

THE SKIFF



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WOMEN'S TEAMS
LEADING THE WAY FOR
TCU ATHLETICS IN
2020-2021 SEASON

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS



BASKETBALL'S BIGGEST FAN

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR
MISSES FIRST HOME GAME IN
40 YEARS DUE TO PANDEMIC
RESTRICTIONS

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PI KAPP PUSH CHANGES

FRATERNITY'S ANNUAL
PHILANTHROPY EVENT
WILL LOOK DIFFERENT
DURING COVID-19

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GREEK LIFE

Fraternity's annual philanthropy event will look different this year due to COVID-19

By **IZZY MCFADDEN**
STAFF WRITER, TCU360

A TCU fraternity is moving its philanthropy fundraiser online, but organizers are hopeful the change in venue won't reduce the level of campus support.

Pi Kappa Phi was scheduled to host the first night of its annual "Pi Kapp Push" event virtually on Wednesday, with all proceeds going to the Ability Experience. The Ability Experience is an organization started by the national fraternity that develops programming to support those with disabilities.

The TCU chapter has historically been one of the top fundraisers in the country. Earlier this month, the chapter was recognized as top fundraisers of a Pi Kappa

Phi chapter last year, annually raising around \$50,000.

The annual event is supported by the 12 Panhellenic sororities whose members work with a Pi Kappa Phi member to choreograph a dance and song that relates to the Ability Experience. Last year, 600 students gathered at King Family Commons and cheered on the performances. This year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, everything is pre-recorded.

"It was a lot of meetings both with IFC and individuals within our chapter who have been working on Push Week with me to brainstorm and get everything worked out," said Andrew Corsini, sophomore accounting major and Pi Kappa Phi

philanthropy chair.

He described the transition as not too difficult, but it was definitely time consuming.

Amra Barton, a first-year nursing major, said, "Raising money has been very difficult but extremely rewarding at the same time."

She also said that PKP practice has been great so far and she is excited for what is still to come. Instead of gathering at KFC, starting Wednesday, students can go to the fraternity's Instagram account to view and "like" performances, which will be posted for 24 hours.

The virtual event will also include a trivia portion on Thursday night. The fraternity will be on Instagram live with sororities, with each

correct answer adding to their scores.

Sorority members are also encouraged to fundraise for this event. The more each sorority raises, the more points are added to the sorority's tally.

Donations can also be made through the Classy fundraising page and through checks and Venmo payments. Pi Kapp Push has become the chapter's main fundraising event.

Corsini is confident this level of fundraising will continue despite the virtual challenge.

With this year's Pi Kapp Push event altered, Pi Kappa Phi hopes the spirit given and money raised for the Ability Experience won't be.



The Skiff

TCU Box 298050
Fort Worth, TX 76129
360@tcu360.com
Phone (817) 257-3600
Fax (817) 257-7133

Editor ALEXANDRA LANG

Design Editor

Kristen Pastrano

Advertising Manager

Paloma Lowell

Associate Editor

Lonyae Coulter

Director of Student Media Sales and Operations

Leah Griffin

Director of Student Media

Jean Marie Brown

Chair, Department of Journalism

Uche Onyebadi, Ph. D

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PHOTO BY NICOLE STRONG

Delta Delta Delta performs a routine in front of the judges at Pi Kapp push in 2016.

CAMPUS NEWS

On campus COVID-19 vaccination site continues operations

By **MARISSA STACY**
MANAGING EDITOR, TCU360

The COVID-19 vaccination site located on TCU's campus is hoping to distribute over 2,000 shots this weekend.

Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center wrapped up its second weekend of hosting the drive-through site outside of Amon G. Carter Stadium on March 7.

Mike Sanborn, president and CEO of the medical center, said when the Tarrant County Public Health department approached him about having a drive-thru vaccination site, he couldn't think of a better place than TCU.

"One of the best things is everybody knows where [the] TCU stadium is. You don't even hardly have to give people directions," Sanborn said.

He reached out to Stuart Flynn, dean of the TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine, and asked if he knew who he could contact about having a vaccine site at TCU. Flynn told Sanborn to reach out to Kathy Cavins-Tull, vice chancellor for student affairs, and they worked together to make the vaccination site a reality.

"This is a great partnership, Baylor Scott & White and TCU," Cavins-Tull said. "I really think this is a great way for us to make

that difference in our community."

