

BASKETBALL

## GOLDEN TICKET

Women's basketball team advances to the NCAA Tournament



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

Senior forward Emma Halverson celebrates alongside Lady Mavericks after winning the 2022 Sun Belt Conference tournament finals against Troy University 76-61 on March 7 at the Pensacola Bay Center. Halverson tore her ACL in February, ending her season just before the tournament, so she cheered on and supported her teammates.

BY ANDREW TINEO

The Shorthorn sports editor

PENSACOLA, Fla. — With less than a minute before the Sun Belt Conference final ended, head coach Shereka Wright finally allowed herself to smile.

At that point, her team had already pulled ahead by double digits against Troy University, locking in an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2007.

As blue and yellow streamers rained down on the court, Wright embraced junior forward Starr Jacobs, eyes brimming with tears.

"It takes a village to get to

this point, and we're going to celebrate today," Wright said.

The Lady Mavericks won the Sun Belt Conference tournament for the first time in program history, defeating the No. 1 seed Troy 76-61 at the Pensacola Bay Center. It will be the third appearance in the NCAA Tournament in program history and the first representing the Sun Belt Conference.

"I'm so happy for our university, our athletic department, our student athletes and our staff," Wright said.

The team will not be the only ones saying goodbye to the Sun Belt as UTA will join the

Western Athletic Conference in July.

For Jim Baker, it was his last opportunity to witness a UTA's basketball program win a conference championship as the university's athletics director.

Baker announced his resignation from the position Feb. 8, which will take effect Sept. 1.

When UTA's players, coaches and staff cut pieces of the net as a celebratory tradition after winning the match, Baker made sure he took part in the process.

"I've watched the net get cut down for 10 years here, and it's fun to be part of it," Baker said.

CHAMPIONS continues on page 4-5



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

Head coach Shereka Wright cries as she embraces junior forward Starr Jacobs after winning the 2022 Sun Belt Conference tournament finals on March 7 at the Pensacola Bay Center.

CULTURE

## UTA celebrates women's history

The campus will host various events such as speaker discussions and a self-defense class.

BY FRANCESKA 'WOLF' ISALY AND JOHNATHAN PERRIELLO  
The Shorthorn staff

March brings the opportunity to reflect on women's accomplishments, trials and tribulations through the country's decades-long tradition: Women's History Month.

This yearly recognition of women's history began in 1981, when Congress authorized and requested

former President Ronald Reagan to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week," according to the Library of Congress' Women's History Month website.

In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed legislation that designated March as Women's History Month that year and acknowledged American women of every race, class and ethnic background for their contributions to the country.

Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and

authorizing the U.S. president to proclaim March as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month in honor of women's history.

Every March, people can honor generations of trailblazing women and girls who have built the nation, shaped its progress and strengthened the character of its people, said President Joe Biden in this year's proclamation.

As part of this month's celebration, the Office of Multicultural Affairs is hosting various events,

including speaker discussions and a self-defense class. For some faculty, this month serves as a time to reflect on and appreciate women in society and their personal lives.

The month is an opportunity to think about women in historical roles that have been primarily focused on men, said Dustin Harp, communication associate professor and Women's and Gender Studies program director.

Jessica Sanchez, Student Advocacy Services director and adjunct professor for the School of Social Work

WOMEN continues on page 2

ADAPTIVE ATHLETICS

## Home court favor

Read the story on page 8.



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

Senior Clarence McCarthy-Grogan dribbles the ball during a game against the University of Alabama on Feb. 11 at the Maverick Activities Center.



STUDENT UNION FEES

- Current fee is \$39 per semester, the second lowest fee in the state among major institutions
- If approved, fee would not increase until Fall 2026

WHAT'S TO KNOW?

- Dedicated resource center for student organizations and student focused services will be featured prominently within the UC
- Enhance dining options with shorter, faster and more efficient lines
- Open floor concept allows natural light to flow through all levels of the building and improves wayfinding
- More room allotted for all facets of student life, the new UC will give Mavericks plenty of space to focus on their goals, get work done, and recharge between classes

# Women

continued from page 1

and Women's and Gender Studies, said when she thinks of women during the month, she first thinks of her mom.

Jaime Green, marketing and management senior, said she also thinks of her mother during Women's History Month because of how hard she worked to start her own business and become financially independent.

"She was a school teacher, and she didn't have the passion for it anymore after her father passed," Green said. "She just wanted to be able to be there for her kids."

Sanchez said that within society and academia, she admires Gloria Anzaldúa and Patricia Zavella, two Chicana feminist scholars, as well as Patricia Hill Collins and Kimberlé Crenshaw, two prominent Black feminist scholars.

She appreciates her colleagues, who motivate her to continue her work on campus every day, Sanchez said.

During the month, she wears hoop earrings and braids her hair to connect with her culture. She doesn't hesitate to share her thoughts and acknowledge her accomplishments.

Harp draws inspiration from many women, including those in

her family and Hillary Clinton, who she said has fought for many people while weathering society's scorn.

She recognizes Women's History Month by organizing events and educating people on women's issues, Harp said.

Her goal is to teach people on those issues in hopes that they do the right thing, she said.

If students can learn why the month is important, they can pass that information on to other generations, she said.

UTA is hosting several women's history events this month.

Last year's Women's History Month theme for events was "Redefining the 'F' Word: Feminism," said Relius Johnson, Multicultural Affairs assistant director.

This year's theme is "Women's Health, Women's Choice."

Johnson said he focuses on "three E's" in his programs — empower, educate and engage. The programs planned for this month will hit all three, but some events will prioritize one focus over the others.

He hopes students learn something at the events and gain a new perspective.

Green said she was particularly excited for UTA's women's art show, where her own work will be displayed.

