

THE SKIFF



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WINNING AND
SUCCESS

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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CAMPUS NEWS

TCU takes the helm of medical school

By **JD PELLIS**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, TCU 360

TCU has taken full control of the medical school it co-founded with the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

On Wednesday, TCU officials announced it would be the sole degree-granting university of the TCU School of Medicine.

“Today we celebrate the School of Medicine, one of the newest and most innovative

allopathic (MD) medical schools in the country, as the Texas Christian University School of Medicine,” Chancellor Victor Boschini wrote in an email.

The TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine introduced its first class of students in July 2019. Since then, TCU has recruited three more classes to the school. The first class is set to graduate in 2023.

The change in governance won't affect its accreditation or

partnerships with the JPS Health Network, Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center and Texas Health Resources.

Boschini's email quoted Mark Johnson, chairman of the TCU Board of Trustees: “We continue to be inspired by this transformative medical school, including the clinical and academic talent that we are recruiting and retaining for our community.

“This is an extraordinary way for us to

live up to our mission of responsible global citizenship, starting right here in Fort Worth,” Johnson said.



**SCHOOL of
MEDICINE**

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THE CHANCELLOR

The updated TCU School of Medicine Logo.



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Suspect in airsoft gun shooting arrested

By **ALEXIS KING**

MANAGING EDITOR, TCU 360

About an hour after TCU Police Department reported a student was shot with an Airsoft gun near campus, Fort Worth Police Department arrested the suspects of the crime in a separate incident Tuesday night.

At 9:07 p.m. Tuesday evening, TCU Police Department reported a student was shot by suspects using an Airsoft gun while the student was walking near the intersection of West Bowie Street and Sandage Avenue.

Airsoft guns are a form of replica toy guns that are commonly used in airsoft sports and shoot plastic pellets up to 200 miles per hour, leaving welts on the skin.

TCU Police Department shared information on the crime



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

TCU Police Department is located at 3025 Lubbock Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas.

with the Fort Worth Police Department, which apprehended the suspects in a different area of the city, just after the suspects assaulted another victim (a non-TCU community member).

TCU Police sent an email, updating its previous crime alert, to announce that the suspect was in Fort Worth Police Department custody.

“The suspects are being arrested and

TCUPD will subsequently be adding charges related to the crime that took place on campus earlier this evening,” the TCU Police Department stated in the email.

CAMPUS NEWS

New TCU mock trial team offers an opportunity for law students

By **MADYSON BUCHANAN**
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

The opportunity to join a mock trial is now available to TCU students.

The team, which is the first of its kind to arise on campus, welcomes new members who wish to compete on behalf of the school. The team offers an opportunity for aspiring lawyers to develop their skills and others wanting to practice their presentation and public speaking abilities in a simulation of a jury trial.

While TCU has a Moot Trial team, it is only open to undergraduates in the political science department. The Mock Trial team is open to students from all majors and grades.

The founder of the team and sophomore history major, Walter Flanagin, who was a member of his high school's mock trial team

for three years, was shocked when he found out TCU did not have a team. He gives credit to his high-school team for making him want to pursue a career in law.

"It made me actually want to go into law because the only reason I considered it was because I liked reading and writing," said Flanagin. "I was like — law is somewhat like that, but once I joined mock trial, it was like real courtroom stuff and I got to like experience it firsthand and it was so fun to me."

A fellow team member, Erin Crittendon, a first-year English major and critical race and ethnic studies minor, has a similar take to Flanagin.

"This will be my fifth year doing it. I started long ago because I wanted to try something new and something that would hopefully help me in the future to become an attorney. And it was

always a way for me to meet new people," Crittendon said.

The process

Each year, the team is assigned a trial that is an official American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) case that they prepare for the entire year. The case switches each year between a criminal or civil case that is fictional.

Teams have six competing members, but students from one school can be divided into multiple different teams. Flanagin plans on breaking into an A team, B team and possibly a C team.

Competing teams will consist of three attorneys and three witnesses and will prepare the case from both sides. Team members will practice the role of the prosecution and defense for every competition to prepare for the possibility that anyone could have two



PHOTO BY MADYSON BUCHANAN

Students meet in different locations for the meetings but frequently use the BLUU Beck/Green room.

roles at a time.

Teams will prepare opening statements, direct examinations, cross-examinations and closing statements in a tournament. Universities can practice in scrimmages or in invitationals that are not AMTA sanctioned to prepare for regionals that occur in February.

From regionals, teams have the chance to advance to the national championship.

Flanagin recommends team members come to meetings on Wednesdays and Sundays and practice and read the case for 30 minutes every day to be competent when competition season arrives.

The team

While 71 students signed up for the email list to join the team, around 40 gave their information to be included in the GroupMe messages.

Less than 40 show up to meetings every week,

though the numbers vary each time, and most of the members are female.

"There are a lot of females on the team, which I think is amazing. The world of law is male-dominated, so having so many girls at TCU who are interested in this club was something that made me happy. Us women all bring our A-game to every practice, and we are preparing to dominate at the scrimmages. Super exciting," said Chloe Nutall, a sophomore elementary education major who joined the team because of her passion for speech and debate.

Emma Watson, a junior transfer student from Trinity University and a journalism major, was a member of her previous university's mock trial team, where she and other women on the team said they faced discrimination from team leaders who would only help the first-year males on the team.

