

2006 UTSA BASEBALL GAME NOTES

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Feb. 10-12, 2006
 Games: 2-4

UTSA Roadrunners (0-1) VS. Utah Utes (1-2)

Games: 2-4
 Time: 6/2/1 p.m.
 Place: Wolff Stadium

2006 Schedule

H: 0-0 A: 0-1 N:0-0

Setting the Scene

UTSA plays host to Utah this weekend with a three-game set at Wolff Stadium beginning on Friday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. This is the Roadrunners' home opener.

All-Time Series

Utah is 1-0 against UTSA. In their only meeting on Feb. 22, 1992, the Utes defeated the Roadrunners, 5-3, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Last Outing

Brad Lincoln's walk-off home run in the bottom of the 10th inning propelled Houston to an 11-10 victory to spoil the Roadrunners' 2006 season opener Tuesday at Cougar Field. Senior first baseman Lee Todesco led UTSA with three runs batted in, while senior second baseman J.R. Voyles went 2-for-3 with two runs scored on the day. Sophomore center fielder Phillip Allen scored four times and drew three walks.

Not Once But Twice

Houston managed to rally twice in the game. Down 7-4, the Cougars scored three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to send the game to extra innings. Again trailing by three runs (10-7) Houston rallied in the bottom of the 10th, scoring four runs to get the win.

Just A Little Patience

UTSA showed patience at the home plate against Houston pitching. The Runners drew 11 walks, with Voyles and Allen collecting three walks apiece.

Probable Starters

| Pos. | Name | Avg | AB | HR | RBI | SLG% |
|------|------------------|------|----|----|-----|-------|
| 1B | Lee Todesco | .333 | 3 | 0 | 3 | .333 |
| 2B | J.R. Voyles | .667 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1.000 |
| 3B | Ryan Saltzgaber | .000 | 4 | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| SS | Marshal Davis | - | - | 0 | - | - |
| LF | James Keithley | .000 | 4 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| CF | Phillip Allen | .000 | 3 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| RF | Michael McKennon | .400 | 5 | 0 | 0 | .400 |
| C | Zach Etheredge | .200 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .400 |
| DH | Danny Cornejo | .000 | 5 | 0 | 1 | .000 |

Starting Rotation

| Name | Throws | ERA | SO | BB | IP |
|----------------|--------|------|----|----|-----|
| Blake Brannon | RHP | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Caleb Barton | LHP | - | - | - | - |
| Steven Vasquez | RHP | 7.20 | 3 | 2 | 5.0 |

