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ON CAMPUS

RIDE DELAYED



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ /THE RIDER

Alfonso Jimenez, interdisciplinary studies senior, parks at the north circuit by Science and Engineering Buildings on the Edinburg campus. UTRGV VOLT service provides free transportation carts and vans around campus and is open for the general public.

VOLT wait times concern students

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

UTRGV students have experienced longer drop-off times and wait times throughout the beginning of the fall semester as traffic and campus activity affect transit, according to a university official.

There are currently a total of 23 VOLT carts and five vans, with 15 carts and one van on the Edinburg campus and eight carts and five vans on the Brownsville campus.

Maribel Contreras, director of transportation services, said that the frequency of VOLT on the Edinburg campus is about 15 minutes, while on the Brownsville campus frequency is 20 minutes.

“The beginning of each semester typically brings an increase of traffic ... with high ridership,” Contreras said. “There’s also traffic incidents and there’s greater activity around the campus.”

She added that at the beginning of the semester, students are still finalizing and adjusting to their schedules while also working around university events on campus.

“Those conditions can directly affect the transit travel time, the route condition and the overall service reliability,” Contreras said.

The Rider took a VOLT vehicle on Sep 2. from parking lot E21 on the Edinburg campus to The University Recreation Center. The initial call from lot E21 was made at 3:04 p.m. The VOLT vehicle arrived at 3:08 p.m., four minutes after the call was made.

However, the trip included a stop at

the Performing Arts Complex to wait for a connecting vehicle. A van then arrived at 3:20 p.m.. It later stopped at another Vaquero Express location to pick up a few people and then made another stop by the Student Academic Center before finally heading to the Recreation Center arriving at 3:39 p.m.

The overall trip took about 35 minutes to complete from the initial call.

Contreras said the 15-minute frequency on the Edinburg campus of VOLT is based on the distance that the route alignment has as the route may have several stops.

Monique Brecma, a biochemistry and

molecular biology freshman, said that she uses VOLT quite often because she parks near the railroad off of Schunior Street.

She said one of the longest waits she experienced for VOLT was 15 minutes and added that she saw a VOLT vehicle pass by her as she was waiting for one before a vehicle picked her up.

“It’s just the wait that takes forever... them taking us where we need to be is quite quick,” Brecma said.

She added that long wait times

sometimes make the VOLT less convenient. “By the time I’m waiting for them to come, especially in this heat, it makes it ten times worse ... I could already have gone to my car and probably gotten home,” Brecma said.

Aylen Faz, a biology freshman, said she planned to take a VOLT vehicle if her classes were in different buildings because she heard it helps people get to their classes faster.

She said, “I wasn’t sure ... how to call [VOLT].”

Faz said that having access to times that the VOLT vehicles stop at certain circuits would help improve the overall experience of knowing when you are going to arrive at your designated stop.

Contreras said more vehicles would be made available if a particular alignment needs it.

“We monitor the traffic conditions, the ridership, the route performance closely, so that any service issue that come up can be addressed as quickly as possible for students to expect wait times to improve as the semester progresses,” she said.

Students who experience delays can call Parking and Transportation Services at 956-665-2036 for the Edinburg campus and 956-882-2036 for the Brownsville campus. Contreras said that customer service assistants are available to receive calls and will contact a VOLT driver to help.

For more information on VOLT, visit the Parking and Transportation Services website.

ON CAMPUS

Women in STEM: empowering engineers

DANNA AVALOS AVILA
THE RIDER

The underrepresented faction of the engineering program has banded together to create a space to support all UTRGV women studying the field and its branches.

Samantha Garcia, a mechanical engineering senior and president of the Society of Women Engineers at UTRGV, said the student organization came together because “women are the minority in engineering.”

Garcia said the Society of Women Engineers offers professional development, such as resume-building workshops where members can build their resumes and have them reviewed by an ExxonMobil company member.

ExxonMobil is a natural gas company that works closely with the Society of Women Engineers and typically sends a recruiter to advise the resume workshops, according to Garcia.

Beyond workshops, the society also gets together for social networking events that focus on raising money for the organization.

The Society of Women Engineers is open to all engineering majors, including men, according to Garcia.

See STEM, Page 3

ON CAMPUS

Clubs take over Brownsville

GAEL ESPINOZA
THE RIDER

The Vaqueros Clubs: Campus Takeover, an event part of Welcome Week, took place on Sept. 2 on the Edinburg campus and Wednesday on the Brownsville campus.