There are about 180 volunteers and professionals on the site helping give vaccines, direct traffic and check on those receiving the vaccine. Of those volunteers, some are TCU students.

Cavins-Tull said she loved TCU students were getting the opportunity to be a part of the vaccine rollout.

"Having our TCU students out here giving injections and greeting people, doing all the Spanish and Vietnamese interpretations also is a great way for our students to use their talents and their education to make our world a better place," Cavins-Tull said. "We say we want our students to lead on. This is a great example of that."

TCU nursing students have the opportunity to vaccinate people in the drive-thru.

Kathryn Mann, junior nursing major, said she loves getting experience and talking with the professionals about their careers.

"This is a really good opportunity and you can never have enough practice," Mann said.

She was approached by one of her professors with a schedule to fill out to be able to help at the site. The nursing students are also offered COVID-19 vaccines if there are any left at the end of the day, Mann said.

In about an hour, Mann was able to give



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

Volunteers at the TCU vaccination site.



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

Over 180 volunteers worked the TCU COVID-19 vaccine clinic on March 6, 2021.

around 20 vaccines.

Sanborn said the vaccine site is receiving a mix of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

He said they have been able to move people through the site in about 30 minutes on average, including the 15-minute waiting period to make sure there are no adverse reactions.

"All the patients are really grateful because it is quick and efficient and they never need to leave their car," Sanborn said.

While the site is on TCU's campus, it is open to all those who live in Tarrant County.

Harsh Kalra, who received the COVID-19 vaccine, was excited to get his vaccine and to be able to return to normal life.

"The biggest thing I think is one, not getting the virus itself; the other thing is also not being a carrier of it," Kalra said. "As more and more people get vaccinated, the lesser tension in the

society."

Organizers are not sure when the site will close, but Sanborn said as long as they are getting allocations of the COVID-19 vaccine they want to keep it open.

Cavins-Tull encouraged students to get their vaccines to create a safe campus. She is grateful the end-of-day vaccines are available to students, faculty and staff.



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center President Michael Sanborn.

COMMUNITY

Professor misses first TCU basketball home game in 40 years

By **OLIVIA WALES**

LINE EDITOR, TCU360

For 40 years, that's where Dr. David Minter sat in seat 5, row A, section 12 during every TCU home men's basketball game.

He remembers the wood floors and cloth banners that hung from the rafters of the then-Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. He saw the fans rush onto the floor in 1981 after TCU's quadruple overtime win over the University of Houston. He heard the roar of the crowd in 1987 after Jamie Dixon's miracle shot defeated the University of Texas.

He hadn't missed a home game in 40 years -- until this year.

Schollmaier Arena is restricted to 25% capacity, and season tickets were offered to all previous season ticket holders, according to the TCU Ticket Office.

Minter said his request was denied.

Tickets were awarded based on a point system according to donor level, according to TCU Athletics. When Minter was eligible to purchase a ticket, they were gone.

But he'll be starting a new streak at the Frogs' next home game.

When Athletic Director Jermiah Donati read that Minter's streak was broken, he offered him tickets for the remaining home games this season.

Minter has no ties to TCU athletics. His passion is teaching chemistry and mentoring students. He spends 15-20 hours each week in

the lab working side-by-side with students, even working some weekends.

Mentoring students in the lab and seeing them succeed, he said, is his favorite part of the job.

"I'm most proud of being able to play a part in helping our pre-health students get into medical and dental schools," Minter said.

Super fan origin story

In the fall of 1980, Minter came to TCU and began teaching a class notorious for its difficulty: organic chemistry I. Brent Blackburn was one of the first two students to work in Minter's organic chemistry lab.

As the lab finished on the night that marked the season opener for men's basketball, Blackburn asked Minter if he wanted to go to the game.

They attended every home game together for the next two years.

Throughout the past 40 years, Minter was a fixture in the crowd.

Scott Stone, captain for Horned Frog Hospitality, has worked at every men's basketball game for the past seven years.

After one year, he was stationed in section 112, and Minter's seat was directly to his left. Stone quickly recognized that Minter didn't miss any games.

"There are people who sit in the lower bowl and get the attention and are in the club, but [Minter] always sat there quietly without drawing attention," Stone said.

"He is the most hardcore

fan."

Stone said Minter is the only fan he knows of who attends the games so consistently.

"I couldn't have peace until he was in his seat," Stone said. "Where is he? He has to be here any minute."

