiums.

"Football creates community in Texas," he said. "It brings people together in ways we cannot explain and don't try to. It defines us as dreamers, as hard workers, as the best we can be."

Robert Gracy, UTSA's vice president for research, played halfback for McKinney High School, in the north Texas city of McKinney, in the 1950s. He said some of the skills he learned through football have helped him well past his high school days.

"You really appreciate people with different skills and abilities working together on any kind of project," he said. "You gain a lot of appreciation for teamwork, cooperation and partnership."

For more information about the two exhibits, call (210) 458-2300 or visit TexanCultures.com.

Reality sports documentary showcases inaugural season

The start of UTSA football is being chronicled in a reality sports documentary series airing on FOX Sports Southwest.

UTSA Football: The Birth of a Program premiered 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 shows offer 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 men's and women's sports.

Camera crews began following head football Coach Larry Coker this spring as he readied the team for the inaugural season. The final episode will feature the Roadrunners' much-anticipated inaugural game at the Alamodome.

"Putting a football program together from scratch is a monumental task and I'm glad fans will have the opportunity to see everything that goes into it," Coker said.

To see the broadcast schedule, go to goutsa.com.



Parting Shots

Tailgate Recipes

Blue Moon Chicken with grilled oranges and corn

CHICKEN INGREDIENTS: RUB INGREDIENTS:

4 split chicken breasts (preferably with skin on)
4 small oranges, quartered
4 teaspoons honey
Spice rub
1 teaspoon ground coriander
5 cloves (ground)
3 tablespoons smoked paprika
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 tablespoons kosher salt

2 tablespoons black pepper (ground)
1 (12 ounce) can beer (a Hefeweizen or wheat beer)

CHICKEN DIRECTIONS:

1. Place chicken in large baking pan to marinate in beer for 25-45 minutes. Remove and pat dry.
2. Drizzle 1 teaspoon honey on each chicken breast, skin side only. 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.
5. Place orange quarters on grill separate from highest heat. Grill 2 minutes per side and remove. Set aside.
6. Flip chicken to non-skin side, grill 2 minutes. Rotate 90 degrees to create marks, and grill additional 2 minutes until done.
7. Remove and serve each chicken breast with a grilled orange wedge. Use the orange to squirt on chicken or enjoy separately.

ROASTED CORN: Yields 6-8

8 large corn ears without silk, leaves peeled back
7 ounces feta, finely crumbled
1/4 cup finely chopped mint
1/2 stick unsalted butter, soft
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 slices, depending on the number of people or desired serving size.



The chicken and corn recipes were developed for this issue of Sombrilla by Steve Kudika, assistant director of fitness and wellness, and Graham Haug, student cook, from the Department of Campus Recreation.

ROADRUNNER FIRECRACKERS —Courtesy Molly Kelley

INGREDIENTS

1 package (4 sleeves) saltine crackers
3/4 cup olive oil
1 package ranch dressing mix
2 tablespoons red pepper flakes

DIRECTIONS

Place crackers in an airtight plastic container. Combine remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour over crackers, seal with lid and turn container upside down. Turn every 30 minutes at least four times.

ARUGULA, ORANGE AND BLEU SALAD —Courtesy Ignacio Zak

INGREDIENTS

4 cups arugula
2 oranges, peeled and sectioned
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1/2 teaspoon salt
Bleu cheese

DIRECTIONS

Make a dressing by whisking together the oil, vinegar and salt. Pour over the arugula and orange slices immediately before serving. Sprinkle crumbled bleu cheese on the salad, to taste.

The Roadrunner



What do your friends call you?

The roadrunner's family is the cuckoo. It's technically classified as *Geococcyx californianus*, which means "Californian Earth-Cuckoo," but roadrunners are also known as Chaparral Cocks. The roadrunner is actually the largest North American cuckoo.

What's your favorite meal?

A roadrunner is quick enough to catch and eat rattlesnakes. It snatches up the coiled snake by its tail, cracks it like a whip and smashes the snake's head on the ground until it's dead. It then swallows the snake whole. Roadrunners like to eat insects, small birds, lizards, snakes and bobcats (just kidding)!