It will be her first time presenting her work in public, and



Illustration by Yvonne Collier

she may use certain colors to depict feminism in her piece, she said.

Johnson said there are eight women in his life who have shaped him into the person he is today, including his grandmother and Melanie Sheppard, former

Multicultural Affairs director.

Sanchez said women's history, like Black history, deserves to be recognized all year rather than just during one specific month.

Green said women are continually fighting for equality, including in jobs and wages.

"Women are constantly seen as the underdog," she said. "I think the more we raise awareness, the better it's going to be for us in the long run."

@WOLFISALY @PERRIELLO369  
news-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Bring factual errors to *The Shorthorn's* attention via email to editor.shorthorn@uta.edu or call 817-272-3188. A correction or clarification will be printed in this space.

## THE SHORTHORN STAFF

**Front Desk**.....817-272-3188  
**News after 5 p.m.**.....817-272-3205  
.....817-272-3898  
**Fax**.....817-272-5009  
UC Lower Level, B100, Box 19038, Arlington, TX 76019

**Editor-in-Chief**.....Angelica Perez,  
editor.shorthorn@uta.edu  
**Managing Editor**.....Dang Le,  
managing-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**ENGAGEMENT**  
Engagement Editor.....Abraham Mohamad  
Engagement Producers.....Hector Romero,  
Kerstan Warner, Ravin Walker

**NEWS**  
**News Editor**.....Mandy Huynh,  
news-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu  
**Associate News Editor**.....Erick Estrada,

assistant-news.shorthorn@uta.edu  
News Reporters.....Malika Chahal, Taylor Coit, Hannah Ezell, Franceska "Wolf" Isaly, Lillian Juarez, Jonathan Perriello, Ella Scott, Steven Shaw, Christine Vo

**SPORTS**  
**Sports Editor**.....Andrew Tineo,  
sports-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu  
Sports Reporters.....Isaac Appelt,  
Nicklaus Utsey, Jake Wilson

**LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Life and Entertainment Editor**.....Divya Konkimalla,  
features-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu  
Life Reporters.....Ritchie Manalastas,  
Ayesha Hana Shaji, McKenna Watson

**MULTIMEDIA**  
**Multimedia Editor**.....Nico Badeaux,  
photo-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**Multimedia Journalists**.....Shelby Carter,  
Axel Hoge, Ward Sakeik, Alessandra Sara,  
Marilyn Schoneboom

**Copy Desk Chief**.....Jill Bold,  
copydesk-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu  
Copy Editors.....Kylie Burnham, Deekota Diaz, Sara Sanchez, Zyrila Lott

**Design Editor**.....Claudia Humphrey,  
design-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu  
Illustrators.....Yvonne Collier,  
Cristina Del Coro Tino, Arturo Ramos, Kirby Teegarden  
Graphic Designers.....Kelsey Wells

**MARKETING**  
Marketing Manager.....  
marketing@shorthorn.uta.edu  
Marketing Assistants.....Alondra

Barajas-Enriquez, Espy Potier-Jones  
marketing@shorthorn.uta.edu

**ADVERTISING**  
**Advertising Manager**.....Melissa Esparza,  
admanager@shorthorn.uta.edu  
Advertising Reps.....Katelyn Ibarra  
Ad Artist.....Lana Phol

**Production Manager**.....Rama Al Tabba,  
ads@shorthorn.uta.edu

Web Developer.....Camille Hill

Office Assistant.....Sydni Coleman, Nicole Rogers

FIRST COPY FREE

ADDITIONAL COPIES 25 CENTS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON  
102ST YEAR, © THE SHORTHORN 2021  
All rights reserved. All content is the property of *The Shorthorn* and may not be reproduced, published or retransmitted in any form without written permission from UTA Student Publications. *The Shorthorn* is the student newspaper of the University of Texas at Arlington and is published by the UT Arlington Office of Student Publications. Opinions expressed in *The Shorthorn* are not necessarily those of the university administration.



Protect yourself and others.  
**MONITOR ANY COVID SYMPTOMS**  
go.uta.edu/vaccine

The 2022 NWBA Toyota Intercollegiate  
**Wheelchair Basketball National Championships**  
The University of Texas at Arlington  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**Venue: College Park Center**  
**March 17 - 19, 2022**  
More info: utamac.link/nationals  
UTA Movin' Mavs Wheelchair Basketball  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

**ON-CAMPUS VACCINATION CLINICS**  
**WEDNESDAYS MARCH 16 & 30**  
**10 AM – 2 PM**  
Group Exercise Room (102B) in the Maverick Activities Center  
Open to UTA students, employees, families and their dependents 12 years and older.  
Booster doses available for eligible individuals.

For vaccine information and resources, visit [go.uta.edu/vaccine](https://go.uta.edu/vaccine)

COLUMN

## First Amendment applies to athletes, too

With COVID-19 regulations and the recent conflict between Ukraine and Russia, the question of whether athletes should voice opinions on political topics has flared up once again

When football player Colin Kaepernick knelt to the national anthem in protest of racial inequalities and Black oppression a few years ago, phrases like “stick to sports” flooded online comment sections.

For some fans, it's out of line for athletes to speak up about politics. They think those athletes should focus on what they do best: “shut up” and play ball.

Between the current Ukraine-Russia conflict and COVID-19 regulations, asking athletes to focus on playing and avoid discussing politics is now irrational and, quite frankly, impossible.

Athletes come from all over the world. They all have the right to engage in political and social topics relevant to them. Sports organizations should lead conversations on worldwide issues, and athletes should voice their opinions and use their platforms to influence millions of people.