The event, run by the Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity and Sorority Life, helps promote the various clubs a Vaquero student can join, according to an official.

Francisco Leal, program coordinator for CSI, said it is an opportunity for student organizations to recruit new members and for students to learn what they are about.

“Each organization is hosting an activity that’s interactive for the students that are attending,” Leal said. “They’ll be able to engage with them, learn more about them, and also get the opportunity to see what the membership looks like once they join.”

Sophia Jaramillo, a biomedical science freshman, said this type of event benefits especially the freshmen.

“I’ve been really wanting to join some clubs, so it’s a really good event,” Jaramillo said. “It’s definitely brought more light to the opportunities that we have here, especially as freshmen.”

See TAKE OVER, Page 3

THE
RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
Sabores Latinos Culinary Contest
The **Bilingual Integration and College of Business and Entrepreneurship** will host a **culinary contest** to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. south of Health Affairs West Building on the Edinburg campus.
RISE & GRIND
University Recreation will host an **early workout class** from 7:15 to 8 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday at the University Recreation, Studio 1, on the Edinburg campus. Students can participate in a workout that focuses on building strength.
GX Class Power Pump Circuit: Monday Class

University Recreation will have a Monday class from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Brownsville Recreation Center, Multi-purpose room. Students can participate in a high-energy circuit workout that combines strength and cardio.
Zumba
University Recreation will have a **Zumba class** from 6 to 7 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday until Oct. 7 at University Recreation, Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus. Students can participate in Zumba routines focused on improving cardiovascular fitness.
Kickboxing
University Recreation will offer a beginner-friendly kickboxing class every Monday and Wednesday until Oct. 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the University Recreation, Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus for all students.
Cycle Fit
University Recreation will

host a cycling class every Monday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the University Recreation, Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus. Students can involve themselves in a cardiovascular workout with many drills and exercises.

Tuesday
MBA Virtual Event
The **Graduate Recruitment & Admissions** will host a virtual event from noon to 1 p.m.. Attendees can learn about the Master of Business Administration program, including its eight specializations. Participants can also learn how to apply to graduate school, admissions requirements, tuition and fees and where to find financial support.
Study Cafe
The **Honors College** will host its Fall 2026 study cafe from 2 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday at the University Library, Room 3.101 on the Edinburg campus.
Graduate Programs Webinar
The **Graduate Recruitment & Admissions** team will host a virtual session from 5 to 6 p.m. where it will explore all 140-plus graduate programs that UTRGV has to offer. Participants can also learn how to apply to graduate school, admissions requirements, tuition and fees, and about financial support.

Strong Her
University Recreation will host a 45-minute class for women every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation, Education, & Kinesiology Center, Multipurpose Room, 1.202 on the Brownsville campus. Students, faculty and

alumni can participate in a fitness class meant to build confidence and strength for women of all fitness levels.

Yoga
University Recreation will host yoga classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. until Oct. 8 at the University Recreation, Studio 1, on the Edinburg campus. The classes go over basic foundational yoga postures meant to align and strengthen the body along with integrated breathing techniques and meditation.

Wednesday
Jump Rope Challenge
University Recreation will host a **Jump Rope Jam Challenge** from noon to 3 p.m. at the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Attendees will compete within a timed round to complete the highest number of jump rope repetitions.

HSI Day
The **Bilingual Integration Office** will observe Hispanic Heritage Month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can get free shirts and pizza while supplies last.

Thursday
Food Manufacturing Standards
The **Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center** will host a workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Rio Bank, Corporate Banking Center, 5.562 in McAllen. The workshop will cover key requirements for successful food manufacturing operations, food safety standards, certifications and more.

Express Circuit 30: Thursday Class
University Recreation will host a beginner-friendly interval training workout from noon to 12:45 p.m. every Thursday until Sept. 24 at the Recreation Multi-purpose room on the Brownsville campus. The workout session introduces fundamental 30-minute circuit class, bodyweight exercises and builds cardiovascular endurance, strength and confidence.

The Bilingual Edge
The Bilingual Integration and Career Center will host a **panel and networking event** from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the University Library, Shary Room 1.206 on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can learn how multilingual abilities can build toward a successful career.