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME/RESULTS |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 2/7 | @ Houston | L, 11-10 (10) |
| 2/10 | Utah | 6 p.m. |
| 2/11 | Utah | 2 p.m. |
| 2/12 | Utah | 1 p.m. |
| 2/14 | @ Texas | 2:30 p.m. |
| 2/17 | Kentucky | 6 p.m. |
| 2/18 | Army | 6 p.m. |
| 2/19 | Kentucky | 10 a.m. |
| 2/19 | Army | 1 p.m. |
| 2/21 | @ Baylor | 6 p.m. |
| 2/25 | @ A&M-Corpus Christi (DH) | 1 p.m. |
| 2/26 | @ A&M-Corpus Christi | 1 p.m. |
| 3/2 | @ Dallas Baptist | 6 p.m. |
| 3/3 | @ Dallas Baptist | 6 p.m. |
| 3/4 | @ Dallas Baptist | 2 p.m. |
| 3/7 | Texas-Pan American | 2 p.m. |
| 3/10-13 | Baseball Express Collegiate Baseball Classic | |
| 3/10 | Iowa | 3 p.m. |
| 3/11 | Illinois | 7 p.m. |
| 3/12 | Texas A&M | 3 p.m. |
| 3/13 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 3 p.m. |
| 3/17 | @ Lamar* | 6:30 p.m. |
| 3/18 | @ Lamar* | 2 p.m. |
| 3/19 | @ Lamar* | 1 p.m. |
| 3/24 | Northwestern State* | 3 p.m. |
| 3/25 | Northwestern State* | 2 p.m. |
| 3/26 | Northwestern State* | 1 p.m. |
| 3/31 | McNeese State* | 3 p.m. |
| 4/1 | McNeese State* | 2 p.m. |
| 4/2 | McNeese State* | 1 p.m. |
| 4/4 | Texas-Pan American | 5 p.m. |
| 4/7 | @ Southeastern La.* | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4/8 | @ Southeastern La.* | 3 p.m. |
| 4/9 | @ Southeastern La.* | 1 p.m. |
| 4/13 | Nicholls State* | 3 p.m. |
| 4/14 | Nicholls State* | 3 p.m. |
| 4/16 | Nicholls State* | 1 p.m. |
| 4/18 | Texas | 6 p.m. |
| 4/21 | @ Texas-Arlington* | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4/22 | @ Texas-Arlington* | 3 p.m. |
| 4/23 | @ Texas-Arlington* | 1 p.m. |
| 4/25 | @ Texas A&M | 7 p.m. |
| 4/28 | Stephen F. Austin* | 3 p.m. |
| 4/29 | Stephen F. Austin* | 2 p.m. |
| 4/30 | Stephen F. Austin* | 1 p.m. |
| 5/2 | A&M-Corpus Christi (DH) | 1 p.m. |
| 5/5 | @ Louisiana-Monroe* | 6:30 p.m. |
| 5/6 | @ Louisiana-Monroe* | 3 p.m. |
| 5/7 | @ Louisiana-Monroe* | 1 p.m. |
| 5/12 | Sam Houston State* | 3 p.m. |
| 5/13 | Sam Houston State* | 2 p.m. |
| 5/14 | Sam Houston State* | 1 p.m. |
| 5/18 | Texas State* | 3 p.m. |
| 5/19 | @ Texas State* | 6:30 p.m. |
| 5/20 | @ Texas State* | 3 p.m. |
| 5/24-27 | SLC Conference Tournament | TBA |

HOME GAMES IN BOLD PLAYED AT WOLFF STADIUM AND ROADRUNNER FIELD
 * Southland Conference Game • All Times Central