Most of these athletes do not solely play for themselves — they play for their nations. An example of where such nationalism can be found is the Olympics. At the 2020 Olympics Games in Tokyo, thousands of athletes participated, representing over 200 countries.

In late February, the International Olympic Committee executive board recommended international sports federations and organizers bar Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from competing. They are only to be accepted as neutral athletes or neutral teams, without display of national symbols, colors, flags or anthems.

The organizations that oversee professional tennis recently announced they will prohibit Russia and Belarus from competing in team tournaments but will still allow players from those countries to participate without national identification.

The announcement, while understandable, is shocking, seeing as Russia has taken the tennis world by

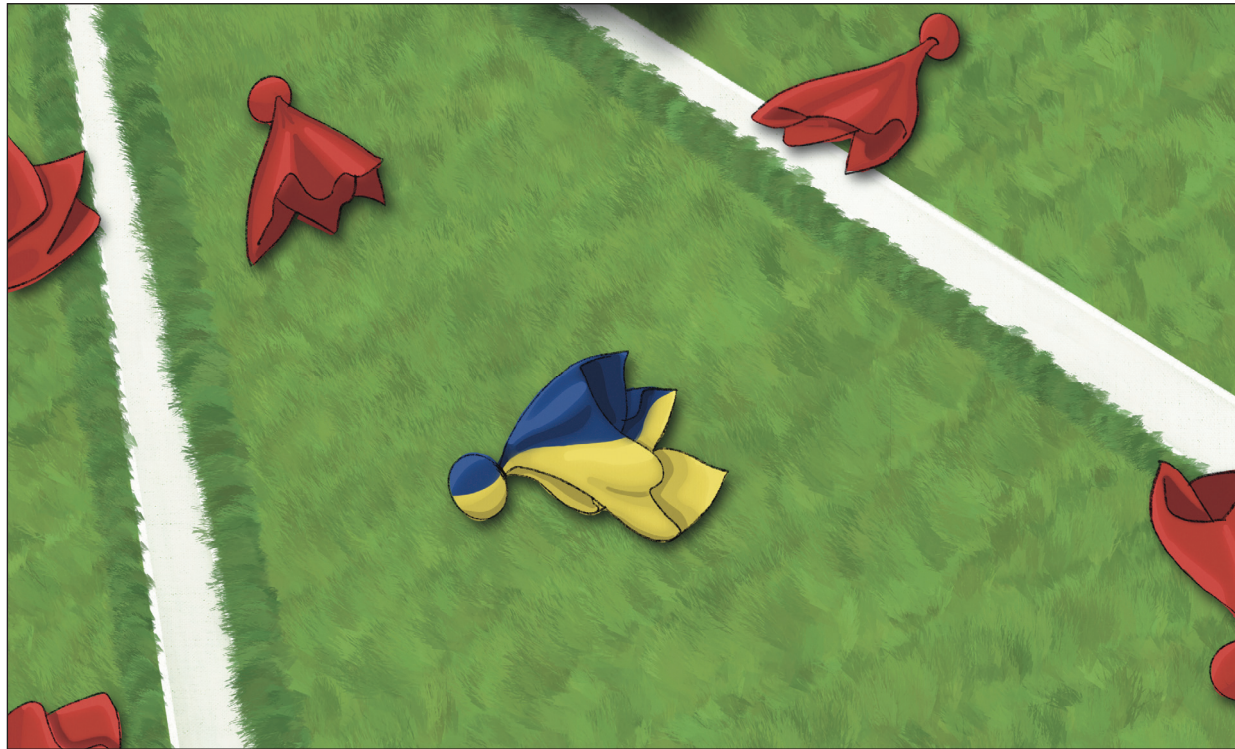


Illustration by Arturo Ramos

storm, and both its men's and women's teams won the major national team tournaments last year. But such actions from organizations wouldn't have happened without players voicing their stances.

When the invasion happened, Elina Svitolina, Ukrainian and former No. 3 singles women's tennis player, announced she wouldn't participate in any matches against Russian or Belarusian players until the tennis organizations followed the IOC's recommendations.

Amid the invasion, Russian tennis player Daniil Medvedev became the 27th No. 1 men's singles player. Medvedev's national identification is unlisted on the Association of Tennis Professionals' ranking website.

It is unfair to Medvedev, as politics have hindered his achievements, and he has been vocal about wanting peace. The same goes for any Russian or Belarusian athlete who has spoken up against their government's actions yet is still shunned by other countries or organizations.

However, it's necessary because

it shows that sports associations are willing to take a definite stance instead of hiding under the rug. It reminds nations like Russia that they will not receive support from worldwide organizations for their destructive behaviors.

Players like Svitolina aren't afraid to voice their opinions, and it works. She has influenced how the tennis world reacts to political events and grown people's faith that sports organizations may continue to speak up for what's right.

That doesn't mean players will not be penalized for their actions. After kneeling, Kaepernick opted out of his contract as quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers in 2017 and has remained unsigned. But had he refused to opt out, the 49ers would still have released him, according to ESPN.

The same goes for athletes who decided to take a stance against vaccination mandates. Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving has been sidelined from playing home games since New York implemented a vaccine

requirement.

Irving's been in a standoff with COVID-19 vaccine mandates for some time, saying it's his decision to take the vaccine. The New York City government has planned to loosen its vaccine mandates, but uncertainty remains over Irving's ability to play in home games before the regular season ends in April.

In tennis, former No. 1 player Novak Djokovic said he is prepared to miss both the French Open and Wimbledon if he is turned away for not being vaccinated.

Earlier this year, Djokovic was involved in a court case with the Australian government over his vaccination status. He was deported from the country days before the 2022 Australian Open, a Grand Slam tournament Djokovic has won nine times.