Friday
GME Grand Rounds
The **School of Medicine Research Administration** will host a virtual event from noon to 1 p.m.. Attendees will be able to identify and explain requirements for research, resident responsibilities, institutional processes and UTRGV resources.

Study Abroad Info Session
The **Honors College** will have a **study abroad session** led by Suzanne Lalonde from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the University Library, Room 3.101 on the Edinburg campus. Students will learn about course activities, places that will be visited, the application process and scholarship deadlines.

--Compiled by Danna Avila Avalos

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter’s author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

One step forward, one opportunity closer



MICHELLE HERNANDEZ /THE RIDER PHOTOS

Rosy Rodriguez (left), a political science freshman, and Edna Marroquín, a health science sophomore, talk about the different job openings Wednesday at the Part-Time Job Fair in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Cassandra Guerra, an integrated health science senior, represents the Student Union department as a student assistant for lead operations and special events Wednesday at the Part-Time Job Fair in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Rosy Rodriguez, a political science freshman, attends the Part-Time Job Fair Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



The Part-Time Job Fair took place Wednesday at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

STEM *Continued from Page 1*

“You can be a computer science major, you can be electrical, you can be manufacturing, you can be mechanical ... as long as you’re within the branch of engineering,” she said.

Sawyer Ramos, a computer science junior, said she has noticed there are more men than women in her engineering classes.

Mariajose Casas, a cybersecurity freshman who previously took cybersecurity classes in high school, said in her four years of high school, her class consisted of 15 people, and of those, only three were women.

Casas added she felt the organization “helps and allows women in STEM” to understand that they’re not alone.

“It’s very admirable that they’re creating that space for women. ... They’re contributing something very impactful to UTRGV,” Ramos said, who had heard about the society before through a presentation during Vaquero Roundup.

Garcia said a common struggle women face, including herself, is entering the field with “barriers of wanting to be equal ... wanting to make [themselves] known ... [and prove they’re] smart enough to be here.”

“It doesn’t matter what major you come from. It doesn’t matter what background you come from. We’re all here to support you,” she said.

The impact Garcia said she hopes the Society of Women Engineers has is for more women to join engineering and not give up chasing their dreams, even when they doubt themselves.

TAKE OVER *Continued from Page 1*

Edward Garza, an electrical engineering graduate student and president of Club Esports, said it is an honor to go to an event like the takeover to promote the club.

“It’s always a pleasure to get invited to this event,” Garza said. “It’s always been a huge honor... because [UTRGV has] always been super helpful with growing our community and growing our player base as well.”

Nathan Watson, a political science junior and public affairs officer for the College Democrats of Brownsville, said it is important for UTRGV students to join and engage with the clubs on campus.

“There’s more than just our club ... there’s a whole bunch of clubs tailored to everyone’s different interests,” Watson said.

Victor Alvarez, a political science senior, said it is nice to “just get involved with the newer class ... trying to get more of a culture

going around the campus is really fun and really exciting.”

Carlos Esparza, a civil engineering senior, said some of the clubs there were pretty interesting.

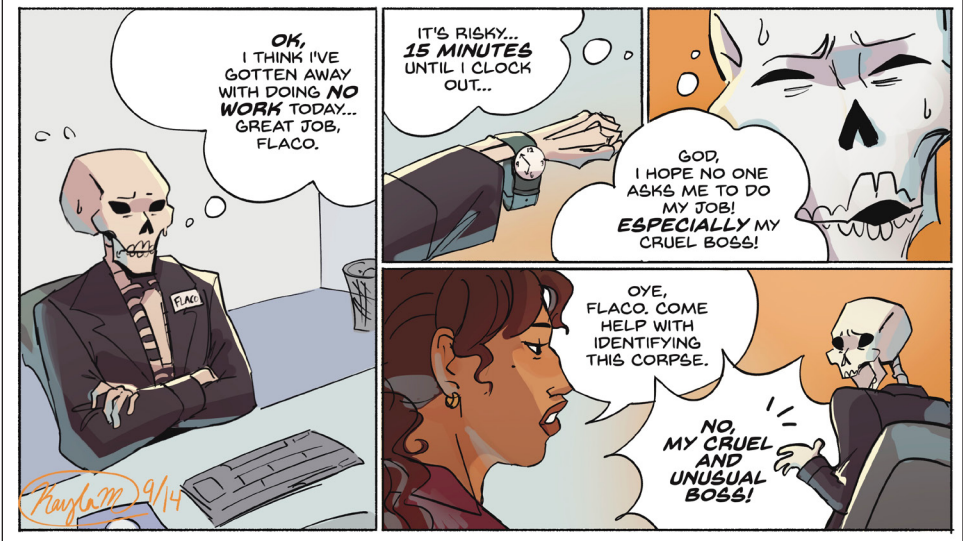
“They don’t really have much to do with my major, but they’re very, I would say, welcoming,” Esparza said.