"I quit, as did three of

the other freshmen girls," Watson said. "TCU's mock trial is great so far, though. Walter helps us understand how to write closings, directs, et cetera and really works with us directly to improve aspects of these things."

Flanagin is working to secure a coach for the team, but in the meantime, he uses his experience from high school to help his team.

No prior knowledge or participation in a mock trial team is required to join the TCU team, just a willingness to learn and participate.

"I wouldn't discourage anyone who has no experience from joining the team in the future. Everyone must start somewhere, and we are a great place to start," said Nutall.

The team will compete at regionals in Arlington starting February 25, 2022 through February 27.



PHOTO BY MADYSON BUCHANAN

Walter Flanagin and members of the TCU Mock Trial team practice questioning a witness in a simulation courtroom setting.

SPORTS

The rituals of winning: Miles has found success wherever he has been

By COLIN POST
SPORTS EDITOR, TCU 360

The ritual is always the same.

It doesn't matter if it's inside Tiger Coliseum at Lancaster High School, Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena or even the acclaimed Allen Fieldhouse.

With his head down and soulful rap artist Rod Wave playing in his headphones, Mike Miles is getting ready for his first-ever road appearance against the Kansas Jayhawks.

He's chewing Skittles, the Wild Berry pack, not original.

Miles first puts on his left shoe.

Then, his right.

It's been that way since ninth grade. In one of his first high school games, he randomly chose to go left sock and shoe first and then scored 34 points. He's done it ever since.

The music changes sometimes. Wave is Miles' favorite artist, but Alabama native NoCap or rap phenoms like Drake and NBA Youngboy are also part of the pregame playlist.

Through the years, the teams and leagues have changed but not the ritual. It was left shoe, right shoe during the summers he competed with the Texas Titans, one of the top AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) teams in Texas.

He started munching Skittles his junior year at Lancaster, where he would lead the Tigers on a state title run a year later.

The music played on at TCU, where he quickly became one of the top freshmen in the Big 12.

This past summer, he took his pregame routine to Latvia, where he helped the USA Basketball U19 World Cup team win the gold.

Miles swears the only time he may have forgotten to do the routine was when he played Kansas for the first time on Jan. 5, 2021.

That night, he went 0-for-8 from the floor with zero points in 28 minutes of play.

At one point, a fan in Schollmaier Arena yelled, "Wake up, Miles!"

Three weeks later, in his Allen Fieldhouse debut, Miles was wide awake.

He made 6 of his 12 shots for a game-high 18 points, outscoring future All-Big 12 Jayhawks David McCormack and Marcus Garrett.

TCU lost 59-51, but Miles' impressive performance had given the Frogs a chance in what could have been a blowout for Kansas.

Fearless leader

After averaging 13.6 points, 3.5 rebounds, and 3.1 assists per game, Miles was named to the All-Big 12 freshman team, joining long-time friends Cade Cunningham (Oklahoma State) and Greg Brown (Texas).

To some, Miles' immediate impact was a surprise.

"When Mike Miles committed to TCU, we all knew he was an incredibly talented

player, but no one thought he would do what he did this past season," TCU guard Francisco Farabello said.

To the Lancaster native, though, it was the start he always envisioned for himself.

"I know what I can do on the court, and a lot of people were surprised because I wasn't highly ranked or whatever," Miles said.

This summer, Cunningham and Brown moved on to the NBA, but Miles stayed at TCU to try and put basketball on the map in Fort Worth.

A native of the area, his goal remained the same one it was in his commitment video over two years ago.

"I've decided to stay home and put on for the city that made me," Miles said.

A 12-14 finish following Miles' rookie season meant it was his top priority to punch a ticket to the Big Dance during his sophomore campaign, though TCU had been to the NCAA tournament just once in the previous 23 years.

To Miles, though, that meant more than working on his own game. It meant putting a LeBron James-esque effort into recruiting talent to join him while also building chemistry on a squad ready to shock the Big 12 in a bounce-back 2021-2022 season.

"I feel like me and TCU was a match made in heaven, really," Miles said. "We're both underrated. No one really looks at us."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

Miles warms up before TCU's 2021 matchup with Utah at Dickie's Arena in Fort Worth.

Ball really is life

Miles said he started playing basketball in a YMCA league as a four-year-old.

His mother, Mickey, remembers him dribbling a basketball on the family driveway at age three.

Growing up right outside of Dallas in Highland Hills, basketball and family were the two constants in his life.

Miles always had basketball around him because his older brother, Willie, played.

"I basically grew up in the gym, because my older brother played basketball," Miles said.

Their mother said following in Willie's footsteps was Miles' decision.

"He initiated it," Mickey said. "We were always in the gym because of his older brother, but it was something he took on and he loved."

By the fourth grade, Miles was playing for

one of the premier AAU teams in the state – the Texas Titans.

At one of Miles' tournaments that summer, Ballislife, a site dedicated to basketball, was filming some of the older Titan teams when fourth-grade Miles caught the eye of filmmakers.

Mickey "okayed" a highlight tape of Miles, which racked up over four million views. Neither Mickey nor Mike expected the video or his game to go viral, but they both agreed that it was good for his exposure.

Ten days after it was released, Yahoo! Sports wrote an article on Miles: "Meet Mike Miles, the elementary school Allen Iverson."

