

UTA MAGAZINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON | spring/sum 2005

UTA enjoys the ride

WOMEN'S SPORTS

March gladness

Tournament appearances by The Lay

UTA INSIDER WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

It's all about rebounds for UTA

Rebounding and defense are the keys to success for the UTA women's basketball team. The team has been successful in these areas, leading to a strong performance in the NCAA tournament. The team's rebounding and defensive prowess have been a key factor in their success, and they are looking to continue this trend in the upcoming games.

UTA women earn first NCAA berth

The UTA women's basketball team has earned its first berth in the NCAA tournament, a significant achievement for the program. The team's performance throughout the season has been exceptional, and this accomplishment is a testament to their hard work and dedication. The team is excited to represent the University of Texas at Arlington on the national stage.



REUNION ARENA

\$15.00

127 SEC E ROW 9 SEAT

NCAA BASKETBALL 2

2005 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST/SECOND ROUNDS DALLAS, TEXAS UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AND TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

NO REFUNDS • NO EXCHANGES • NO READMITTANCE

SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2005 GAME TIME TBD

86907822412432

127 SEC E ROW 9 SEAT

DALLAS 2



Headed to the dance

UTA makes strides

IN MY OPINION

UTA, coach

have come

along way

Don't look now, but "my girls" from UT-Arlington are "dancing" tonight, and I'm clapping right along with them.

How many young girls do

EDITORIAL: OUR VIEW

HOOPS HISTORY

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS UTA 61 A-MON 54

Second effort earns

UTA first invitation

UTA's true grit

shows in its first

shot on big stage

Super Women

women's basketball team for reaching

Women advance to first NCAA Tournament

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ON THE COVER
The women's basketball team made headlines during the 2004-05 season by winning the Southland Conference championship and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

LENSCAPE
Photographer Robert Crosby captured this architectural detail of Preston Hall on a May afternoon.

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10 Changing lives

An abusive relationship, the death of a spouse, financial crises, dead-end jobs, a crippling illness. Meet five graduates who used their UTA educations to overcome these obstacles and transform their lives.

by Sherry W. Neaves, Mark Permenter, Kim Pewitt-Jones, Sue Stevens and Danny Woodward

16 Hoops history

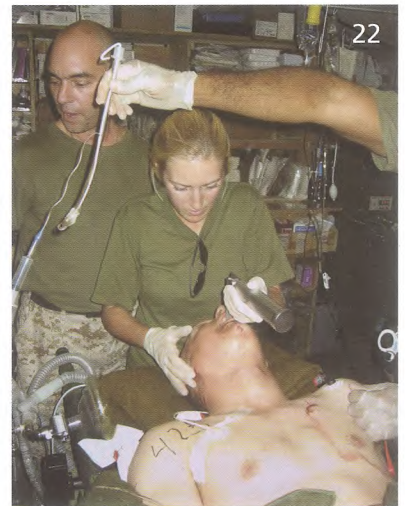
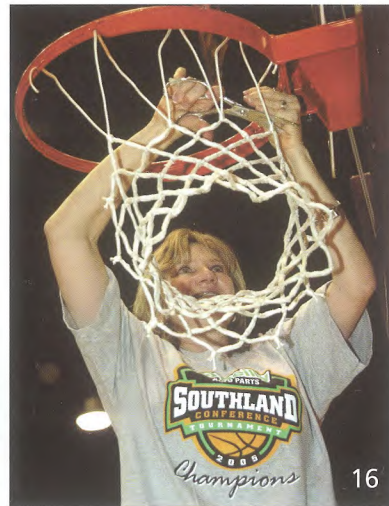
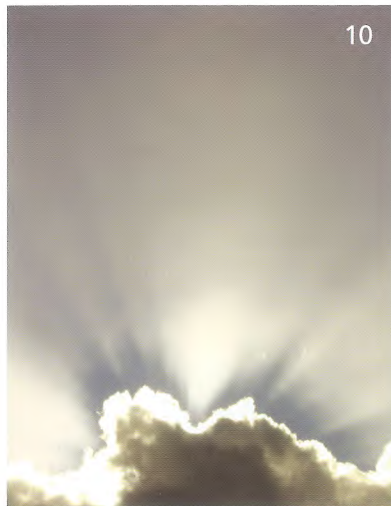
By earning UTA's first trip to the NCAA Tournament, the women's basketball team attracted local and national media attention and established itself as a major player in big-time college hoops.

photographs by Robert Crosby

22 Critical care

The scene could be straight from a M.A.S.H. episode: A medical team attends to wounded soldiers as mortar shells explode too close for comfort. Such was life for Kelly Bowman ('03) as a nurse in Iraq's war zones.

by Becky Purvis



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Narrow miss

Movin' Mavs fall one point short in national championship game

Tell coach Jim Hayes before the game that one of his best players would get an open 15-footer to take the national crown, and he would have bet you that his Movin' Mavs would be celebrating their seventh championship.