2006 UTSA Baseball Roster

| No. | Name | Pos. | Yr.-Exp. | Ht. | Wt. | B/T | Hometown (Last School) |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| 1 | J.R. Voyles | INF | Sr.-3L | 5-8 | 180 | R/R | Tomball, Texas (Klein Oak HS) |
| 2 | Ryan Saltzgaber | INF | Jr.-1L | 5-11 | 165 | R/R | Abilene, Texas (Kansas State) |
| 4 | Michael Rockett | OF | Fr.-HS | 6-1 | 160 | R/R | Sugar Land, Texas (Austin HS) |
| 5 | Brandon Koger | INF | Jr.-1L | 5-11 | 165 | R/R | Houston, Texas (Westside HS) |
| 6 | Dustin Thibodeaux | P | Sr.-2L | 6-0 | 180 | R/R | Cuero, Texas (Cuero HS) |
| 7 | Matt Guzman | INF | Fr.-RS | 6-1 | 195 | R/R | Corpus Christi, Texas (King HS) |
| 8 | Zach Etheredge | C | So.-RS | 6-1 | 195 | R/R | Boerne, Texas (Boerne HS) |
| 9 | James Keithley | INF | Fr.-HS | 6-1 | 185 | R/R | San Antonio, Texas (Reagan HS) |
| 10 | Marshal Davis | INF | So.-1L | 5-10 | 165 | S/R | Conroe, Texas (Conroe HS) |
| 11 | Jacob Sansom | P | Jr.-RS | 6-1 | 175 | L/L | Converse, Texas (Vernon JC) |
| 12 | Noah Miles | P | Jr.-TR | 6-2 | 195 | R/R | Monahans, Texas (Seward County CC) |
| 15 | Mark Ruffin | P | So.-1L | 5-11 | 175 | R/R | Humble, Texas (Humble HS) |
| 16 | Blake Brannon | P | Jr.-2L | 6-2 | 225 | R/R | Brenham, Texas (Brenham HS) |
| 17 | Steven Vasquez | P | Jr.-2L | 6-3 | 185 | R/R | Beeville, Texas (Jones HS) |
| 18 | Michael McKennon | OF/INF | Jr.-2L | 6-2 | 200 | L/L | Pearland, Texas (Pearland HS) |
| 19 | Eric Johnston | OF | Fr.-HS | 5-10 | 175 | L/L | Lufkin, Texas (Lufkin HS) |
| 20 | Josh Ruffin | P | Jr.-2L | 6-2 | 200 | R/R | Humble, Texas (Humble HS) |
| 21 | Josh Blakley | P | Jr.-Tr | 6-1 | 195 | R/R | Lorena, Texas (Blinn JC) |
| 22 | Danny Cornejo | INF | Fr.-HS | 6-0 | 205 | R/R | San Antonio, Texas (John Jay HS) |
| 23 | Lee Todesco | INF | Sr.-3L | 6-3 | 225 | R/R | Buda, Texas (Hays Consolidated) |
| 24 | Phillip Allen | OF | So.-1L | 5-11 | 175 | S/R | Sugar Land, Texas (Kempner HS) |
| 25 | Tim Palincsar | OF | Fr.-HS | 6-3 | 190 | L/R | College Station, Texas (A&M Consolidated HS) |
| 26 | Adrian Elwin | INF | Jr.-TR | 6-2 | 200 | R/R | Corpus Christi, Texas (Brown Mackie JC) |
| 27 | Noah Tritz | P | Sr.-1L | 5-10 | 215 | R/R | Spring, Texas (Southern Miss) |
| 28 | Mitch Ponza | OF | Jr.-TR | 6-2 | 190 | R/R | Soquel, CA. (San Jose CC) |
| 29 | Robbie Johns | C | Sr.-3L | 5-11 | 205 | R/R | Arlington, Texas (Martin HS) |
| 30 | Josh Barnett | OF | Fr.-HS | 5-10 | 175 | R/R | Lubbock, Texas (Cooper HS) |
| 32 | Caleb Barton | P | Sr.-1L | 6-0 | 185 | L/L | Navarro, Texas (Panola JC) |
| 33 | Michael Susaneck | P | Fr.-HS | 5-9 | 200 | L/L | Missouri City, Texas (Elkins HS) |
| 34 | Andy Benedict | P | Fr.-HS | 6-3 | 190 | L/L | Lewisville, Texas (Hebron HS) |
| 38 | David Callaway | C | Fr.-HS | 5-10 | 190 | R/R | Corpus Christi, Texas (King HS) |
| 39 | Cole Gleason | P | Fr.-HS | 5-10 | 160 | R/L | New Braunfels, Texas (New Braunfels) |

Head Coach: Sherman Corbett (sixth season, 138-150)

Associate Head Coach: Jason Marshall (sixth season)

Assistant Coach: Jim Blair (fifth season)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Mike Clement