"My mom and my brother were basically teaching me how to play, and once I got to fourth grade, I was so ahead of everyone else that it kind of came easy," Miles said. "I've been good for a long time, but obviously I got overlooked at some

point. It was definitely a great feeling, getting that video out there."

Miles said he's only watched the full video a handful of times.

When Ballislife posted the video on Twitter this fall, Miles retweeted it to the delight of fans and several of his teammates.

In the video, Miles dominates the other kids, pulling off moves like that of a high schooler, all while keeping a sharp look on his face.

While the point guard is now a grown man with a head full of hair, his elite court vision, ability to finish at the rim and locked-in game face have always been staples of his game.

As Mike began earning national attention, trusting in who the young star hung around became very important to the Miles family. To this day, they keep their circle very tight.

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“Our circle is very, very small. I don’t know how much he talked to you about it, but it is very small,” Mickey said. “We don’t let anyone in. No one can make decisions. It’s just me, Mike and his dad. It’s just us, and we have a couple of people that we trust.”

It became clear early in Miles’ life that with his long-term success on the court, his family would have to prevent others from taking advantage of his basketball abilities for personal gain.

More importantly, Mickey said, their circle also wants to make sure that, through it all, Miles remains “humble.”

Now that he is in college, Mickey’s role for Mike has become like that of a manager, handling NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) deals for the young star.

“She’s [Mickey] real involved in NIL stuff,” Miles said. “She’s basically my manager. She really takes care of all of that for me and tells me about those things.”

At the end of the day, Mickey is still Miles’ mother, though, and he says she has always been his biggest supporter.

“She’s a big influence, the most important person in my life really, and my family in general,” Miles said. “She’s real. You see her every game. She’s there, cheering me on. I tell her not to cheer as much because she gets too loud sometimes.”

When they’re alone in the car together, Mickey said that her son turns into Mike Miles the singer, and he really does have a great voice.

“He will not sing in front of anybody, but

if we’re in the car, he sings,” Mickey said. “He really has a beautiful voice.”

All eyes on me

The Miles family moved 10 minutes southwest from their home in Highland Hills to Lancaster, where Miles was a phenom at Lancaster High School.

A four-year starter, he had an offer from TCU by December of his first year. Corey Barker, an assistant on Jamie Dixon’s staff at the time, extended the offer to Miles after a strong performance against Huntington Prep.

Two months later, Oklahoma State came calling. LSU, Houston, SMU and Old Dominion also took notice before he started his junior season.

Miles led Lancaster to the regional finals as a sophomore. The Tigers fell a game short of making state, losing on a buzzer beater.

As a junior, Miles led Lancaster to a perfect 12-0 record in district play (31-3 overall), earning first-team all-state and district MVP honors on 18.0 points, 4.5 assists and 2.3 steals per game.

After Lancaster fell in the regional playoffs yet again, Miles vowed to lead his team to state.

“If we don’t go to state this year, it’s on me,” Miles wrote on Twitter.

Mickey said Lancaster fostered a win-at-all-costs mentality in Miles.

“Going to Lancaster with coach Ferrin Douglas brought out something of Mike that I’ve never seen, and I’ve been watching him forever, which was his toughness,” Mickey said. “He never wanted to lose.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

Mike Miles (1) pulls up for three against Baylor on Jan. 8, 2022.

Douglas echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the impact that Miles’ leadership had on the Tigers during his senior year.

“Mike is/was a natural leader. [He] didn’t have to say too much,” Douglas said. “His play led the way. His teammates really enjoyed playing with him.”

At the start of his senior year, Miles had named his top five schools: TCU, Oklahoma State, Auburn, Butler and North Texas.

While TCU had been Miles’ first offer, many predicted him to choose Oklahoma State, as his best friend and AAU teammate, Cade Cunningham, was expected to go there.

Mickey suggested he visit some of the other schools, specifically LSU and Butler, to test the waters.

Through it all, Miles remained focused on TCU, the school that wanted him first.

“I just felt like I had to go on my own,”

Miles said. “I love Cade [Cunningham]. That’s my best friend, but I felt like I had to go on my own because I’d been playing with him for so long.”

“Mike kind of wanted to go his own path,” Mickey said. “He wanted to make his own way because he would always be seen kind of like when you have an older brother: ‘that’s such and such’s brother.’ He would always be seen as ‘Cade’s best friend,’ and he just wanted to make his own path.”

Miles committed and signed his letter of intent to TCU on Dec. 22, 2019.

He was ranked the No. 8 overall player in Texas at that time and joined four-stars Terren Frank and Eddie Lampkin Jr. in the Frogs’ small but dangerous 2020-2021 recruiting class.

“I had a lot of options to go play basketball, but I’ve decided to stay home and put on for the city that made me,” Miles said in his commitment video. “Go Frogs.”

Unfinished business

While his junior season was outstanding, Miles’ senior year was unbelievable: he dropped 21.4 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 steals per game. The Tigers had the best record in 5A at 36-1.

As the state playoffs were approaching, DFW’s Inside High School Sports released a limited edition Mike Miles bobblehead at a Lancaster home game.

Two weeks later, on Feb. 5, 2020, Miles hit the 2,000-point milestone in his career with the orange and black. Then, he was named to the 2019-2020 All-VYPE DFW Public School Boys Basketball Team, joining current teammate Micah Peavy, who was a senior at rival Duncanville High.

When the two had met on the court, Miles outshined Peavy, scoring a game-high 32 points in a Lancaster victory.