This season, Stone said he only works about half the games and he has noticed one person is missing: Minter.

"Not seeing him in his 'spot' this season is just another reminder of how COVID-19 has changed things so much," Stone said. "Our every-game handshake is missed."

"TCU Chemistry Department staple"

Minter teaches organic chemistry I and II, advanced organic chemistry and a special topics course on nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy at TCU.

He walks in at exactly 8 a.m. carrying three black Expo markers in his hands. He immediately begins to draw on the board, launching into the material for the day. He lectures completely from memory.

"He never once looked at notes," senior biology major Jake Lynn said. "He would do it all from the genius of his brain."

Morgan Lindsey, senior biology and child development double major, described Minter as a "TCU chemistry department staple."

Lindsey also said Minter's class positively impacted her college experience as a whole.

Minter and the

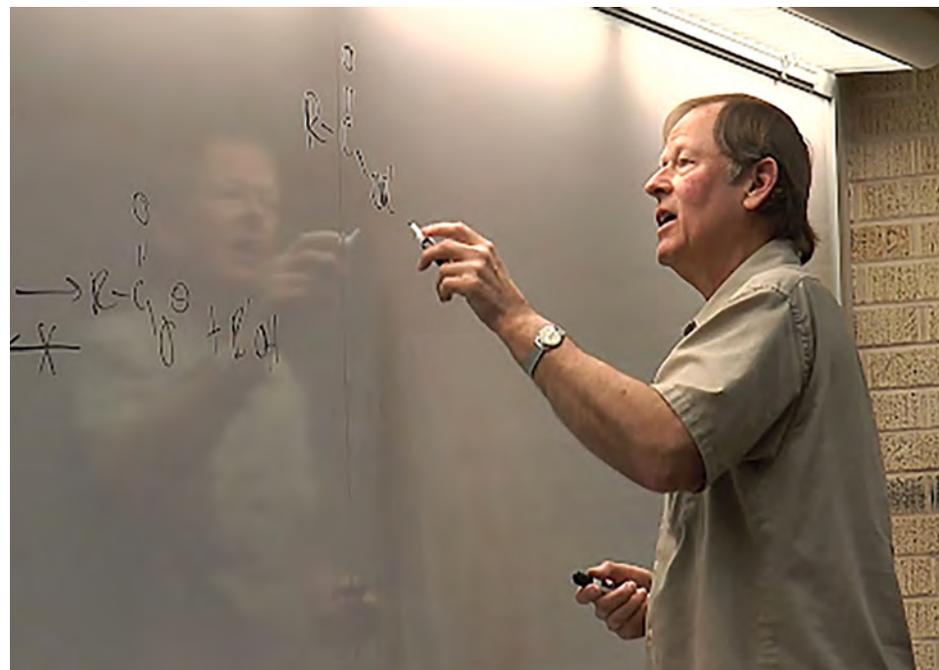


PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU360

Dr. Minter, a chemistry professor, lecturing in his lab.

students in his lab try to discover new reactions that can create compounds to treat illnesses. Most of these compounds they create contain nitrogen, like many other drugs that are important in treating various illnesses.

Blackburn, who earned a Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin and founded Rapidscaan Pharma Solutions Inc., said his launch point for success was working in Minter's lab.

"I learned what it takes to do original research, and I was lucky enough to be a contributing author on a publication from the work we did," Blackburn said. "Most importantly, however, is how that experience prepared me to succeed in graduate school."

The pair did research on the reduction reactions of quinoline boranes. Their findings

were published in the journal *Tetrahedron Letters* in 1984.

Last year, Blackburn was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the TCU College of Science and Engineering for his prominence in the chemistry field.

A teacher's influence

Minter's love of chemistry started in Sarah Seeley's second-grade class in Center, Texas, where he was born and raised.

"I'll never forget her as long as I live," Minter said. "I got a really good dose of chemistry and what it was all about, and I never lost that interest through junior high and high school."

"I knew chemistry was the thing that was always interesting."

Minter started his career as a research chemist for Dow Chemical Company.

However, industrial chemistry wasn't flexible or creative enough, Minter said.

"When I saw something in the lab I couldn't explain, I automatically wanted to continue in that direction to find out what was going on," Minter said. "So, that automatically led me to want to be at the university teaching and doing research."

He has published about 40 papers in scientific journals. He received the Dean's Teaching Award in 1995 and 2008. He is also part of both the organic division and DFW chapter of the American Chemical Society.