While fans may not be happy with the political decisions, they should welcome them as sports organizations are standing up to their beliefs and using their platforms for a greater good even if the decisions don't align

DANG LE



Le is a journalism senior and The Shorthorn managing editor.

Join the discussion by commenting online at [theshortorn.com](https://theshortorn.com).

with the fans' beliefs.

But sports also require fan support, which explains why many associations have loosened their hands and begun to ignore political matters. Throughout the 2022 Super Bowl, fans and celebrities seldom wore masks, despite the venue's policy to do so except when eating or drinking.

Based on photos of the audience, everybody must have been eating and drinking with the number of people not wearing masks during the game.

Sports connect people all over the world. People look up to athletes. That, in itself, gives sports organizations the platform to be political megaphones and stand up for their beliefs.

It's time for American sports organizations to move past performative acts and stop avoiding partisan friction. It's also time for athletes to voice their beliefs and for the public to not ridicule them over that.

Athletes are human beings, and they have every right to speak up for issues they care about.

The stick-to-sports era is over. It took long enough, but it's here.

@DANGHLE

managing-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

EDITORIAL

## Voter turnout in Texas plummets for primary elections

With a small fraction of Texas' population exercising their right to vote, *The Shorthorn* Editorial Board reminds Texans of the importance of voting in primary elections.

As candidates for the general election emerge after the 2022 primary election, one thing becomes clear: only a fraction of Texans are deciding Texas' fate.

The *Shorthorn* Editorial Board believes the primary is just as important as any other election, as it's the first step to picking out the candidates who will shape the future of the state.

However, the low voter turnout, whether from the races' predictability or the state's efforts to restrict voting, may mean people will not have the best candidates as Texans move forward to the general election Nov. 8.

In the gubernatorial primary race, which is typically the most anticipated race during the primary election, almost 900,000 more Republicans than Democrats voted.

Many factors may affect this turnout. Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott's

race had more recognizable opponents in former Texas Sen. Don Huffines and former Florida congressman Allen West.

On the other hand, the Democratic race felt predetermined as unknown candidates battled against former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who ran for Senate in 2018 and the 2020 Democratic presidential primary election.

But for whatever reasons, the biggest race in the 2022 primary election, which results in an expected result of O'Rourke vs. Abbott, only attracted around three million voters, with more than 95% of the ballots being counted.

By January, 17.1 million Texans were registered to vote, according to the Texas Secretary of State's website. But the U.S. Census Bureau reported there were 29.1 million Texans in 2020, and 21.7 of them are 18 and older.

In other words, less than 20% of Texas eligible voters cast their ballots for the 2022 primary election, and not all Texans have registered to vote.

This is hardly a surprise considering that only a quarter of registered voters showed up in 2020, when voters were motivated by a presidential race. The majority — 74.5% —

didn't, according to data by *The Texas Tribune*.

However, this data does not reflect the entire situation.

Last September, Abbott signed Senate Bill 1 into law, banning drive-thru and 24-hour voting and tightening mail-in voting by requiring IDs. It also prohibits county officials from mailing unrequested applications to people, such as voting instructions for eligible voters. The law went into effect last December.

The new voting law requires eligible Texas voters to include their driver's license number or Social Security number — whichever they used to register — on

both the mail-in ballot application and its carrier envelope.

Since the required ID

information on the ballot envelope is printed in small font and under the envelope flap, many people would overlook it considering they have already printed their number on the mail-in ballot application.

The damage is apparent. Before the first primary election under the new voting law, counties reported initial ballot rejection rates between 8% to 30%, with ID requirements tripping up a majority of voters for both parties in large and midsize

counties, according to *The Texas Tribune*. Less than 2% of mail-in ballots were rejected in the 2018 primary election, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.



Illustration by Christina Dal Corso Ito

THE ISSUE:

The 2022 primary election ends with low voter turnout due to lack of interest and new Texas' restrictive voting law.

WE THINK:

Senate Bill 1, which went into effect last year, has produced a lower voter turnout. Instead of encouraging more people to vote and driving excitement for the elections, Texas officials have found ways to restrict options for voters.

TAKE ACTION:

All Texans should consider participating in all elections since they serve different purposes to shape the future of Texas. While the new voting law creates obstacles for voters, people should be careful when submitting a ballot to ensure they have met all the requirements needed to be counted.

editor Dang Le; editor-in-chief Angelica Perez; associate news editor Erick Estrada; Divya Konkimalla, life and entertainment editor; design editor Claudia Humphrey; news reporter Mallika Chahal; and Ayesha Shaji, life and entertainment reporter. Humphrey was not present for this editorial decision, and copy desk chief Jill Bold filled in.

managing-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Mavericks face loss in their final Sun Belt Conference tournament

The men's basketball team got eliminated in the first round Thursday, losing to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

BY ANDREW TINED  
The Shorthorn sports editor

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Shooting the basketball became the Achilles' heel during the men's basketball team's short-lived experience in its last Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Heading into the tournament, UTA had lost its last three games, scoring under 60 points in each game.

The Mavericks lost in the first round of the tournament Thursday 67-64 against the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

"We just couldn't get consecutive stops, and we needed to get stops in the second half," head coach Greg Young said.

The team ended its season on a four-game losing streak and shot less than 40% from the field during that span.

"We just struggled to score," Young said. "You just hate to get in those doldrums at this time of the year."

UTA finished with less than 65 points in those four games and made 28.7% from beyond the arc.

The Mavericks made 23.3% of their shots in the first half and made seven of their 27 3-point attempts in the game against Louisiana.

The Mavericks were out-rebounded 20-15 in the first half and had two assists on seven made

field goals.

UTA cut the deficit to three with two seconds left, but an attempt for overtime fell short at the buzzer.