Leal hopes events like these during the Welcome Week can show the campus life and the spirit of UTRGV.

“It’s an opportunity to showcase from our perspective as people that plan the events, so that way they can see all the work that we’ve done,” he said. “Also, just in general, they know that there’s stuff outside the classroom that they can partake in. It’s not just the books, the studying, but there’s also the opportunity to join an organization or just have fun at an event being hosted on campus.”

According to CSI, the final attendance for the Brownsville event was 472 students, while the Edinburg event was 881 students.

Cadaver Conversations: Coworkers #2



MICHELLE HERNANDEZ /THE RIDER

Mario Baez, a criminal justice sophomore, participates in an activity Wednesday at the Vaquero Clubs: Campus Takeover event at the Music, Science and Learning Center courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

Art is sometimes objectively bad



KAYLA MARTINEZ
A&E REPORTER

I think that creation is innate to the human condition. We want to represent our experience in art that will touch our souls. Our souls are the part of us able to experience art as an emotional, spiritual experience that our bodies can't. We don't write and sing and draw because we're writers, singers,

and artists, we do these things because we're people. Of course, these experiences can become physical as well. There are moments where a page you read is able to make your stomach twist, or head spin. But that only happens when what you've experienced is something that you think is good. There exists a sentiment in art discourse that continues to run its course: the idea that nothing is really objectively good or bad. Arguably, there's a point there. There's a philosophical theory that nothing we perceive as individuals is absolutely true, but that way of thinking is circular. It goes nowhere meaningful outside of "Well, I guess so." But I can refute that. First, we can just accept the fact that taste is something some people have in abundance

over others, especially when it comes to writing. Not every text published will stand the test of time, like many greats do.

"It just means it didn't fulfill the 'criteria' of most canons."

However, that doesn't mean that text is bad. It just means it didn't fulfill the "criteria" of most canons. There is a good reason we have our handful of greats though. These texts are still assigned readings in education designed for students to understand what good art

is. Timelessness and universal applicability aren't must-haves for good literature and art, but they certainly help it along. Something modern advice gets right about writing is: "Reading a lot helps you write better." I agree, but the footnote there should always be "reading good things." There's some space for reading bad writing, yes. It's something we can point to and dissect and tell ourselves to not do. But then there's too much room for slightly less bad things, because technically, you're not writing like that other guy. Reading good things cuts down on that guessing though, and gives you specific examples and goals to build your taste upon and always strive toward. Admittedly, there's always a self-satisfying ego trip to take

in reading bad writing. It's a distinct, human part of us that's tied to our creative sensibilities to look at a piece of art that fails and to revel in its failure. However, I will always get on my soapbox and tell people to squash that part of themselves. We can dislike something that fails at everything it sought out to do and also respect it. Someone may be bad at their art, but I assume that they love art like me and my peers. Amending our taste gaps is hard, it's not intuition for everyone to figure out what works and what doesn't, especially when there isn't one singular checklist that they can refer back to. Admittedly, this isn't a question I can answer as a student.

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Donald Dementia



VAQUERO VOICE

--Compiled by Alizzaya Guel



Brizeida Ramos
marketing senior

Giselle Ramos
visual communication
design senior

Q: How would you rate The Stomp experience from 1-10?

A) Giselle Ramos: "I would say an eight out of 10."
A) Brizeida Ramos: "I would give it, like, a nine."

Q: And why?

A) Giselle Ramos: "It was really great, it was really fun. I think the only thing is, like, I can't wait in lines for that long, but other than that, it's super fun; it's awesome."
A) Brizeida Ramos: "I think the same almost, I've been here for three years and it keeps getting better each and every single year, and this year is, like, the biggest I've seen it at. And with all the people here, that's kind of a disadvantage, but at the same time it's nice seeing everyone come together."

Q: What would you say is the best feature of The Stomp?