In 2015, Blackburn created the Dr. David Minter Chemistry Research Fund in honor of Minter and his work mentoring students and teaching chemistry.

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This fund provides research opportunities to students who major in chemistry or biology.

TCU Basketball

Minter and Blackburn have been through the ups and downs of TCU basketball games through the years.

When they first started going to games, there were nights when they were among only a handful of people in the stands.

The crowds started coming after the Frogs had their first winning season in 10 years in 1982.

“I have stood probably for two hours in the parking lot of Daniel-Meyer, three hours before game time, waiting for the doors to open so I could get out and get a seat,” Minter said.

One player who stands out in Minter’s memory is current head coach Jamie Dixon.

“He was really the glue that held the team together,” Minter said. “He was solid, solid as a rock.”

Minter’s favorite moment of all his time with TCU basketball involves Dixon: His “miracle shot,” a 35-foot buzzer-beater he hit in 1986 to lift the Frogs to victory over Texas.

“The stands emptied onto the floor,” he said. “It was pandemonium.”

Minter is often accompanied at the games by his organic chemistry students, such as Lynn.

When asked about the type of spectator Minter is, Lynn laughed.

“He’s been to a lot of TCU basketball games, so he definitely knows his stuff. He’s not afraid to share his opinion at the games that’s for sure.”

-JAKE LYNN
SENIOR BIOLOGY MAJOR

On the Court

While Minter doesn’t shoot hoops with students, he does enjoy challenging them on the racquetball court.

He plays with any student who asks, using the time to build relationships: his favorite part of the job.

When Lynn was in Minter’s organic chemistry I class, older students told him Minter enjoyed playing racquetball. So, he challenged him to a match.

“I had never played racquetball before, so I was pretty nervous the first time we played,” Lynn said. “He absolutely smoked me then, and every time we played. I don’t think I’ve ever actually beaten him.”

Lynn and Minter played racquetball every Friday at 5 p.m. through fall 2018 and spring 2019. After the matches, they would eat dinner at Potbelly.

“We would talk about organic chemistry, but



PHOTO BY JD PELLIS

Seat 5, Row A, Section 112: Minter’s usual seat at TCU home games.



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

Minter at a home basketball game on March 7, 2020.

we would also talk about basketball, religion, politics, medicine and where it’s headed in the future,” Lynn said. “Talking about life and learning about him was a special part of our relationship that formed inside and outside the

classroom.”

His office door is always wide open to students seeking help with organic chemistry homework, challenging him to a racquetball match or accompanying him to a TCU basketball game.

Even this year, with COVID-19 forcing many classes online, Minter still opens his lab to in-person instruction.

He also still plans to attend TCU basketball games in-person.

“Oh, I’ll absolutely be there this year yes, yes,”

he said in October. “I’ll be there with my mask on.”

Now, after 40 years, there is no room in the stands and no one in Seat 5, Row A, Section 112.



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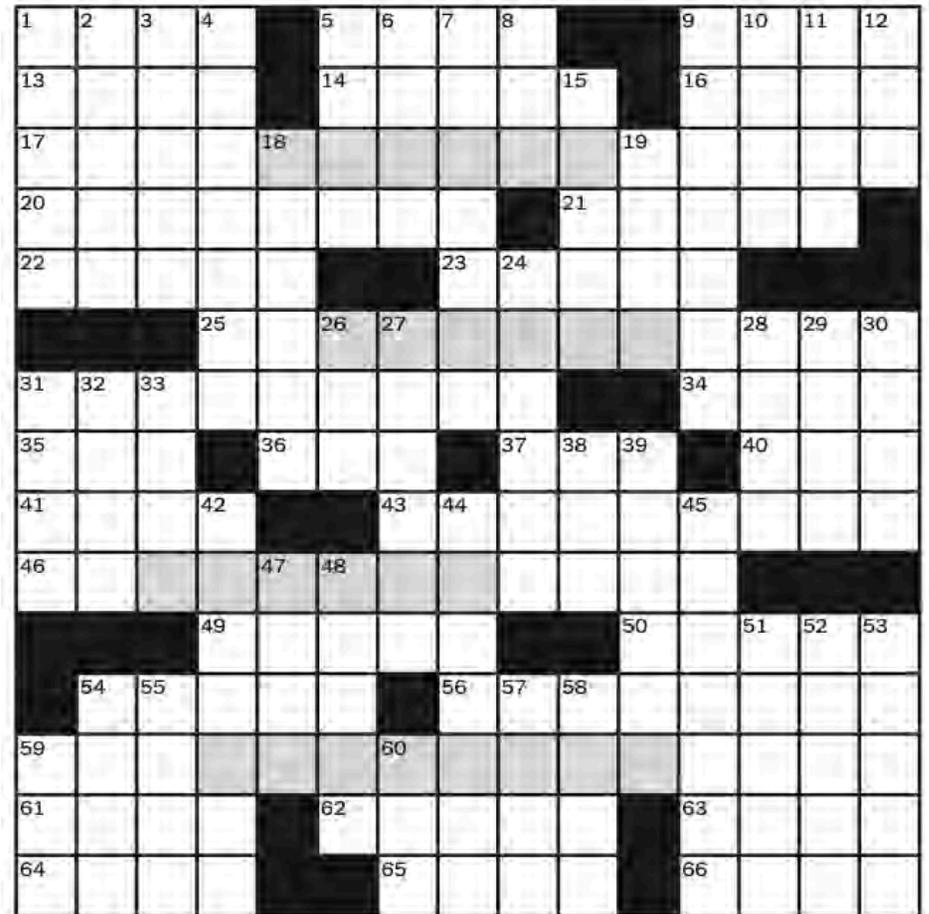
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The New York Times Edited by Will Shortz