As individual accolades continued to pour in for Miles, so did the wins for Lancaster. After finishing a perfect 12-0 in district, the Tigers tore through their first four playoff opponents, winning by an average margin of just under 35 points.

In their second victory, Miles had dropped 25 points in a 40-point rout of Texarkana’s Texas High School.

Finally, only a matchup with Dallas’ Justin F. Kimball High School stood between Miles and fulfilling his promise. This time, there would be no last-second defeat.

Miles popped off for 24 points, combining for 55 with now-Texas A&M guard Wade Taylor IV,

to help the Tigers cruise past Kimball and reach state for the first time since 2016.

“It’s the best feeling in my entire life,” Miles said to the media postgame. “The last two years, we haven’t been able to get out of here, so just to finally get out of here my senior year and go to state – it feels good.”

But that dream, like much of 2020, was put on lockdown as the COVID-19 pandemic shut down sports around the world.

Miles was crushed. “It just traumatized him I think,” Mickey said. “I would honestly say that.”

Instead, each of the four state teams was awarded a share in the 2020 Texas 5A State Title.

Over the following months, Miles was named the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches 5A Player of the Year, the USA Today Boys Basketball Player of the Year in Dallas and the SportsDay High School Boys Basketball Player of the Year by the Dallas Morning News.

For the title of top player in Dallas, he beat out Peavy and another current Frog – JaKobe Coles of Denton’s Guyer High School.

To this day, the three still argue about who had the best high school career.

A new chapter

Mike Miles stepped onto the campus of TCU on July 1, 2020, sporting a simple, black “Champion” shirt, his signature wide grin and a beard that had filled out during quarantine.

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SPRING INTO A GREAT NEW

Cooler days. New opportunities. Those beautiful TCU tulips.

Spring is a special season on campus and an ideal time for setting fresh goals.

To help you thrive as leaders in a changing world, our nurturing academic environment supports physical and mental wellness.

We've all worked hard to **Protect the Purple**, and that mission continues this spring. Do your part, Horned Frogs, and let's make it another fantastic semester together.

—Megan & Victor Boschini



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SPORTS

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The first step? Miles had to get back into basketball shape after spending the previous four months at home.

“I came in overweight because of quarantine,” he said. “My body fat was too high. I’m not going to tell you how much I weighed, but I got it down.”

It was far from the transition from high school to college that he had imagined, but that did not change the way Miles felt about starting his time in Fort Worth.

Things were anything but easy for Miles and the Frogs right away, though. While every team around the country felt the effects of COVID-19, TCU saw “close to 100 practices” affected by contact tracing guidelines, said head coach Jamie Dixon.

It wasn’t even confirmed the NCAA basketball season would take place until mid-September.

Regardless, his first career college game made it pretty clear his time at TCU was going to be special.

With star guard R.J. Nembhard out, Miles took charge in TCU’s season opener. He made his first four shots for 8 first-half points. He finished the game tied for a game-high 13 points to go with five assists and three steals. The Frogs bested Houston Baptist 69-45.

“Shoutout Mike Miles,” redshirt junior forward Chuck O’Bannon said postgame. “That boy can hoop.”

One game into his college career, and Miles already had the

respect of one of his most experienced teammates.

Three days later, he delivered again, scoring 12 points in TCU’s 70-65 win over Tulsa.

After Miles’ first three games, TCU was 3-0 and the guard had averaged 10.3 points, 3.3 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game, earning Big 12 Newcomer of the Week honors.

TCU would go on to start 4-0, but it was not until the team’s fifth game and first loss that Miles became certain that he was ready to succeed at the college level.

The Frogs lost their game 82-78 to conference rival Oklahoma, but a career-high 21 points from Miles off the bench had put him on the radars of teams around the Big 12.

“That was the first game I’d say last year I was like, ‘This is hard, but I can play here and I belong here,’” he said.

In seven of the nine games TCU played before the start of 2021, Miles scored in double digits, reaching the 20-point mark three times.

Foes on court, brothers off

At that point, the Frogs had amassed seven wins, but none of them meant more to Miles than a one-point victory over Cade Cunningham and Oklahoma State on Dec. 16.

Miles and Cunningham first met as fourth graders playing for the Texas Titans. They played AAU ball together until the end of high school.

The two are as close as brothers.

In their first collegiate

matchup, Miles totaled 16 points, and while Cunningham topped him with 17 of his own, a game-winning jumper by TCU guard R.J. Nembhard in the final seconds gave the Frogs the road victory.

On Feb. 3, the two faced off in Schollmaier Arena. Once again, Cunningham (19 points) outscored Miles by one (18 points), but TCU won on a game-winner, this one courtesy of TCU’s Jaedon LeDee.

In that game, TCU fans had yelled “overrated” at Cunningham when he had zero points at the halftime break. After that, he erupted for 19 in the second half alone. Miles later admitted that his friend’s second-half return had made him “nervous” at the time.

Still, Miles is 2-0 against his closest friend and one of the top rookies in the NBA.

“It was good. You know, Cade ain’t never beat me, so I got that on him,” Miles said while laughing. “He’s never beaten me. He doesn’t talk to me after I beat him. He waits about two days, and then he calls me and says ‘good game’ and stuff. It was fun playing against him for sure.”

Growing up, they pushed each other, often getting so competitive in practices that those who did not know them personally may have assumed they disliked each other.