Managers: Chris Lewis, Travis Mangum and Kevin Birkelbach

2006 Utah Baseball Roster

| No. | Name | Yr. | Pos. | B/T | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown/Previous School |
|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | John Welsh | Jr. | OF | R/R | 5-10 | 203 | Salem, Utah/Spanish Fork HS |
| 2 | Ryan Khoury | Sr. | IF | R/R | 5-10 | 175 | West Jordan, Utah/Copper Hills HS |
| 3 | Corey Shimada | Fr. | OF | L/R | 5-8 | 164 | Murray, Utah/Murray HS |
| 4 | Matt Anderson | So. | OF | L/R | 5-11 | 168 | Sandy, Utah/Jordan HS |
| 5 | Brian Hedman | Sr. | P | R/R | 6-1 | 165 | Taylorsville, Utah/Taft CC |
| 6 | Nic Nakagama | So. | C | L/R | 5-9 | 210 | Murray, Utah/Salt Lake CC |
| 7 | Mike Tummolo | Sr. | IF | R/R | 5-9 | 166 | Huntington Beach, Calif./Golden West CC |
| 8 | Bret Baldwin | So. | IF | L/R | 6-0 | 189 | West Jordan, Utah/West Jordan HS |
| 9 | TJ Wise Jr. | C | L/R | 6-2 | 205 | Burien, Wash./Bellevue CC | |
| 10 | Adam Frank | Sr. | C | R/R | 6-2 | 212 | Paul, Idaho/Lamar CC |
| 12 | Mike Mitchell | Jr. | IF | R/R | 5-10 | 175 | Klamath Falls, Ore./Klamath Union HS |
| 13 | Josh Madsen | Sr. | P | R/R | 6-0 | 209 | West Jordan, Utah/College of Southern Idaho |
| 15 | Jason Price | Sr. | P | L/L | 6-2 | 176 | Taylorsville, Utah/Copper Hills HS |
| 16 | Erich Kemp | Jr. | IF | R/R | 6-0 | 204 | Hemet, Calif./Palomar JC |
| 18 | Jay Brossman | Jr. | IF | R/R | 6-1 | 207 | Pullman, Wash./Pullman HS |
| 19 | Chase Christensen | So. | P | L/L | 6-2 | 173 | Bountiful, Utah/Bountiful HS |
| 20 | Lucas Trinnaman Jr. | P | R/R | 6-0 | 174 | Alpine, Utah/Salt Lake CC | |
| 22 | Joe Mozeleski | Sr. | OF | R/L | 5-10 | 178 | Huntington Beach, Calif./Golden West CC |
| 23 | Mike Mathews | So. | P | R/R | 6-3 | 181 | Taylorsville, Utah/University of the Pacific |
| 24 | Josh Bell | Fr. | C/P | R/R | 6-0 | 191 | Southlake, Texas/Southlake Carroll HS |
| 26 | Chad Cullers | Sr. | P | R/R | 6-3 | 203 | Colorado Springs, Colo./Lamar CC |
| 27 | Josh Cooper | Sr. | P | R/R | 6-3 | 198 | Pueblo, Colo./Lamar CC |
| 28 | Brad DeVore | Fr. | P | R/R | 6-2 | 205 | Scottsdale, Ariz./Horizon HS |
| 29 | Tyler Kmetko | Jr. | IF | R/R | 6-1 | 174 | Phoenix, Ariz./Brophy Prep |
| 30 | Brandon Ast | Jr. | P | L/L | 6-4 | 205 | Denver, Colo./Wichita State |
| 32 | Jason Williams | Jr. | P | R/R | 6-5 | 215 | Cave Creek, Ariz./Yavapai College |
| 33 | Clayne Garrett | Sr. | IF | L/L | 6-0 | 186 | Murray, Utah/Dixie State College |
| 34 | Eric King | Jr. | P | L/L | 6-2 | 200 | Orem, Utah/Salt Lake CC |
| 35 | Brian Lane | Sr. | P | R/R | 6-3 | 201 | Scottsdale, Ariz./Scottsdale CC |
| 36 | Shad McCord | Sr. | P | R/R | 6-5 | 186 | Layton, Utah/Salt Lake CC |
| 37 | Greg Krause | Fr. | P | R/R | 6-7 | 240 | Henderson, Nev./Green Valley HS |
| 38 | Rory James | So. | P | R/R | 6-10 | 228 | Oshkosh, Wis./Pasco Hernando CC |
| 39 | Scott Malone | Jr. | OF | L/R | 6-4 | 243 | Paradise, Calif./Santa Barbara City College |
| 40 | Breeze Stringham | Jr. | IF | R/R | 6-2 | 234 | Provo, Utah/DeAnza College |

Head Coach: Bill Kinneberg

Assistant Coach: Bryan Conger and Todd Delnoce



**Head Coach
Sherman Corbett
Sixth Season 138 Career Wins
UTSA's Winningest Coach**

With more than 20 years of playing and coaching experience, Sherman Corbett now enters his sixth year at the helm of the UTSA baseball program.

With 138 career victories, Corbett became the all-time winningest baseball coach in UTSA history last season (138-150). He also guided the

Roadrunners to their second Southland Conference (SLC) Tournament Championship and NCAA Regionals in 2005.

Three of Corbett's players went on to play professionally in 2005. Shortstop Ryan Crew, who was selected to the 2005 All-SLC third team and SLC Tournament MVP, was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers, while pitcher Jason Vecchio was selected in the 16th round by the Cincinnati Reds in the 2005 draft. Sean Danielson was the third Runner to sign a big league contract when he signed with the St. Louis Cardinals.