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|---|--|---|--|
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| 43 Title that translates to | | | |



Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson





Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Horoscope

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ This is not a day to laze around the house. Meet a friend and then go shopping. Try on a few outfits that fit your budget. Admire but do not touch what you cannot afford. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Dress to impress someone special. Wear that new outfit and get your hair done. Put your stamp on a project that involves helping someone in need. No need to be humble. Enjoy the kudos but show gratitude. Tonight: Celebrate your success.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Express yourself through a creative medium. Use your imagination and try something you have never done

before. Balance your private and public time. Family will support whatever you decide to do in your spare time. Tonight: Bubble bath and aromatherapy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ An email, text or call from someone you care about will brighten your day. Prepare to offer heartfelt advice and a listening ear. Be pleased that you could help a friend with your point of view. Tonight: Share exciting ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Pursue an open position at your day job or an organization where you volunteer. Aim high, and it may not be as daunting as it seems. You may get a promotion, raise or leadership opportunity. Tonight: Relax just a little.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You may not be able to take an overseas vacation anytime soon. Instead, use your

imagination to travel the world. Learn a language. Sample international cuisine. Watch cooking shows and foreign films. Tonight: Take the remote and browse your shows.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Put off signing papers about a business or financial transaction. The perfect time will make itself known soon enough. Get your juices flowing and enter a tournament or contest. The competition and intensity feed your soul. Tonight: Visit with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Commit to a team project that you may have vacillated about. It may or may not work out, but you will be happy you made a decision. Plan a romantic evening with no distractions. Tonight: A foot massage is heavenly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Get simple things done you keep putting off. Connect with your body and remember to slow down and take a few deep breaths. Yoga positions work wonders. If you have a pet, give it extra attention. Tonight: Lots of laughter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Get tickets to a sporting event. If you cannot do that in person, get comfortable in front of the TV. Good friends and a cup of hot chocolate make your day complete. Tonight: Plan a day to take off work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Get in touch with feelings that you may be holding back. Family disputes cause tension, so quell them the moment they begin. Start researching genealogical roots. Once you start you won't be able to stop. Tonight: Clear the air with someone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You may get invited to a party where new contacts await you. Don't hide in the corner. Strut your stuff, and an opportunity may come your way. Try your hand at writing something you can publish. Tonight: Prepare a fabulous meal.



SPORTS

Women's teams leading the way for TCU Athletics

By COLIN POST

LINE EDITOR, TCU 360

For TCU, recent success in men's sports has been sparse.

The football team squeaked into a bowl game last fall, but they haven't been ranked for more than a week since 2017. The basketball team hasn't punched a ticket to the big dance since 2017, and this year they likely won't even make the National Invitation Tournament. Even the heralded Horned Frog baseball squad has not been to the College World Series in four years.

Considering these statistics, TCU Athletics appears to be failing. However, that could not be further from the truth.

Carrying the load of respect and prestige for TCU sports right now are the women's teams. Despite the fact that their combined social media followings add up to less than a fourth of that of TCU football alone, just as many of them have seen team success, unprecedented individual performances, or both.