The scenario unfolded perfectly.

Trailing 61-60 with five seconds left in the title game of the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, UTA worked the ball to junior Michael Paye, who was open coming into the lane. He lofted a soft shot toward the basket.

"The shot felt great," said Paye, a member of Team USA in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. "I had enough time and space not to have to rush it at all."

The ball hit the front rim and rolled to the back, hanging on the cylinder as an anxious Texas Hall crowd waited to explode.

"That's a shot he makes nine out of 10 times," Hayes said. "It just didn't fall that time."

UTA hosted the 28th NIWB Championship in March with the theme "The Long Road Ends Here." The road ended in familiar fashion, with UTA and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater battling for the title for the fourth straight year. UWW's victory was its third in a row.

Wisconsin-Whitewater finished 20-0 during the regular season, pinning the only three losses on a UTA team that entered the tournament 17-3. Both teams advanced to the finals as UTA downed Illinois, 61-44, and UWW blasted Edinboro (Pa.), 68-38, in semifinal games.

"We felt like we were peaking at the right time, plus we were playing them before a home crowd," Hayes said. "Still, it would have been an upset for us to win."

The first half of the championship game was a knockdown, rollover contest that featured three ties and seven lead changes.

"We came out strong with some of the best defense we had played all year," Hayes said. "We took away their inside game early and forced them to go outside for lower percentage shots."

The Movin' Mavs scored seven straight points to take their biggest lead, 33-27, with 1:46 left in the first half. Junior David Eng hit the last five points during the run, and UTA held on for a 33-29 edge at intermission.

"We got the shots we wanted in the first half, and they were falling," Hayes said.

The second half was as close the first — five lead changes and five ties.



Players gather around head coach Jim Hayes during a timeout of the Movin' Mavs' 61-44 semifinal tournament victory over Illinois at Texas Hall.

Wisconsin-Whitewater led, 45-43, with 12:40 remaining before UTA managed an 8-0 run to go up, 51-45, with 9:05 to play. Four players scored for the Movin' Mavs during the stretch.

"We felt pretty good at this point," Hayes said. "If we could have gotten it to an eight-point lead, I was going to pull some of the starters and rest them for a couple of minutes."

But UTA never took that eight-point edge. The Movin' Mavs still led, 56-52, with six minutes left when Jeremy Campbell hit a three-pointer to pull the Warhawks within one.

"Jeremy Campbell was just red hot in the second half," Hayes said. "We made adjustments to try and keep the ball out of his hands, but they made solid picks and got him open."

Matthew Scott put UWW ahead briefly at 57-56, but an Eng bucket and free throw gave UTA a 59-57 edge with 2:10 left. The Warhawks' Dustin Ferreira and Eng traded free throws as UTA clung to a 60-58 lead with 1:15 remaining.

Campbell then sank his fifth three-pointer of the second half to give UWW a 61-60 lead with 46.8 seconds left. UTA lost the ball out of bounds on its next possession, and the Movin' Mavs were forced to send the Warhawks to the free throw line.

"David said he got hit on the head as he was trying to shoot. That's what caused the ball to go out of bounds," Hayes explained. "Then we had to foul three times in a row because Whitewater wasn't in the bonus yet."

With 24.1 seconds remaining, Rob Welty missed the front end of a



Michael Paye fights for a loose ball during UTA's loss to Wisconsin-Whitewater in the title game.

one-and-one for the Warhawks and Eng rebounded for the Movin' Mavs. UTA worked the ball to Paye for the final shot.

"There are seven different spots where we could have taken a shot, and it worked out where Mikey was the one who was open," said Hayes, who received the National Wheelchair Basketball Association's Spirit Award for 2005.

UWW's Jake Counts snared the rebound and was fouled with 1.4 seconds left. He missed the free throw and Chris Kommer rebounded for UTA, but the Movin' Mavs could not get off a shot as the game ended.