In his first season in 2001, he guided the Roadrunners to their first 30-win season since 1995. The same year he coached four players to all-SLC honors including the 2001 SLC Pitcher of the Year in Jared Howton. In 2002, five players were selected to the all-conference squad under Corbett's tutelage along with Mark Schramek being the SLC Player and Hitter of the Year. Schramek went on to become UTSA's first-ever baseball all-American and the highest major league draft pick in UTSA history (first round, 40th overall by the Cincinnati Reds).

Corbett produced again in 2003 with Crew being named the 2003 SLC Freshman of the Year and a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American. In 2004, the Roadrunners led the SLC in home runs.

A San Antonio native, Corbett garnered all-city honors during his prep days at Samuel Clemens High School before beginning his collegiate career at Texas A&M.

Over three seasons as an Aggie, Corbett posted a career record of 14-11. Corbett was then drafted in the third round of the 1984 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft by the California Angels.

In his inaugural season with the Angels, the southpaw appeared in 34 games, posting a 2-1 record with one save and a 4.14 ERA. He made his major league debut against the Baltimore Orioles, then picked up his first major league victory against the Chicago White Sox at Old Comiskey Park.

He remained in the California organization for seven seasons. After his time with the Angels, Corbett spent one season with the Detroit Tigers organization and a final season with the Chicago Cubs organization before retiring in 1993.

Corbett comes from a highly respected baseball family in the San Antonio area, with his father, Raymond, Sr., serving as an administrator in the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District for 23 years. He also was an associate scout for the Cincinnati Reds and assisted with numerous camps and all-star games in the San Antonio area.

Corbett's brother, Raymond, Jr., who was a high school all-American and all-State catcher at Clemens High School, played over seven seasons in the Cincinnati organization. He is currently an area scout for the New York Mets.

In 2001 all three Corbetts were inducted into the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District Sports Hall of Honor.

Corbett graduated Cum Laude from Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1991. In 1995 he remained in College Station to earn a master of business administration degree.

After completing his master's degree, Corbett coached and taught at A&M Consolidated High School and was an instructor at Texas A&M baseball camps. In addition to his coaching and playing experience, Corbett also served as the NCAA Regional Baseball Tournament field coordinator for the 1993, 1998 and 1999 Regional and Super Regional games played at Texas A&M.

Corbett is the third baseball coach in UTSA history, following Jimmy Shankle (1992-95) and Mickey Lashley (1996-2000).

Corbett and his wife, Julie, have a seven-year old son, Mason.

| Corbett Year-By-Year at UTSA | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| Year | Record | SLC |
| 2001..... | 30-29 | 15-12 |
| 2002..... | 25-29 | 13-14 |
| 2003..... | 29-27 | 12-15 |
| 2004..... | 27-31 | 12-14 |
| 2005..... | 27-34 | 14-13 |
| Total | 138-150 | 66-68 |

General Information

Location San Antonio, TX 78249
Founded.....1969
Enrollment.....26,340
Conference Southland
Colors Orange (166), Navy Blue (294) and White
Nickname Roadrunners
President..... Dr. Ricardo Romo
Athletics Director.....Lynn Hickey
Athletics Dept. Phone...(210) 458-4161
Ticket Office Phone(210) 458-4646
Web site.....www.goUTSA.com

Stadium Information

Home Field... Wolff Municipal Stadium
Capacity7,200
Surface Grass
Dimensions310, 368, 402, 368, 340
Press Box Phone(210) 675-0341
Home Field..... Roadrunner Field
Capacity800
Surface Grass
Dimensions335, 405, 340
Press Box Phone(210) 458-4612

History

First Year of Baseball.....1992
Years in CWS/Last.....None
Years in NCAA Regionals/Last 2/2005

Coaching Staff

Head Coach..... Sherman Corbett
Alma Mater/Year..... Texas A&M/1985
Record at UTSA/Years..... 138-150/6
Career Record/Years Same
Baseball Office Phone...(210) 458-4805
Baseball Office Fax.....(210) 458-4180
Best Time to Contact.....Mornings
Associate Head Coach .. Jason Marshall
Assistant Coach.....Jim Blair
Volunteer Asst. Coach.....Mike Clement