“They showed each other no slack and nor did they fear one another,” Mickey said. “It was really a great matchup, and if you could’ve been to those

practices, oh my God, half the time, I thought they would fight.”

When Cunningham was drafted with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2021 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons, Miles said it was an emotional night for him.

“It was a great feeling. I feel like I got drafted, cried a little bit,” Miles said. “I texted Cade before the draft. He called me after the draft. It was just very emotional for me. I’ve been with Cade almost our entire [lives].”

Tough pills to swallow

Miles had plenty of noteworthy moments in his first-year campaign.

He was Big 12 Newcomer of the Week for a second time after scoring 26 points against North Dakota State, hit a three-quarters court shot to give TCU a lead at halftime in its matchup with No. 2 Baylor and even scored a career-high 28 points in a 102-98 overtime loss to Missouri on the road.

But 2021 was a struggle. TCU dropped 12 of its 15 games in the new year to finish just 12-14 on the season.

During that stretch, the Frogs lost seven games by 15 or more points, including a 71-50 blowout loss to ninth-seeded Kansas State in the First Round of the Big 12 tournament.

For Miles, the season low was that zero point effort against Kansas.

“That was definitely the lowest point for me, but everybody lifted me up,” Miles said of the first Kansas game. “I had to talk with a lot of coaches, my parents, my friends,

so that was the lowest point, but it was a great learning experience. It helped me grow. I’m still young. I’m going to have those types of games, but it was the best learning experience.”

Mickey said following that game, Dixon reached out to Douglas to ask what to do in the event of a Mike Miles slump. Douglas assured Dixon that there was no such thing as a Mike Miles slump.

“He said, ‘One thing about Mike,’ which is honestly, brutally true,” Mickey said, quoting Douglas, “He does not like to be embarrassed. He was embarrassed on national TV. It won’t happen again.”

Miles bounced back from that game, scoring in double figures nine times over the final 13 games, but TCU would go on to miss the postseason for a second-straight season.

When reflecting on his first year, Miles chalked TCU’s issues as a team up to chemistry problems, most of which were a result of missed practices at the hands of COVID-19.

“We never really clicked the whole season [2020-2021], and I feel like it showed,” Miles said.

Lead recruiter

Despite the individual success Miles saw in his freshman year, he knew that failing the NCAA tournament meant change needed to happen. After eight Frogs either entered the NBA draft or transfer portal, Miles focused his efforts on helping to rebuild TCU’s roster.

On April 13, Micah Peavy announced that he was transferring from Texas Tech and joining Miles in the purple and white. The two had never played together before, but they had known each other for years because of the Dallas-area connection.

“Micah [Peavy] said, ‘Why would I come to TCU?’ He [Miles] said, ‘You get to play with me,’” Mickey said. “That was his pitch. Micah was like, ‘Okay.’”

Miles knew Peavy as someone who had worked hard over the offseason to prepare.

“The one [teammate] that stood out most to me is probably Micah [Peavy],” Miles said. “He’s in the gym all day. I think he woke up at six in the morning and came and worked out. I don’t know how he did it. He definitely works the hardest, I think.”

Two months after Peavy, JaKobe Coles, who had played with Miles on the Titans in high school, announced that he was leaving Butler to join his friend in Fort Worth.

Both of Miles’ recruits have proved impactful already this season, with Peavy being TCU’s top on-ball defender and Coles providing a sizable (6’7”) scoring threat off the bench for the Frogs.

Going for gold

During the same offseason, Miles earned an invite to try out for USA Basketball’s U19 team, eventually making the team that would go represent the United States in Riga, Latvia.

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A huge plus for Miles: His coach for the summer experience was Jamie Dixon.

“He trusted me, and I trust him,” Miles said before the 2021 season. “It was definitely good, and I feel like, going into this year, we have a better relationship.”

“Another month working side-by-side, the both of us, I think that was very valuable for us going forward. I think it’s something that we really took advantage of,” Dixon said.

Even playing with some of the nation’s top young talent, including future Gonzaga center Chet Holmgren, Miles stood out overseas. Behind his 9.1 points and 3.3 assists per game, the point guard led his country to a perfect 7-0 record.

In the gold medal game versus France, Miles had scored 11 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals. With under two minutes to go, he stole the ball and burst ahead of the defense for a dunk on the opposite end, letting out an emphatic yell to signify that the game was indeed over.

“Not a lot of people can say they’re gold medalists,” Miles said. “It was good. It definitely gave me momentum coming into this year. It’s definitely something I’ll remember for the rest of my life, saying I’m a gold medalist, and I’m only 19.”

To Dixon, Miles’ biggest improvements over the offseason came in three areas: being a true point guard, getting in game shape and leading his teammates well.

“You saw it [Miles’ improvement] in USA Basketball, especially in the last two games, the championship game and in the semis when we needed him,” Dixon said at Big 12 media day in October. “That was a great sign for us going forward. It was a great experience for him.”

Something to prove

Though a gold medal now hangs in his bedroom, Mike Miles has his eyes focused on just two words: “March Madness.”

“That’s where we [TCU] all want to go,” Miles said.

When he arrived back at practice at TCU’s facilities at the end of this summer, Miles was different. His body was sharper, his hair was longer, his beard was even thicker and he had 10 new teammates.