Eng, a first-team All-American, led UTA in scoring with 25 points while also grabbing nine rebounds. Paye, a second-team All-America choice, added 14 points. Junior Joe Burmania (nine points, seven rebounds) was also a second-team selection.

It was Wisconsin-Whitewater's sixth national title, equaling UTA's total. The Movin' Mavs' last championship came in 2002 against UWW.

UTA graduates only one senior, point guard Jason Nelms. "We will have a good core group back," Hayes said. "We have some sophomores ready to step in, and we have a chance to get a couple of good recruits."

Next year's national championship will be played at the University of Illinois. If history is any indication, it will come down to UTA vs. UWW again. Paye longs for another chance at the game-winning basket.

"As a person who lives for basketball, that's something you dream of," he said. "And I would love to take the shot from the same spot." ■

— Jim Patterson

QUICKHITS

GOLF TEAM WINS SLC. The golf team cruised to a 13-stroke victory in the Southland Conference Men's Golf Championships in April. The title is UTA's first since 1999 and earned the team a berth in the NCAA Central Regional Tournament. Senior **Jordan Krantz** won medalist honors with a 54-hole total of 8 under par. Krantz was named SLC Men's Golfer of the Year, and **Jay Rees** was named Coach of the Year. Junior **Tyrone Mordt** was a first-team all-conference selection. Junior **Jeff Murray** and freshman **Zack Reeves** were named to the second team.

THOMAS EARNS ALL-CONFERENCE. UTA junior **Steven Thomas** was named to the first-team All-Southland Conference men's basketball squad. Thomas led the Mavericks in scoring (17.4 points) and rebounding (8.0) per game last season, finishing second in the conference in scoring and first in rebounding. He was second in field goal accuracy at 59.6 percent.

11 NAMED TO FALL ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL. Eleven volleyball and cross country student-athletes were named to the Hibernia Bank/Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll. Six volleyball players were selected: senior **Caley Smith**, junior **Melissa Marek** and freshmen **Torie Dacus**, **Dani Johnson**, **Ellen Murray** and **Morgan Rogers**. The cross country performers were senior **Kristina Bird**, juniors **Courtney Carter** and **Ivorita Taylor** and freshman **Jodi Hulett** from the women's team and freshman **Kevin Opp** from the men's team. The honor requires a 3.0 grade average.

CASTEEL REPEATS AS NATIONAL CHAMP. Senior **Sarah Casteel** won the women's championship for the second straight year at the Wheelchair Tennis College Nationals hosted by Middle Tennessee State in March. She beat Arizona's **Kirsten Mohr**, 6-1, 6-3, to retain the title. UTA's **Danny Fik** finished third in the men's division after winning the title last year.

JACKSON, STAFFORD CAPTURE TRACK TITLES. In the Southland Conference Indoor Track Championships in February, **Kelley Jackson** won the 35-pound weight throw while teammate **Adam Stafford** took first place in the 60-meter hurdles. The men's team finished third in the competition. For the women, **Tiffany Reeves** was second in the shot put and **Ivorita Taylor** second in the 800 meters. The distance medley relay team finished second for the women, who were fifth overall.

FROM MAVERICKS TO TYCOONS. Former Mavericks **Jabari Johnson**, **Donald Harris** and **Mack Callier** played for the Fort Worth-based Texas Tycoons professional basketball team in the American Basketball Association season just ended. Johnson and Harris each averaged more than 15 points per game while Callier was one of the team's top rebounders. The Tycoons lost in the first round of the playoffs in March.

ROLLER HOCKEY REACHES ELITE EIGHT. The roller hockey sport club team advanced to the Elite Eight of the 2005 Collegiate Roller Hockey National Championships at Fort Collins, Colo., in April. UTA won its first four games in the tournament before losing to Michigan State, 8-4, in the quarterfinals. It was the Mavericks' only loss of the season as they finished 28-1-1 after winning a fourth consecutive Southwest Collegiate Hockey League title.

MAVS SCORE IN CLASSROOM. Junior point guard **Brady Dawkins** was named to the men's Southland Conference All-Academic basketball team in April. The communication technology major ranked second in the conference in three-point shooting accuracy during the 2004-05 season. Senior guard **Tabitha Wesley** was named to the women's SLC All-Academic team. The kinesiology major was among the nation's leaders in three-point field goal percentage last season.