It was the 11th game this year UTA lost by 10 points or less against a Sun Belt team, with 10 of them by single digits.

Young credited his defense for keeping them in the game and giving the offense opportunities to score.

"We had some good looks created by our defense," he said. "We just didn't stick them, and I think we could have stuck on and taken the lead there when it's three or four, and then maybe we flip that momentum."

Sophomore forward Patrick Mwamba matched his career-high with 19 points and was the team's second-leading scorer.

Mwamba added seven rebounds, the second-most of the season, and a season-high four steals.

Graduate guard David Azore finished the season averaging 19.9 points per game, tied for 10th in a single season in program history.

Azore currently ranks seventh in career free throw percentage at 80.9%.

He finished the season with the sixth-most points in program history. Azore attests his success to his teammates, coaches and support system at UTA, he said.

Sophomore forward Kaodirichi Akobundu-Ehiogu finished the game with four blocks and moved to third place all-time in program

history with 134.

It was the 11th game this season he recorded four or more blocks. Louisiana head coach Bob Marlin commended Young and the Mavericks for their effort.

"Coach Young is a friend and a good basketball coach," Marlin said. "His teams play hard, and they showed that today."

The season concluded Young's first season as the Mavericks' head coach. Before being promoted to the position, he previously served as an assistant and associate coach on the staff.

The loss marked the Mavericks' last game as a Sun Belt Conference member before they move to the Western Athletic Conference for the 2022-2023 academic year July 1.

UTA has been a member of the conference since the 2013-2014 academic year and has 94 conference wins, the third-most during that time frame.

During its tenure, the program won a Sun Belt regular season championship in 2017 and made two Sun Belt Conference tournament finals appearances but lost both in 2018 and 2019.

Men's basketball has not made an NCAA Tournament appearance since 2008, the lone one in program history.

UTA finished its season with an 11-18 record and 7-10 in Sun Belt Conference play.

@D\_TINED4  
sports-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu



File photo / Nicholas Badeaux

Sophomore guard Nicolas Elame gets blocked from a layup during the first round of the 2022 Sun Belt Conference tournament against the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on March 3 at the Pensacola Bay Center. Elame finished with nine points and made three of his six field goals.



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

The Lady Mavericks spray head coach Shereka Wright in the locker room after winning the 2022 Sun Belt Conference tournament finals against Troy University on March 7 at the Pensacola Bay Center. Wright won the championship in her second season as the Lady Mavericks' head coach.

## Champions

continued from page 1

Wright reminisced about the interview for the Lady Mavericks' head coach position where Baker said he wanted to win a championship, and she wanted to fulfill that, she said.

"That was a moment for him and his retirement of the amazing things that he has done for UTA Athletics, the positions that he's put these student-athletes in and he deserves every piece of that net," Wright said.

The No. 2 seed UTA lost to all three of its tournament opponents during the regular season.

UTA lost to the No. 7 seed Georgia Southern University 64-63 on Jan. 15, then to the No. 3 seed University of Louisiana at Lafayette 62-57 on Feb. 12.

Before the championship game, the No. 1 seed Troy University defeated UTA 59-48 on Jan. 8 inside the College Park Center. It's the fewest points the Lady Mavericks have scored in conference play. UTA avenged all three teams en route to the conference cham-

ionship.

After receiving a first-round bye as the conference's top four seed, UTA defeated Georgia Southern 85-76 on Friday in the tournament quarterfinals.

After the Lady Mavericks held a 20-point lead in the third quarter, the Eagles responded to cut the lead to six with 1:25 left in the fourth. However, UTA closed the game offensively, making all six of their free-throw attempts in the last minute.

UTA's defense would hold strong for the victory to secure a spot in the semifinals.

The Lady Mavericks finished with four players scoring in double-digits, led by Jacobs' 28, alongside senior guards Terryn Milton's 15 and Claire Chastain's 14 and Katie Ferrell's 11.

Getting to the free-throw line was a key in the game, as they made a season-high 31 free throws.

UTA advanced to the conference championship game after a 75-65 win over Louisiana.

Jacobs added a consecutive 28-point performance in the semifinals game to her quarterfinals performance alongside 10 rebounds and three blocks.

UTA outscored Louisiana 24-17 in the third quarter and did not

give up the lead the rest of the game. It was the first time they've made a conference championship game since 2009 as a Southland Conference member.

In the championship game, the Lady Mavericks extended their lead to as much as 24 in the first half.

The lead stayed above double digits for the remainder of the second half, pushing UTA to the NCAA Tournament in the end.

Wright said she thought about the victory being in hand with two minutes left since it was very difficult for Troy to come back by then.

"I just wanted to smile and embrace that," she said. "Let our kids know, 'Hey, listen, we were right there. We just need to finish it off.'"

Jacobs finished her MVP campaign with a double-double: scoring a third straight 28-point game alongside 11 rebounds and three steals.

"We had the best player right there, and she proved it," Baker said.

Jacobs said she was surprised at how well she had been playing, and she's feeling good about her game.

"I think I can focus more on my shooting, but a lot of teams like to double-team me," she said. "Having those kick-outs to my teammates, and shooting the way we did this tournament just opens the

floor up for all of us."

Milton finished with 12 points and eight rebounds. She played all 40 minutes of the game and attested her stamina to her calming presence and ability to recompose the team when the score got close.

"It got really intense near the end of the game, but I kept getting our team together and telling them to calm down, 'It's OK, we just have to take it one play at a time,'" Milton said.

Baker said a few players came up to him before the game and said, "This one's for you, Mr. Baker."

"We're the best in the Sun Belt this year, we want to be the best in the WAC next year," he said.

The team will await its opening opponent for the NCAA Tournament, which will be announced during the Selection Show on March 13.