A) Giselle Ramos: "I think it was super cool that Dutch Bros and 7 Brew were here. I love my energy drinks so it was super cool to kind of have them around and see them there."
A) Brizeida Ramos: "Honestly, any of the rides. We went on two ... [it was] the best thing ever. It was really fun doing it all together and screaming our lungs out."

Q: What dance move are you going to be doing tonight?

A) Giselle Ramos: "Well, I just hit the Macarena, so maybe that one again."
A) Brizeida Ramos: "I think they did it earlier and we were all doing it; the Dougie. It was really fun. I would do it again."

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Los tiempos de espera de VOLT preocupan a los estudiantes

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

Los estudiantes de UTRGV han experimentado largos tiempos de espera y de recoger en el transcurso del semestre de otoño debido a que el tráfico y las actividades del campus afectan el tiempo de espera, de acuerdo con un oficial de la universidad.

Existen en total 23 vehículos VOLT y 5 vans, con 15 carritos y una van en el campus de Edinburg y 8 vehículos VOLT y cinco vans en el campus de Brownsville.

Maribel Contreras, directora de servicios de transporte, dijo que la frecuencia del vehículo VOLT en el campus de Edinburg es alrededor de 15 minutos, mientras que en el campus de Brownsville es con una frecuencia de 20 minutos.

“El inicio de cada semestre normalmente viene con incrementos en el tráfico ... con un alto número de pasajeros”, Contreras dijo. “También hay un alto índice de accidentes de tráfico y debido a la alta actividad alrededor del campus”.

Ella dijo que desde el inicio del semestre, los estudiantes todavía están arreglando algunos detalles y ajustándose a sus horarios mientras trabajan alrededor de los eventos de la universidad en el campus.

“Estas condiciones pueden afectar directamente en el nivel del tráfico, la condición de la ruta y en general la fiabilidad del servicio”, Contreras dijo.

El Rider tomó un vehículo VOLT en septiembre 2 desde el estacionamiento E21 en el campus de Edinburg hacia el Centro Recreativo de la



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / FOTOS RIDER

Un carrito VOLT de UTRGV estacionado en el circuito en el reloj del sol en el campus de Edinburg el 4 de septiembre. El VOLT está disponible de lunes a viernes de 7:30 a.m. a 6 p.m.

Universidad. El llamado fue desde el estacionamiento E21 y se realizó a las 3:04 p.m. El vehículo VOLT llegó a las 3:08 p.m. después de los 4 minutos que fue hecha la llamada.

Sin embargo, el viaje incluyó una parada en el Complejo de Artes Escénicas para esperar otro vehículo. Una van llegó alrededor de las 3:20 p.m. Después hizo otra parada en otra Vaquero Express para recoger a más personas y después hacer otra parada en Centro Académico de los Estudiantes antes de finalmente dirigirse al centro recreativo a las 3:39 p.m.

El trayecto del viaje fue de 35 minutos desde la llamada inicial. Contreras dijo que los 15

minutos de frecuencia de los vehículos VOLT en el campus de Edinburg es basado en la distancia que tiene alineación de la ruta, ya que puede contar con varias paradas.

Monique Brecma, una estudiante de primer año de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular, dijo que utiliza con frecuencia el vehículo VOLT ya que ella se estaciona cerca del ferrocarril de la calle Schunior.

Dijo que una de los mayores tiempos de espera de un vehículo VOLT ha sido de 15 minutos y agregó que ella vio un vehículo VOLT pasar frente a ella mientras esperaba uno, justo antes de que la recogiera una van.

“Es solo que la larga espera parece eterna ... Ellos nos llevan a donde necesitamos ir es bastante rápido”, Brecma dijo.

Ella agregó que la larga espera hace que el vehículo VOLT sea menos conveniente.

“Por el tiempo de espera en que lleguen, específicamente en este calor lo hace 10 veces peor ... Ya hubiera llegado a mi carro y estaría en mi casa”, Brecma dijo.

Aylen Faz, estudiante de primer año de biología, dijo que ella planea tomar un vehículo VOLT en caso de que sus clases sean en diferentes edificios porque ha escuchado que ayuda a los estudiantes llegar a sus clases más rápido.

Ella dijo, “No estaba segura... de cómo llamar [al vehículo VOLT]”.

Faz dijo que tener acceso a los horarios en los que el vehículo VOLT pasa por ciertos puntos de su circuito ayudaría a mejorar la experiencia general para saber a qué hora llegarás a tu parada designada.