While conditioning, shooting and ball handling were all among the typical focuses of the Frogs heading into a new season, Miles knew that the most important piece was chemistry.

That factor came much easier for this year’s team, he said.

“It’s been great, getting to know all of them,” Miles said. “It didn’t take long. It was easy. We all like each other, we all make jokes, we all hang out. It wasn’t hard.”

That thought is not just a glass-half-full take from Miles, as several of his new teammates have reiterated his words.

“I think it’s easier than I thought it’d be,” Peavy said. “We just all get along, like they said, and we just clicked right away on and off the court.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

TCU’s Mike Miles (1) and Eddie Lamkin (4) celebrate with the student section after a 71-63 win over Oral Roberts on Dec. 2, 2021.

Texas A&M transfer Emanuel Miller said, “The transition is easier than I expected because, collectively, as a group, like Micah [Peavy] said, we just sync very well together.”

A week before he was set to represent TCU at Big 12 media day, Miles had yet another factor added to his sophomore campaign – motivation.

The Big 12 Preseason First-Team was released, and he was not on it. Instead, he was listed as an honorable mention.

Through their 11 non-conference games this year, Miles has led the Frogs to a 10-1 record, including wins over KenPom top 75 opponents like Utah and Texas A&M.

He has been one of the best players in the conference, averaging 16.9 points (fourth in the Big 12), 4.6 assists (fourth in the Big 12), 3.8 rebounds and 1.4 steals (leads team) per game.

Miles has reached

double-digit scoring in all 11 of TCU’s games this year, and he has already tied his number of 20-point performances (four) from a year ago.

Against the Utes, Miles tied his career-high with 28 points, becoming the first Frog since 2000 (Ryan Clark) to have at least 28 points, eight rebounds and four assists in a game.

Five days before Christmas, Miles earned Big 12 Player of the Week honors after recording 20 points, six rebounds and five assists in a road win over Georgetown.

With TCU on the verge of being ranked, the next test for Miles and the Frogs was set to take place on New Year’s Day in his return to Allen Fieldhouse.

Then, the Frogs’ first two conference games were postponed due to COVID-19 protocols within the TCU program.

With Miles and his team now cleared, they will face an even taller



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEESOO YANG

TCU head coach Jamie Dixon began his fifth year in charge of the Frogs with a win over HBU.

task to start Big 12 play - a home matchup with the top-ranked Baylor Bears.

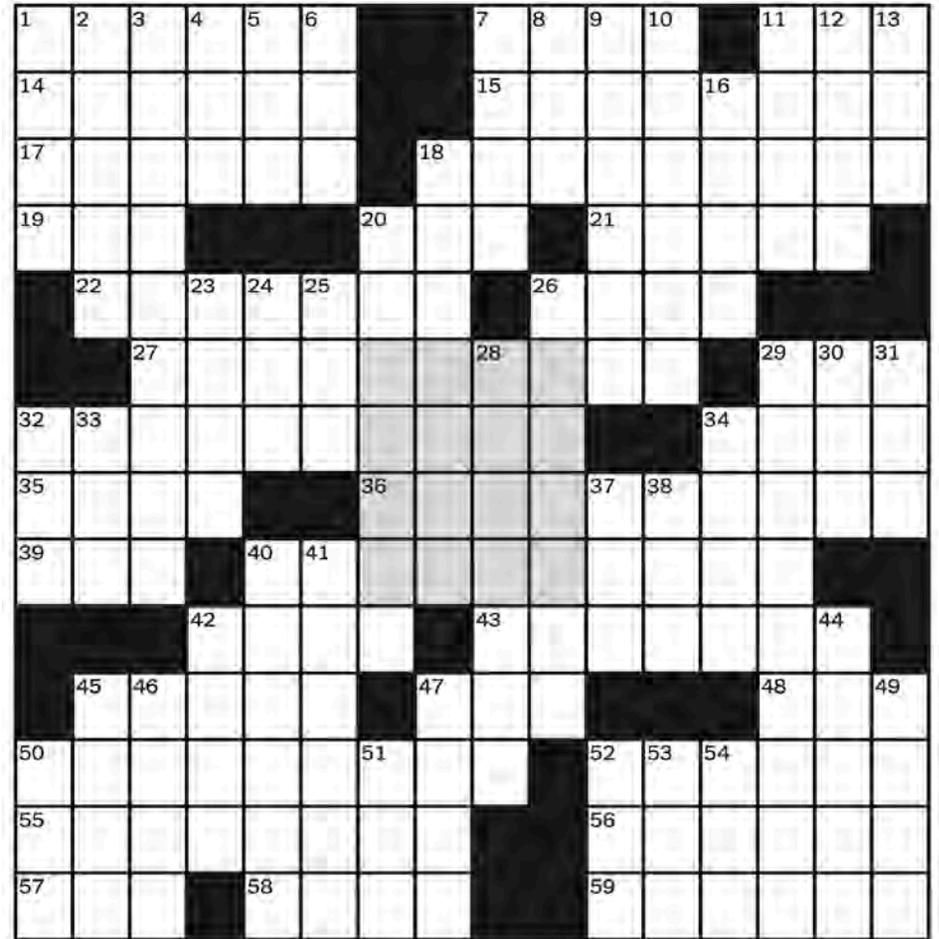
While the Frogs enter as the underdog, Miles, pregame routine and all, welcomes the challenge.