"They didn't fold, they faced adversity, and they stayed together, and that's what it looks like to be a champion," Wright said.

@D\_TINED4  
sports-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

Senior guard Katie Ferrell cuts down the game net after winning the 2022 Sun Belt Conference tournament finals against Troy University on March 7 at the Pensacola Bay Center. Ferrell scored nine points, had six rebounds, and two assists before fouling out with five minutes left in the game.



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

The Lady Mavericks celebrate with their championship trophy after winning the 2022 Sun Belt Conference tournament finals against Troy University on March 7 at the Pensacola Bay Center. UTA will be one of 68 teams in the 2022 NCAA Tournament competing beginning with the first rounds March 15-21.

COMMENTARY

# Lone superstar state: Texas women continue to dominate the music industry

The history of music has been influenced by many female voices from Texas. Mickey Guyton, Selena Gomez, Kacey Musgraves and more have made contributions recognized by the Grammy Awards.

BY DANG LE  
The Shorthorn managing editor

Don't mess with Texas female musicians. The 2022 Grammy Awards nomination list is filled with the voices of women from the Lone Star State. But their impact shouldn't surprise anyone because generations of Texas female artists have knocked down doors and carved their legacy in music history for decades.

In the '60s, Port Arthur native Janis Joplin, a white

woman, poured her heart into emulating blues and soul through rock music. Joplin raised many eyebrows then, as the genre has long been performed by Black artists. But looking back years later, any rock fan must have had *Pearl* in their collection and should've rolled their car windows down and belted "Cry Baby" or "Piece of My Heart" at least once.

Fast forward decades later and Houston native Selena Quintanilla-Pérez changed

the Tejano music scene forever before her tragic death in 1995. Her influence never stopped, as it isn't rare to see someone mindlessly mumbly "Dreaming of You" with the "Queen of Tejano Music's"] blasting from small convenience store speakers.

And then there's Houston native Beyoncé, whose undeniable impact has inspired generations of artists. If you grew up in the 2000s and didn't blast "Bootylicious" or "Crazy in Love" from your

iPod, you were doing it wrong. Her influence aged like fine wine, as Beyoncé became the performing artist with the most career Grammy wins in Grammy Awards history, totaling 28 trophies last year.

If you haven't played Grapevine's own Norah Jones' *Come Away With Me*, which earned her five Grammys: Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, Best New Artist, Record of the Year and — the most prestigious award of the

night — Album of the Year, do yourself a favor and give it a spin. Jones is nominated this year for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.

Texas female singers seem to have it all — passion, talent and stage presence. If you grew up with them, it probably isn't wrong for you to think: This is it. This is the peak. What else can the next generations of Texas women say that hasn't been said?

The next crop of Texas women nominated at this

year's Grammy Awards live in an era where the previous generations have paved the way for them. But that doesn't make their jobs easier. They still have more stories to tell, whether through music or social commentary. They have inspired millions of people throughout their careers. They won't try to outdo the legends, but they're ready to carry the torch.

@DANGHLE  
features-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

## Mickey Guyton is rewriting the history of country music

Black artists have always been marginalized in the country genre. Ironically enough, it was built on Black artists like DeFord Bailey, Ray Charles and countless others. Yet it was packaged as white people's music somewhere along the line. However, some Black artists are ready to rewrite this section of music history.

Last year, Arlington native Mickey Guyton became the first Black solo woman to receive a nomination in the country genre with her song "Black Like Me." She increased her odds this year with three extra nominations: Best Country Solo Performance, Best Country Song and Best Country Album for her debut album *Remember Her Name* and its titular track.

"I feel validated. Like, ugh, thank God. Because there was doubt cast upon this project before I released it. So now to see the response, I just feel relieved," Guyton told *The New York Times* about her nominations.

## Maren Morris addresses the country through country music

The country music scene is brutal, especially in Texas, where clear lines are drawn between the left and right. When Dallas' own The Chicks spoke up against the Bush presidency many years ago, they immediately faced backlash, boycotts and death threats from country fans.

Which makes Arlington native Maren Morris' efforts to stand up in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement daring and powerful. Morris received a Best Country Song nomination for "Better Than We Found It," a song that addresses discrimination, harassment and police brutality, along with a Best Country Duo/Group Performance for "Chasing After You."

"I still have hope for this country and for the future of it, and as a new mother I wanted to promise my son that I'm going to do everything in my power to leave this world better than the one I came into and the one I see right now," Morris said in a statement about the song.

## St. Vincent finds humor through personal story

Musicians draw inspiration for their music anywhere. Some like to develop different identities and write songs without relation to what they're going through, while others draw personal life into their music.

Dallas' own St. Vincent, who has won a Grammy twice, has always been comfortable playing around with different identities through her albums. But for her sixth solo project *Daddy's Home*, which earned her a nomination this year for Best Alternative Music Album, St. Vincent loosely bases her songs about her father, who just got out of prison, and pokes fun at the situation.

"My father's incarceration was a story that was kind of told without my consent, but since it got out, I was like, 'Well, I can write about it because I can tell it from my perspective, and with a sense of humor and compassion and not be too Disney about it,'" St. Vincent told *W Magazine* in 2021.

## Selena Gomez digs deep into her roots

There always seems to be a barrier between Latino artists and their audience. For some, they get shunned by the public because of their musical genres or that they're not fluent in Spanish — even when the "Queen of Tejano Music" isn't fluent in the language. Yet many artists are not letting that barrier prevent them from feeling proud of their heritage.

Thirteen years after her debut album, Grand Prairie native Selena Gomez received her first Grammy Award nomination Nov. 30. But with all the hits she racked up over the year, the nomination was not for any of Gomez's English pop efforts. Instead, she received a Best Latin Pop Album nomination for her first Spanish-prominent project *Revelación*.