Contreras dijo que se pondrían a disposición más vehículos si un trazado en particular lo requiere.

“Seguimos de cerca las condiciones del tráfico, la cantidad de pasajeros y el desempeño de la ruta, para que el los problemas que puedan surgir puedan ser cubiertos lo más pronto posible para que los estudiantes que esperan tiempos de demora vayan mejorando mientras avanza el semestre”, dijo.

Los estudiantes que experimenten retrasos pueden llamar al Departamento de Estacionamiento y Transporte al 956-665-2036 para el campus de Edinburg, y 956-882-2036 para el campus de Brownsville.

Contreras dijo que hay asistentes de servicio al cliente disponibles para recibir las llamadas y que ellos se comunicarán con un conductor del vehículo VOLT para ayudar.

Para mantener el seguimiento de la locación de los vehículos VOLT, los estudiantes pueden descargar la aplicación TransLoc.

Para más información visita el sitio web de Parking and Transportation Services.

--Traducio por Valeria Tokunaga
Haga

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Vaqueros trampled by Roadrunners



DANIELA CHAPA-REYES / THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTSA junior tight end Brandon Young Jr. jumps to capture a pass and score a touchdown as the Vaqueros run in an attempt to stop him. UTRGV was defeated 45-16 by the UTSA Roadrunners on Sept. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.



UTRGV junior defensive lineman Jaden Wincher (90) and junior linebacker Jaiden Haygood (23) prepare for a defensive play against redshirt freshman offensive lineman A'marion Breland (73) and redshirt senior offensive lineman Ben Rios (57) on Sept. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio. UTSA won 45-16.



Victory Vaquero lays on the field during the UTRGV vs. UTSA game on Sept. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.



UTRGV and UTSA get in formation for an offensive play by the Vaqueros on Sept. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The game marked the first time UTRGV faced an FBS opponent in the program's history.



UTRGV junior quarterback Aidan Jakobsohn (3) launches a pass as UTSA redshirt junior outside linebacker Cameron Cooper (1) attempts to intercept it on Sept. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The Roadrunners defeated the Vaqueros 45-16.



UTRGV and UTSA get in formation for an offensive play by the Vaqueros on Sept. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The game marked the first time UTRGV faced an FBS opponent in the program's history.



UTRGV fifth-year punter Nathaniel Wallace-Dilling (97) punts the ball during the fourth quarter at the Sept. 5 game against UTSA at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The Vaqueros fell to UTSA 45-16.

Tennis serves into new season



EMMA CASTILLO / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Junior Loic Young Kriegel prepares to receive the ball on Wednesday at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center. The team’s season started on Sept. 11 up until Nov. 8, where they will first face the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islanders.

TIMOTHY DAVID
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men’s Tennis team is starting up their fall season this year with their first match of the season being held Sept. 11-13 in Corpus Christi, against the Islanders. As of press time, results are not available.

With the current focus on the Corpus Christi Islanders, head coach Nathan Robinson said that the Corpus Christi Tournament will be a beneficial starting point for the whole team and even the coach.

“A lot of it is just continuing growth... making sure the game plans are fully set, making sure you’re fully confident of what you’re trying to do on the court,” Robinson said. “Then when you’re finding a different level, a different kind of guy, [making] sure you understand how that applies; that is basically the biggest

piece to the ball for us.”

Robinson said these upcoming matches are each seen as not only positive conflict for the players’ skills, but also as potential opportunities for them to become players in regional meets and higher skill ceilings.

“Regionals is the opportunity for our guys to qualify for bigger tournaments, also with opportunities to become ranked... If we’re doing things right, then there’s other things that could happen along with it,” he said. “Texas, this is a tough region to play, every day is a battle, so just getting those reps in against the high end competition.”

The tournaments are something that Robinson said he encourages others to come and witness as “some of the best teams in the country” compete in them.

“I always say, if you have an opportunity to come out and watch, please do, come up, say hi, meet the guys,” he said. “It’s a good group to be around, to get to know. I’m really blessed to have this group, so

I’m excited to hopefully see everybody out there.”

The tennis morals that Robinson teaches his team shows in both the practice and game, but also in the players themselves.

Ivo Isquero, a fifth-year tennis student, said that his goals for the team go hand-in-hand with the confident and winning mindset.