“We’re definitely looking forward to it,” Miles said. “They, obviously, don’t have the same team that they had last year, but we still expect them to be good, because they have a great coach.”

WELCOME BACK, FROGS!

The New York Times Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS
- 1 Corresponds
 - 7 Very much
 - 11 Hot temper
 - 14 Something often held underwater
 - 15 Flummox
 - 17 Flummox
 - 18 Shakespeare, notably
 - 19 Call of support
 - 20 Grazer with a bushy beard
 - 21 Joined forces (with)
 - 22 South American arboreal snake
 - 26 Laser tag equipment
 - 27 Depictions of lands' ups and downs
 - 29 Seriously shortchange
 - 32 Focal points of a debate
 - 34 Offensive line
 - 35 Mind
 - 36 Brambles with edible purple fruit
 - 39 Resting place
 - 40 Uncompromising sorts
 - 42 Small bouquet
 - 43 Setting for Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"
 - 45 Casts off
 - 47 Weekly 90-min. TV show
 - 48 Cowboys' grp.
 - 50 Word with room or system
 - 52 Flummox ... or a classic word game represented by the central grid of shaded squares, in which 15-, 17- and 55-Across can be found
 - 55 Flummox
 - 56 Nonchalant
 - 57 No. after a no.
 - 58 Drink sometimes served in a masu cup
 - 59 Hits the roof
- DOWN
- 1 "Sesame Street" Muppet with magical powers
 - 2 Hug or kiss, maybe
 - 3 Took a second?
 - 4 Three-vowel French word that sounds like a fourth vowel
 - 5 French connections
 - 6 ___-wolf
 - 7 "___ Ben Adhem" (Leigh Hunt poem)
 - 8 "Dancing With the Stars" judge Goodman
 - 9 Comes clean
 - 10 Certain marketing gimmicks
 - 11 Pensée
 - 12 Liberal arts college in Portland, Ore.
 - 13 Transgress
 - 16 Former Fords
 - 18 In a real mess
 - 20 Runs out of water
 - 23 Start of a count-off
 - 24 Name that drops "-jah"
 - 25 Dumbbell curls build them, for short
 - 26 Monthly utility statement
 - 28 Sound from a crib
 - 29 Giving a boost
 - 30 Unrefined material
 - 31 Dangerous pellets
 - 32 Rabble
 - 33 Figure on a fiver
 - 34 Winter exclamation
 - 37 Photo lab request: Abbr.
 - 38 Singer Lana del ___
 - 40 Surfer wannabes
 - 41 Subordinate in the prosecutor's office: Abbr.
 - 42 Its flag has vertical stripes of red-white-red
 - 44 Key just above G
 - 45 Glasses, informally
 - 46 Weight
 - 47 Old dagger
 - 49 Collectible cartoon frames
 - 50 Award turned down by Alan Rickman: Abbr.
 - 51 Variety
 - 52 Pre-A.D.
 - 53 Piece of equipment for certain summer Olympians
 - 54 Atlanta sch.



Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson



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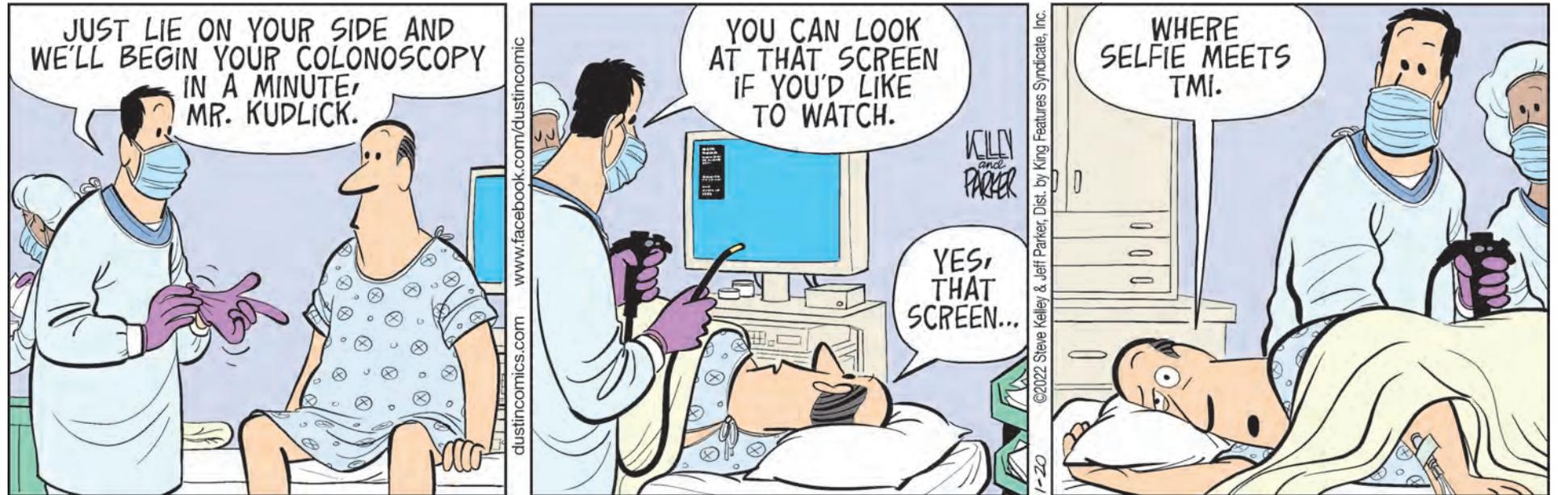
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Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