Walk or fly?

A roadrunner prefers walking or running to flying and can attain speeds up to 17 mph on the ground. Roadrunners get their name because they have a habit of racing down roads in front of moving vehicles, darting to safety.



// IN BRIEF //

We're No. 1

The UTSA Athletics Department was crowned Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup Champions in May. It marks the Roadrunners' second title in the past four years after finishing runner-up the last two seasons.

The Southland Commissioner's Cup is awarded to the university compiling the highest combined total of men's and women's all-sports points. UTSA won a school-record five conference titles this year. The Roadrunners also won their first-ever NCAA postseason contest on March 16 when the men's basketball team defeated Alabama State, 60-51, at the First Four in Dayton, Ohio.

Hail UTSA

From our hills of oak
and cedar

To the Alamo,
Voices raised will echo

As, in song, our
praises flow.

Hail Alma Mater!

Through the years our
loyalty will grow.

The University of
Texas San Antonio.

Fight Song

Go, Roadrunners, Go!

On to victory with all
your might.

Fight, Roadrunners,
Fight!

For the Blue and the
Orange and the White.

We fight for U-T-S-A.

Alma Mater proud
and strong.

Win, Roadrunners,
Win!

And unite in our battle
song.

(Repeat for second
verse)

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.

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.



SCAN HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS
OR LEARN MORE.
YOU CAN ALSO GO
TO GOUTSA.COM OR
CALL (210) 458-UTSA



The Rush
is on

Make Your Play
to Join the
Alumni
Association

The **UTSA Alumni Association** is your gateway to the university. It's an opportunity to connect with **UTSA**, access professional networking opportunities and get in touch with old and new friends.

Now is the time to join. Select a gift of your choice, including a unique commemorative football shirt, as a thank you.

Join now at
utsa.edu/join
or call 210-458-4133



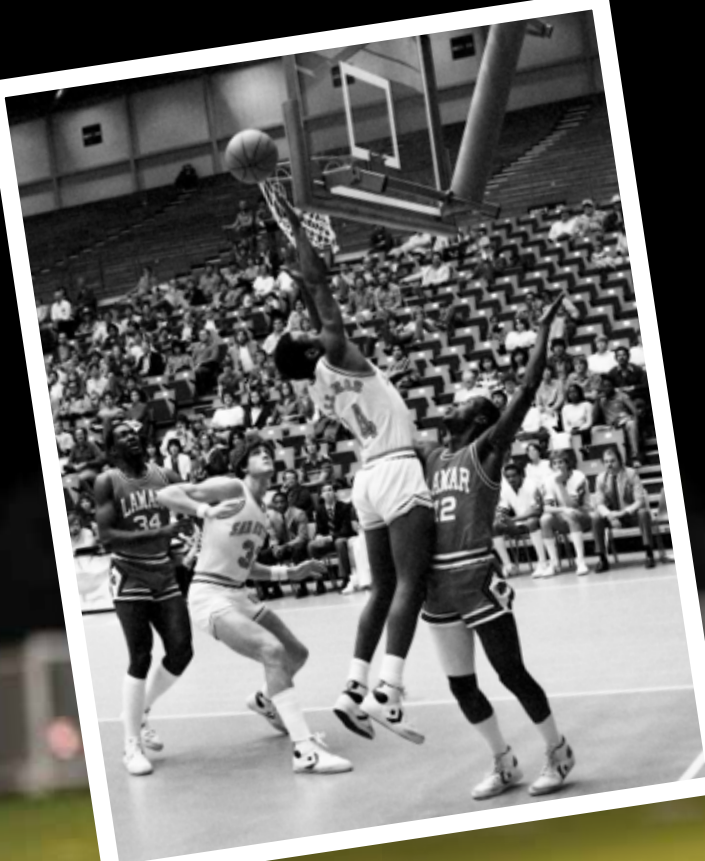
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NOW&THEN



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.