Team Information

2005 Record..... 27-34
2005 Conference Record..... 14-13
2005 Conference Finish 4th
Final Ranking.....None
Lettermen Returning/Lost..... 17/12
Starters Returning/Lost 4/5
Pitchers Returning/Lost 7/2

Athletic Media Relations

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2006 Season Outlook Continuing To Excel As A Contender

Despite a 1-13 start, the 2005 UTSA baseball team never hung their heads as they finished strong with a 26-19 record over the final 45 games, including a 14-13 mark in the Southland Conference (SLC) for a fourth place finish. The Roadrunners capped off their season with a SLC Tournament Championship and a trip to the NCAA Regionals, UTSA's second ever NCAA appearance.

This year's squad will enter the 2006 season with high expectations and hopes for a return trip to the NCAA Regionals. Head coach Sherman Corbett begins his sixth season at the helm as UTSA's winningest coach with 138 career victories. Corbett welcomes back 17 letterwinners, including seven pitchers.

The strength of the Roadrunners will be their pitching staff. Leading the way is junior right-hander pitcher Steven Vasquez, who will be the No. 1 starter, while senior Caleb Barton and junior Josh Ruffin return as solid No. 2 and No. 3 starters.

Although the loss of key bats in the lineup hit hard, the Runners of-fense should still put runs on the board. Leading the offensive attack are senior second baseman J.R. Voyles and senior first baseman Lee Todesco.

Around the Diamond

UTSA's infield will provide stability and depth. The most experienced positions are at the corners and second base. Todesco and junior third baseman Ryan Saltzbgaber, who earned 2005 SLC third-team all-conference, will be protecting the corners, while Voyles, a 2005 SLC honorable mention performer, will start at second base.

Voyles (Tomball, Texas) brings a solid glove to go with his bat. He ranked second on the team with a .308 batting average and six homers. Voyles was third with 66 hits and 12 doubles. He helped turn 51 double plays for UTSA last spring and had the second most assists on the team with 166.

Playing first base will be Todesco (Buda, Texas) who led the team with 484 putouts and his .992 fielding was tops on the team. Although Todesco batted .262 on the year, he did manage to drive in 21 runs and record nine doubles, two triples and three home runs. Taking on the designated hitter role freshman Danny Cornejo (San Antonio, Texas). The John Jay High School product will also serve as Todesco's back up at first base.

Saltzbgaber (Abilene, Texas) established himself at third base at the beginning of the 2005 season. He put up solid numbers in his first year with the Roadrunners after transferring from Kansas State. In 56 games played, he batted .288 with 62 hits, 10 doubles, four triples and four home runs. He recorded 122 assists and 42 putouts. Sophomore Marshal Davis (Conroe, Texas) will take over at short, after the departure of Ryan Crew, who was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 40th round of the 2005 MLB draft.

Also looking to see action in the infield are junior infielder Brandon Kroger (Houston, Texas). Redshirt freshman Matt Guzman and freshman James Keithley will split playing time at shortstop as Davis' backup.

Catching For The Runners

Taking over the duties behind the plate is senior Robbie Johns (Arlington, Texas), who replaces Chris Lewis, who graduated. Johns started

15 times while playing in 17 games last spring. He plated three runs with six runs scored. Redshirt sophomore Zach Etheredge (Boerne, Texas) will serve as Johns' backup.

Runners In The Outfield

The Runners return their left fielder in junior Michael McKennon (Pearland, Texas) and sophomore right fielder Phillip Allen (Sugar Land, Texas) this season. McKennon ended last season hitting .270 with 36 runs batted in. He also collected 13 doubles, four triples and hammered three home runs. Allen started late but responded with a .236 batting average, 21 hits, 19 runs scored and eight RBI. Junior transfer Mitch Ponza (Soquel, Calif.) is expected to take over center field duties from Sean Danielson, who signed with St. Louis Cardinals organization. Freshman Michael Rockett (Sugar Land, Texas) and Keithley will see playing time in the outfield.