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) ★★★★★ Because you're in a positive mood today, you will get a lot done. Even your health feels more vigorous. However, your enthusiasm about something might tempt you to overlook details. Tonight: Be helpful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ This is a playful day! You will want to interact with others and enjoy good times (within the restrictions you face dealing with your own bubble of contacts). Playful activities with children, sports will appeal to you. Tonight: Enjoy fun times.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ This is a pleasant day

at home. Group activities with the family or close friends might take place. You also might entertain big ideas for making improvements to where you live, because today you are enthusiastic and full of big ideas for the future! Tonight: Relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Today your thoughts are positive. Everything begins with a thought. "From the thought springs the word; and from the word springs the deed. The deed soon becomes habit; and habit eventually hardens into character." Tonight: Good conversations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Today you feel more optimistic about financial matters. However, make sure your facts are correct. It's easy to think something is better than it is today. When shopping, guard against going overboard and being

extravagant. Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ This is a feel-good day because the Moon is in your sign dancing with lucky Jupiter. This is why you want to kick back and relax. It's OK to have your head in the clouds, but make sure your feet are on the ground. Tonight: You're confident!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ This is a feel-good day for you because you feel contented. The future is just a hope or a fear, and the past is already gone. All you have is the present. Enjoy your present moment today. Mind games, puzzles and mental activities will delight. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Some kind of group activity, including Zoom conferences, might be the

order of the day, because you will be involved with friends and groups more than usual today. You will want to talk to many people about future projects and goals. Tonight: A heartfelt conversation with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Today you are high-viz. This means people notice you more than usual, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. Fortunately, the impression you create is one of being positive, successful and affluent. Tonight: Enjoy your good press.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Grab every opportunity to travel or do something to expand your world. You want to see new faces, new places and learn new ideas! Do what you can to increase your knowledge, perhaps with online learning or an old-fashioned book.

Tonight: Make plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You feel flush today. Perhaps it is easier for you to get the financial and practical support of others, including your partner. That makes this a good day to make decisions about how to divide something, because you will end up laughing all the way

to the bank. Tonight: Get organized.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Relations with partners and close friends are warm, friendly and upbeat today. In addition, people are also mutually generous and helpful today. You will benefit others, and they will benefit you. Tonight: Cooperate.



CAMPUS NEWS

Sophomores scramble to find off-campus housing

By KYLA VOGEL

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

As most sophomores know their time living on campus is coming to an end, many are scrambling to sign leases, though the director of Housing & Residence Life has urged students to be thoughtful when making their decision.

This year's record-breaking first-year class has already pushed them out of the Campus Commons. The housing crunch exacerbated by 2,560 first-year students means most of next year's juniors and seniors will be renting a house or apartment off-campus.

Students have strategies for finding housing, but TCU officials caution them to move slowly when it comes to signing leases.

"Friends and priorities change over time," said Craig Allen, director of Housing & Residence Life. He said students might feel pressured by

friends and landlords to sign leases in the fall, but that waiting until spring might be best.

Local apartment complexes such as The Berkeley Apartments, Liberty Lofts, Loft Vue, University House and Grandmarc all have vacancies well into the spring, he said.

"If everybody just slowed down, I believe there would be plenty of availability. So many people rush and it gets them into sticky situations."

- CRAIG ALLEN
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

Other students opt for houses. Many properties are already listed and some rented for next fall.

Nicole Kim, a junior communication major, signed a two-year lease at the beginning of her sophomore year and recommends others do the same.

"If you are looking for a house in a high-demand area around campus, take action sooner rather than later."

- NICOLE KIM
JUNIOR, COMMUNICATION MAJOR



PHOTO BY KYLA VOGEL

Berkeley Apartments are located near campus.

Junior communication major Jett Wright agreed with Kim, saying he "got lucky" when finding his house. "Everything that was in walking distance to campus was snatched up," he said.

To avoid chaos, Wright recommends staying on top of things such as touring and getting in contact with landlords.

Allen, however, warns students against signing two-year leases. "Whether it be studying abroad, failing out of school or friendship issues, there are always unexpected obstacles," he said.

The Housing and Residence Life office, located in P.E. Clark Hall, has a variety of resources for students looking for homes off campus.

"We provide students with some tools to assist

them in finding a place that will maximize their enjoyment in their new living experience," according to the website.

The off-campus housing brochure gives students an idea of what living off-campus looks like.

Associate Director of Housing Mindy Hollan said students preparing to move off campus should carefully consider their budget. Hollan said there are many new costs of living to consider such as rent, utilities, cable, internet and groceries.

Kim said the cost of living adds up fast.

"Along with the majority of students, I never had to pay bills for a house until now, so just be cautious of running the water and leaving the lights on when you don't need them," Kim said.

Kim advises students to first think about what is important to them in a house. "Being close to campus, living in a safe area and having a personal bathroom were all things I looked for when beginning my search."

"It is a trial and error process," said Wright.

The TCU Announce page is full of off-campus listings only accessible to current TCU students, faculty and staff.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE IS OPEN 8 A.M.-5 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY IN PE CLARK HALL.

PHONE - 817-257-7865

HOUSING@TCU.EDU



PHOTO BY KYLA VOGEL

Off-campus housing within walking distance to campus is in high demand.