"This has been something I've wanted to do for 10 years, working on a Spanish project, because I'm so, so proud of my heritage, and just genuinely felt like I wanted this to happen," Gomez told host Zane Lowe in an interview for Apple Music.

## Kacey Musgraves crushes genre boundaries

It seems like country music also has its own set of rules because it isn't unusual to see comments like "This isn't country music" or "I miss the real country" anymore whenever a country artist announces a new project. But then again, how can one define the genre, if Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt and Anne Murray have either been nominated or won the pop categories at the Grammy Awards before with their country hits.

Golden, Texas, native Kacey Musgraves won Album of the Year three years ago with her country-pop album *Golden Hour*. She followed up with *star-crossed*, which was moved from the country category to pop by the award's committee. She failed to get nominated in that genre but racked up Best Country Solo Performance and Best Country Song for "camera roll," showing support for her from country voters.

"I feel like I don't belong to country in any way on one hand. But on the other hand, I'm deeply rooted in that genre," Musgraves told *ELLE* in 2021.

## Megan Thee Stallion proves authenticity sells

There's something about successful women that men have problems with, especially Black female artists, as they come out of their shells and express their authenticity through their music. People begin to speak up, saying these women are damaging the next generation of women by selling vulgarity and that they're desperate for attention.

That did not stop Houston own's Megan Thee Stallion from receiving a Best Rap Performance nomination for "Th-t Sh-t" and Album of the Year nomination for her involvement in Lil Nas X's *Montero*. She won three awards last year, including becoming the first female rapper to take home Best New Artist since Lauryn Hill in 1999.

"Let me repeat: I choose what I wear, not because I am trying to appeal to men, but because I am showing pride in my appearance, and a positive body image is central to who I am as a woman and a performer. I value compliments from women far more than from men," Stallion wrote in an op-ed piece for *The New York Times* in 2020.

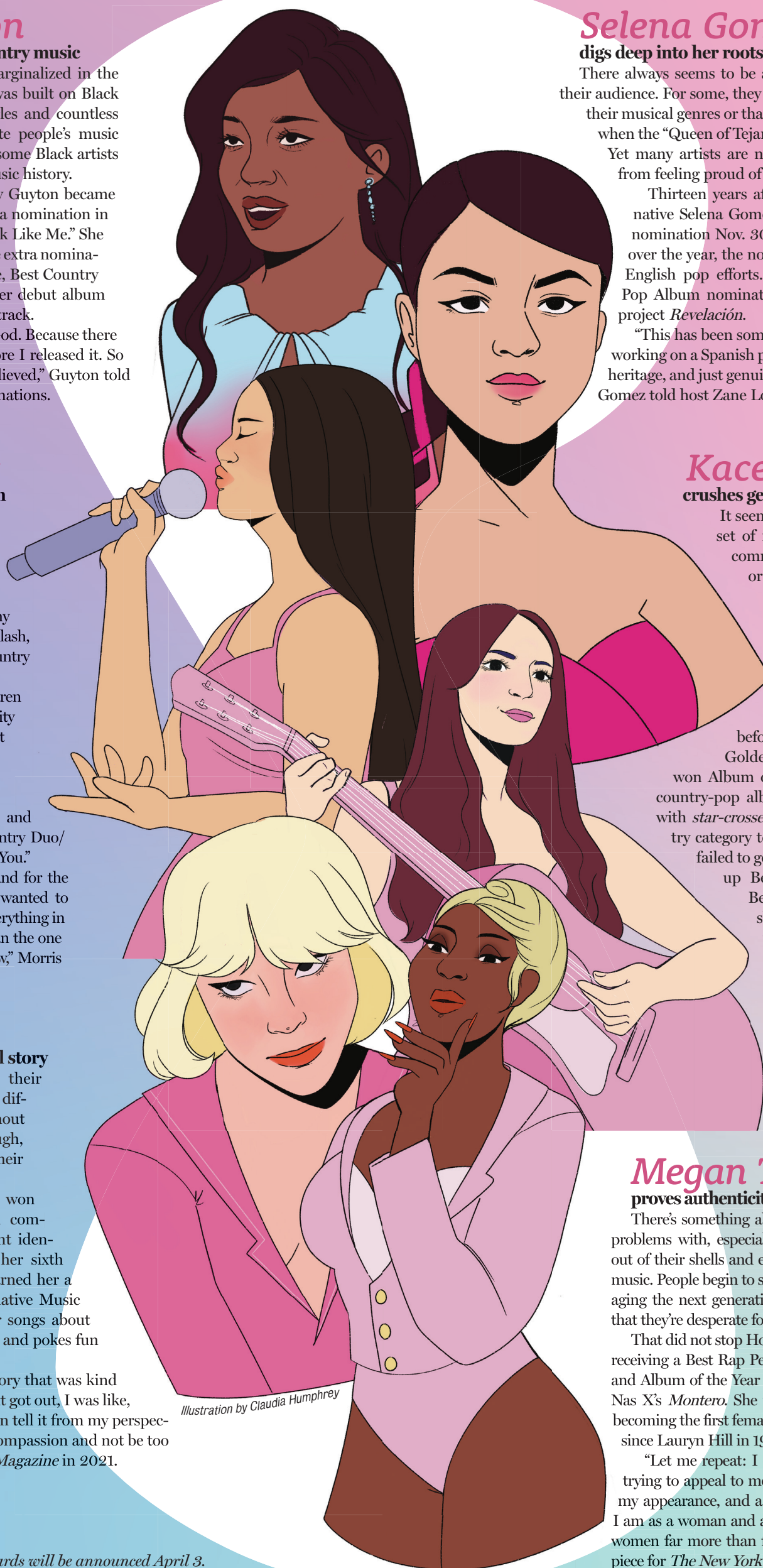


Illustration by Claudia Humphrey



ADAPTIVE ATHLETICS

# Wheelchair basketball to compete on home court for national championship

The men's and women's Movin' Mavs will play in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Intercollegiate National Championship on March 17 at the College Park Center.

