



TAMUK cheer practicing the routine they will be performing in Daytona.

Photo by Melissa Mata

TAMUK cheer heads to Florida

Team attending
Daytona Cheer
Competition

hard trying to get our name out there so people can see us more...and look at us more as a sport. We really work our butts off every day, so we just want people to look at us and know we're trying our best," Cheer Captain Rianna Pena said.

The team has been practicing four times a week adding onto their additional schedule to make sure everyone is competition ready.

"We feel really grateful. I actually haven't gotten the opportunity to compete in Daytona and I know a lot of the girls on the team haven't either so we're all really excited. We're the first team to go in about 20 years so I'm really excited and I hope that we can do well and

Zena Desouza-George | Co-Sports Editor
Sports.editor@thesouthtexan.com

While 20 years have passed since the Javelina cheer team has gone to compete on a national level, they are back for redemption for missing out over the years.

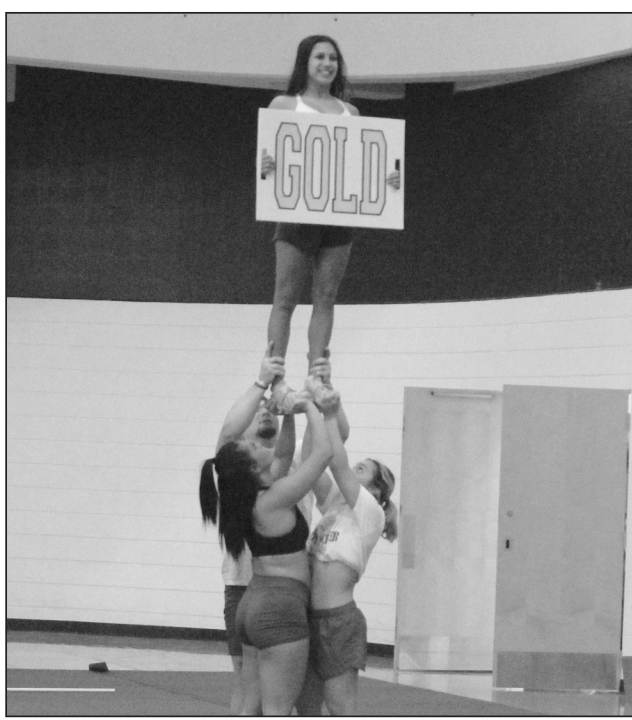
The Javelinas have been given the opportunity to showcase their skills and will be traveling to compete at the 2023 NCA Daytona Beach Classics (DI/DII) happening on April 4 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"We're really working



Leiyia Vasquez leading the formation.

Photo by Melissa Mata



Rianna Pena doing a stunt.

win," Co-Captain Anyssa Flores said.

The Javelinas will be holding a showcase on campus at 6:30 p.m. on March 26 at the Rec. Center for everyone to see the routine they have prepared for the Daytona competition.

"It'll be our whole routine from start to finish. We'll have uniforms, hair done, the boys will have their uniforms, we'll have Porky out there fully suited up. It's going to be exciting to see what we bring to the table," Gameday Captain Alexandra Gonzalez said.

"It's going to be our first full out with make-

up, hair, and bows...everything to the T."

Although the road has been long for the Javelinas they are ready to represent for Javelina nation and come back with a title.

"This year we have really upped our game skillset wise. In the past tumbling was not a requirement for our team, but most of our team has skills that are better than that, so now that we have the opportunity to go to Daytona to showcase our skills on a national level, we're ready to show the nation what we can do," Head Cheer Coach Molly Roach said.

Photo by Melissa Mata



Tennis prepares for Midwestern State match.

Photo by Christopher Olivarez

Javelina Tennis eyeing conference opponents

Wollenzien and company prepare for conference play

Dylan Sanchez | Opinion Editor
Opinion.editor@thesouthtexan.com

The 2023 season for the tennis team has gotten off to a promising start under Head Coach Autumn Wollenzien, starting out the season 4-3, 1-1 in conference.

The team is going to be getting into more conference play as the season progresses and Coach Wollenzien is confident with her team and their performance so far.

"This team's work ethic has been great," Wollenzien said. "We all understand how much work it takes just to win one match. These ladies come prepared and ready to work hard day after day."

This is the best start to a season in the first seven games since the team began the 2020 season 5-2, which was halted and eventually canceled entirely due to the COVID virus.

Though they lost this season's opener 0-7 to the Corpus Christi Islanders, Coach Wollenzien and her team have taken some commanding victories themselves which has led to this great overall start.

The team is set to face six more conference op-

ponents after its road trip to Florida, which was during Spring Break.

It will be the first time the team will play on their home court since the loss to the Islanders back on Jan. 30 as they will be taking on Midwestern State on March 24.

Despite the recent traveling and conference play ahead, junior Raina Zaffar prioritizes being ready for these kinds of stretches.

"As we play more matches, we get tougher and tougher," Zaffar said. "We're taking care of our bodies and minds which further helps us to function better as players on courts."

The Javelinas have a total of six conference matches remaining and a match against Prairie View A&M in between on April 2 until they can reach the Lone Star Conference Tournament on April 20.

Sophomore Manuela Turolo says the team is together and are working towards success.

"To achieve all of our goals we all need to come together as a team during matches, believing all in the same goal and show up at the same time in both singles and doubles," Turolo said. "Once we will be able to do that, I am sure we will obtain great results."

Beach volleyball stays competitive

Javelinas control their fate

man Olivia Zeigler said.

With a team mostly comprised of freshmen players, the team has shown itself to be competitive and can win in the big moments. The three losses they have come against bigger schools such as Utah and Tulane University as well as a close loss to Stephen F. Austin.

"I think the biggest thing that we need to work on is consistency in our setting and hitting," Assistant Coach Gary Payne said. "I believe our hitting will get better and we will finish the play sooner and not have longer rallies."

However, these women are as tough as nails and rather than letting these losses discourage them, they find ways to use them as a learning experience and help themselves get better as the season progresses. Along with

this, since the team is fairly young this means that there will be multiple returners next season which will benefit the team.

"There are definitely learning moments with a young team and a few things that I have learned that have helped me is that you always need to have an open mind and trust your training," freshman Taylor McCarthy said. "You will hear different things from different coaches, but always trusting them and always being open to new ideas will help you out and make you a better player."

As the season continues, expect this team to continue their competitive ways and not back down from any form of competition. The women will be hitting the road for the ULM Bayou Bash in Monroe, La., and their first opponent will be

Nicholls State at 8 a.m., Friday, March 24.

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