On The Mound

The strength of UTSA in 2006 is the return of a veteran pitching staff. Right-hander Vasquez (Beeville, Texas), who posted a 4-2 record and a team-best 4.05 earned run average, will take the mound as the No. 1 starter in 2006. After an injury-plagued season in 2005, Vasquez is ready to lead the staff. The No. 2 starter in the rotation is senior southpaw Barton (Navarro, Texas). The lefty went 3-8 with a 4.33 ERA in 2005. He started 14 games with one complete game. Barton's 51 strikeouts and 89.1 innings pitched ranked second on the team. Filling in as the No. 3 starter is Ruffin (Humble, Texas), who went 6-7 last season with a 5.98 ERA. He recorded 50 strikeouts and allowed 56 earned runs in 84.1 innings. Rounding out the rotation are juniors pitchers Blake Brannon (Brenham, Texas) and Josh Blakley (Lorena Texas).

The Bullpen

UTSA returns three relievers to the bullpen, senior Noah Tritz (Spring, Texas), sophomore Mark Ruffin (Humble, Texas) and junior Jacob Sansom (Converse, Texas). Tritz is slated to takeover as the closer. He accumulated a 4.05 ERA, 3-1 record and one save, in 2005. Tritz led the staff with 24 appearances, pitched 46.1 innings, struck out 31 batters and allowed 21 earned runs. Also coming out of the bullpen will be senior Dustin Thibodeaux (Cuero, Texas) and junior transfer Noah Miles (Monahans, Texas).

Runners Opponents

Corbett's squad will kick off the 2006 season on Feb. 7 at Houston. The Roadrunners return home for a three-game set against Utah at Wolff Stadium on Feb. 10-12, followed by a single contest at defending NCAA Champions Texas on Feb. 14. UTSA and Texas meet again at Wolff Stadium on April 18. The Runners return to the Alamo City for a four-game homestand against Southeastern Conference foe Kentucky (Feb. 17 and 19) and Patriot League member Army at Wolff (Feb. 18-19). UTSA hits the road for a single game with an NCAA Regional rematch with Baylor on Feb. 24 in Waco, Texas.

UTSA opens March with the Baseball Express Collegiate Baseball Classic at Wolff Stadium on March 10-13. Included in this tourney are Louisiana-Lafayette, Texas A&M, Notre Dame and a pair of Big Ten Conference members in Iowa and Illinois. The Runners and Aggies will match up on March 12 at 3 p.m. Later in March, the Roadrunners begin defense of their SLC title when they visit Lamar for a three-game series on March 17-19. UTSA returns home for two SLC series against Northwestern State and McNeese State, with a couple of non-conference game against Texas-Pan American.

In April, the Runners remain in conference play at Southeastern Louisiana on April 7-9, against Nicholls State at Roadrunner Field on April 13-15, at Texas-Arlington on April 21-23 and at home with Stephen F. Austin on April 28-30.

UTSA opens May with a twinbill against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on May 2, then travels to Monroe, La., to face Louisiana-Monroe (May 5-7). The Roadrunners close out the regular season with I-35 rival Texas State on May 18-20. The SLC Tournament is slated for May 24-27 in Beaumont.

"This year's schedule is like the past, a very challenging one full of teams that we feel we can compete against," said Corbett, who guided UTSA to its second conference tournament championship and NCAA appearance last year. "Our location allows us to play against teams like Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Houston. Conference play will be competitive. Our expectations are high after winning the conference tournament last season, which put us in the mix of the top teams in the SLC."

2006 Overview

"Going into the 2006 season, I expect our returning players to carry on last season's success and bring it into this year," said Corbett. I want our upperclassmen to take on the role of leaders, so our young guys can follow along as the season plays out. Our strength is going to be our pitching and defense. We have three-out-of-four infielders returning and seven returning pitchers, including our No. 1 starter (Steven Vasquez) and closer (Noah Tritz). Although our offense will lack the power from last year, we have guys that will fill in the vacant spots for us. The one thing we have this year, that we didn't have as much of as in the past, is speed. We have guys that can run the bases and bunt well. This adds another new dimension to our offense."