BY NICKLAUS UTSEY AND JAKE WILSON  
The Shorthorn staff

For many people, it's special for the 2022 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Intercollegiate National Championship to be held in Arlington. But for senior Clarence McCarthy-Grogan, an Australian native who has been with the Movin' Mavs for six years, this is the first time his entire family will see him play at nationals.

"I'm really looking forward to my father and brother coming over," McCarthy-Grogan said. "I'm looking forward to seeing them, and they've never seen me play at nationals before."

Fans and athletes of the Movin' Mavs and Lady Movin' Mavs programs may be familiar with their home courts in the Maverick Activities Center or Physical Education Building.

However, the College Park Center will be the program's home for the tournament from March 17 to 19. The venue will host the tournament for the first time since 2014.

The tournament structure will be double-elimination, consisting of 12 teams for the men's division and six for women's. If a team loses during the first or second round, they will move to a loser's bracket, where they compete for third



The Shorthorn: Nicholas Badeaux

Sophomore Zoe Voris, left, freshman Maddie Edwards, center-left, senior Elizabeth Becker, center-right, and sophomore Alexis Cook roll down the court during practice on Feb. 17 at the Physical Education Building. Wheelchair basketball players are split into eight classifications depending on their functional mobility, and athletes are required to have a medically-documented disability to play.

place. The two undefeated teams of the tournament will play for the national title.

The Movin' Mavs look to capture their 10th trophy in this tournament after overcoming long-time foe University of Alabama last year.

On the other hand, the Lady Movin' Mavs will fight for their third national championship after coming up short against Alabama in the 2021 final.

Doug Garner, Movin' Mavs head coach, said the tournament coming to the College Park Center allows him and his team to show the students what they're capable of achieving.

Garner, who became the head coach in 2008, said he understands the challenge of hosting the championships at UTA. They have to put on a good show for all the

teams in the division. "One reason that we want to play at College Park Center but also just host the national tournament is so other people at the university can be introduced to Movin' Mavs," he said.

Playing on campus brings exposure that may propel the wheelchair basketball program to center stage, sophomore Zoe Voris said.

"I hope we bring a lot of awareness to the fact that we're here. We're a wheelchair basketball team at UTA," Voris said. "I don't feel that a lot of people know about [us]. Or if they do, it's very minimal information."

The College Park Center is home to the men's and women's basketball, volleyball teams and the Dallas Wings, a Women's National Basketball Association team,

according to the College Park Center's website. The venue, which is 218,000 square feet, holds 7,000 seats for traditional athletics court events.

McCarthy-Grogan said he and the other players are excited to play in front of a home crowd for the tournament. He left the U.S. during the pandemic and returned after 18 months to play this season, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

"Not every player has that luxury, or the opportunity to be able to play at nationals on their home floor, let alone in their senior year," he said. "With this being my senior year, it's even more exciting."

Voris said this is her first time playing nationals at a college level, and it will be amazing to play in front of supportive fans.

"Being able to play in areas as big as the CPC — that's amazing. That's such a dream of mine," she said. "[Being] in front of people that support us, like friends and family, [is] going to be super cool."

The tournament will be free for all attendees. Fans may park at Park South Garage, Park North Garage and Park Central Garage.

The venue provides various food options such as popcorn, pizza and more.

The College Park Center has a strict clear bag policy to ensure the safety of fans, so backpacks, purses and briefcases are among some that are prohibited, according to the venue's website.

Jeff Davis, special event facilities executive director, said the design elements of the College Park Center provide a great experience for fans who attend the tournament.

"Fans can look forward to being close to the action with seating that comes all the way down to court level and being really immersed in the game environment itself," Davis said.

Davis said he feels happy to host and support the athletes at UTA.

"With this being a national tournament, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, it's really fitting to bring that event into the College Park Center," he said. "That's really what this center was built and designed for: to have or showcase really high-profile events on campus."

@N\_UTSEY1@THEJAKEWILIS  
sports-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

THE SHORTHORN **HOUSING FAIR**  
Discover on & off-campus housing options

- 20+ communities
- Apartments and residence halls
- Prizes and giveaways

\$200 UTA BOOKSTORE GIFT CARD ENTER TO WIN

OUR SUPERPOWER IS FINDING HOMES FOR UTA STUDENTS

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Wed., April 13  
Palo Duro Lounge • University Center

SHORTHORN HOUSING  
@hornhousing UTA Student Publications

theshortorn.com/housing

If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact our office at least 10 business days prior to the event for arrangements at tskrehar@uta.edu or (817) 272-3188

THE SHORTHORN **Dining Guide**

Discover your new favorite restaurants and hangouts!

SPECIALS  
UTA DISCOUNTS  
CURBSIDE PICKUP  
MAPS & PHOTOS

QR CODE

**THESHORTHORN.COM/DINING**  
AMERICAN • ASIAN • MEXICAN • TEX-MEX • BAKERIES • PUBS

SHORTHORN HOUSING

YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR UTA-AREA HOUSING OPTIONS

SHORTHORN HOUSING

- View and compare campus-area housing choices
- See floorplans, photos, features, pricing and maps
- View on- or off-campus locations
- Get renter tips & information

UTA Student Publications

**THESHORTHORN.COM/HOUSING**