Here's a rundown of the different teams and individuals who have been showing out for women's sports at TCU during the 2020-2021 seasons.

Soccer

Big 12 titles are few-and-far-between for the Horned Frogs, as they've only won 12 since joining the conference in 2012 (nine coming from baseball and men's tennis).

In fact, most teams at TCU have never won a Big 12 title. That all changed for TCU women's soccer this fall.

After tying 0-0 in a defensive battle with Baylor in their first game, the Frogs won eight straight games to end the season, cruising through the season without much pushback and winning their first-ever Big 12 Championship.

All season, TCU gave up just three goals, as seven of the nine matches ended in the team shutting out its opponents.

The final touches on the season came in the conference championship game, where sophomore forward Grace Collins nailed her third straight game-winner to lead the Frogs to a 1-0 victory over the West Virginia Mountaineers.

After the season, TCU won four of five player of the year awards in the Big 12 conference, and forward Yazmeen Ryan was drafted 6th overall in the NWSL draft to the Portland Thorns FC (highest pick in TCU history).

Ranked No. 4 in the country, the Frogs now have six games scheduled to play this spring before heading to the NCAA tournament at the end of April.

Rifle

After winning a national title in 2019, TCU rifle looked primed to defend their title again in 2020 before the NCAA Championships were cancelled because of COVID-19.

Back in action in 2021, the Frogs looked like they had not skipped a beat, tearing through their opponents to finish with an impressive 11-0 record and head into the NCAA Championship ranked third nationally.

TCU's 11 straight wins included one over Akron and two over Air Force, both of who ranked in the top 10 at the end of the regular season.

It's important to note that though NCAA rifle is a co-ed sport, the TCU team is made up entirely of women.

Though the Frogs were unable to defend their title, they came about as close as you can get, winning the air rifle title and narrowly dropping smallbore to finish second to Kentucky by just nine points.

After winning air rifle with a near-perfect score of 598, sophomore Stephanie Grundsoe finished second overall in the individual rankings with an aggregate score of 1188.

With just one senior on their roster, the Frogs look more than equipped to compete for yet another national title in 2022.

Beach Volleyball

The TCU beach volleyball team has been through the gauntlet thus far this season, facing nine ranked opponents in the last 16 days.

The Frogs have held their own, though, winning five of those matchups and holding a 10-3 overall record nearing the midway point of their season.

TCU is currently ranked ninth nationally, as they work towards the CCSA Championships and NCAA Championships in late April and May, respectively.

Equestrian

Ranked 7th in the country (2nd in the Big 12 behind No. 3 Oklahoma State), TCU equestrian recently wrapped up the season with a regular season record of 5-4. Two of those losses came in close bouts with opponents ranked in the top five.

Sporting their highest regular season win percentage since the 2012-2013 season (.556), the Frogs have locked in the three seed for the upcoming Big 12 Championships, which are scheduled for March 26 and 27.

Women's Golf

TCU women's golf has been on a tear this season, finishing in the

top seven in each of their five tournaments. They have finished tied for second twice, with the first coming in the Schooner Fall Classic and the second coming a month ago at the Lamkin Invitational.

The Frogs are now ranked 23rd in the country.

Women's Basketball

In the 2020-2021 season, TCU women's basketball was not a story of team success but of individual dominance. Though the Frogs were able to win a game in the Big 12 tournament (something the men's team was unable to do), they finished just 5-14 overall in conference games.

Amidst team struggles, senior guard Lauren Heard was unstoppable all year. A member of the preseason Naismith Award Watch List, the guard boasted 21.7 points, seven rebounds, five assists and 2.6 steals per game (all career-

highs) in route to All-Big 12 First Team honors.

Indoor Volleyball

As a team, the Frogs are struggling this year, with just one win in 15 matches this season.

Despite TCU's losing record, libero/defensive specialist Dani Dennison has continued to be lights-out defensively, reaching third on the TCU all-time digs list with 1,289 in her career. She needs just 45 to reach Katelyn Blackwood in second.

Track and Field

Frog fans should keep an eye on sophomore high jumper Jill Johnson. As a freshman, she set a school record with a 1.81m high jump and later earned a silver medal at the Big 12 Championships before the team's season was cut short by COVID-19.



PHOTO BY JACK WALLACE

The TCU women's soccer team celebrates their victory to clinch their first-ever Big 12 Championship.