“As a team, we hope that we maximize our performance in every single draw, and we get one win in [every one of them,]” Isquero said. “Individually, I just want to try and do my best first week back, you know, it can be tough with the conditions. So, just applying my game style and feeling confident in myself.”

Junior Loic Young Kriegel said the bond within the team develops into his tennis skills, and the bond also benefits everyone’s energy for upcoming tournaments.

“Just in practice, you know, with the boys and everything, we’re always screaming

and giving energy to each other,” Kriegel said. “So, I think that’s a way to get the energy high. Taking it one match at a time, especially the pressure with a new match.”

Senior Santiago Serrano said the overall goal for the tennis team this season is to win the conference and enter into the NCAA.

“We’ve been trying a lot to win it, [for] years we’ve been really close,” Serrano said. “Two years ago we were one match away from winning the regular season, so our goal is to just win [the] conference and get into [the] NCAA.”

The tennis team’s fall season starts on Sept. 11 to Nov. 8 with games scheduled against Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Islanders, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (Texas Regionals), the Rice University Owls, the South Land Conference and the International Tennis Federation M25 Harlingen.



Coach Nathan Robinson briefs the tennis team on Wednesday at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center.



Fifth-year senior Ivo Isquero talks about his goals for the upcoming tennis season on Wednesday at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center.

Women’s Soccer throws the towel against UTEP

TIANA MEZA
THE RIDER

UTRGV women’s soccer lost 2-1 Thursday against the University of Texas at El Paso at the Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

This is the Vaqueros’ second loss in a row after losing to Sam Houston State University with a 4-2 score on Sept. 3 in Huntsville, Texas.

Head coach Nataki Stewart spoke of the bittersweet event of the game today.

“We had some moments of joy, but for me, I think we’re making the same mistakes,” Stewart said. “I mean, the players are working really well, it just comes down to these moments, making big plays, and we will continue as a staff to create the environment.”

The first half of the game neither teams scored, as both teams tacked on the aggression for a combined 12 fouls between both squads.

The Vaqueros backline and goalkeeper managed to keep the Miners scoreless despite UTEP’S 10 total shots during the first half and securing the 0-0 deadlock by halftime.

Of UTEP’s attempted 10 shots, the four shots on target were saved by junior goalkeeper Veronica Pancione who single-handedly denied an early lead for the Miners.

The return to the second half however brought upon rapid progression as three goals were made in the first ten minutes by UTRGV sophomore forward Amy Romero breaking the tie with the first goal of the match, and her second of the season.

However, the victory for the Vaqueros was short-lived as the Miners made haste to counter with a goal of their own by sophomore midfielder Zeta McDannels and an assist from freshman midfielder Bethlehem Daniel, tying the game once again.

McDannels didn’t let the momentum fizzle out, as she came back for more, scoring once more with an assist from freshman forward Haylee Lancaster, securing a 2-1 game.

The final 15 minutes of the game was defined by the Vaqueros pushing for an equalizer, desperate to at least settle the game with a tie.

UTRGV freshman forward Anuhe Aalona took two shots on goal, only to be denied by UTEP’s sophomore goalkeeper Savannah Finley in the 80th and 84th minute.

A small beacon of hope came when the Vaqueros managed to break past Finley to the open net, only to be met with senior defender Ashlyn Neireiter blocking the ball with a crucial team save, ultimately



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV sophomore forward Amy Romero steals a pass from UTEP sophomore midfielder Zeta McDannels Thursday during the match against UTEP at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg.

securing the game defining 2-1 win for the Miners.

The loss against UTEP is a momentary setback in the eyes of head coach Nataki Stewart, as it is the last game before the Southland Conference.

Coach Stewart said he is focused on

making sure the team is as healthy as possible.

“For us, it’s about fine tuning the details because these games are good tests in preparation for us as we head into conference play,” Stewart said. “But my feeling’s about our team, yes, we’re not

happy with the result, the way we can see those goals, we can see the problems.”

The Vaqueros soccer team faces another home game at 10 a.m. Sunday against the Concordia University Texas Tornados. As of press time, scores for the match are not available.



UTRGV sophomore forward Amy Romero celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal Thursday against UTEP at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg.



UTRGV junior goalkeeper Veronica Pacione catches the ball from a goal attempt during the match against UTEP at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg. Veronica made four saves in the first half of the match against UTEP.