

New chapter for soccer: Martinez becomes new head coach for men

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Gaspar Martinez was named head coach of the Texas Wesleyan men's soccer team after being the assistant coach for the men's and women's soccer teams.

An assistant coach at Wesleyan for five years, Martinez served four of those years with Josh Gibbs as the head coach of both the men's and women's teams. Now, Martinez will coach the men's team, and Gibbs will continue to coach the women's team.

"Martinez is starting new in a job he definitely deserves and has earned," Gibbs said.

"We have been building up two competitive programs for years now," he said. "We know that with two separate head coaches, we can provide a better environment for all the players and give them the focused coaching they deserve."

The soccer program was the only program left at Wesleyan with one head coach running both the men's and women's team simultaneously.

"It was a good decision to separate the coaching staff," Martinez said. "Gibbs can concentrate on the women's team, and I can concentrate on the men's team. This way, no team will be at a loss because of concerns with the other team."

Martinez said his main focus is the men as students and players.

"Our system of play will change, and the expectations of each player will increase in a competitive atmosphere," he said.

Like the years past, Martinez wants the team to make it to the conference tourna-

ment.

"Once we are in the tournament, we will focus on winning it," he said. "We won't think too far in advance, but still work hard to reach our goal."

The players are adjusting to the change and looking forward to the new season.

"The change is positive as it will bring the possibility for more concentration on each aspect of the game and on individual and team techniques," said junior forward Marcus Harris. "I am excited to get started and glad to have another great head coach leading the program."

Martinez is working to fill the teams with new players and 17 returners from last season.

"It's different being the head coach, but I also have a lot of experience from assisting with Gibbs," he said. "Now I have more office work and behind the scenes things to address."

Martinez's tasks have increased as he is now responsible for recruiting and compiling the roster for next season.

"I plan to bring in about 15 men, all who will make an immediate impact on the program," Martinez said. "I want academically strong players and walk-ons that are willing to work hard as a team with our returners."

With offseason training already started, Martinez is working hard on recruiting.

"We will announce some players on signing day in mid-February," he said. Martinez also plans to hold open try-outs in late March, after high school soccer season, to attract freshmen to Wesleyan.

The men's soccer program



Melissa Bates | Rambler Staff

Gaspar Martinez

will also be adding a reserve team.

"The varsity and reserve teams will have a floating roster, which means we can change the roster per game," Martinez said. "If a player is not performing at the varsity level, we can now take a player from the reserve team to compete in conference matches."

Martinez describes the reserve team as a luxury the program didn't have before.

"The functioning of the teams will model professional teams and increase the competition for the men to do well as players and students," he said.

The teams will practice at the same time, but separately on most occasions. The reserve team will play junior colleges such as Hill College and Mountain View College.

As for the coaching staff, the men's and women's assistant coach will still be Jody

Ellsworth. Phillip Blocklinger will continue to be the men's student assistant coach and Brianna McKernon will be the women's student assistant coach.

"Of course we are hoping to see rewards from the change and positive benefits for the players," Martinez said. "Before, when one team lost, we had to quickly adjust to coach the next team. It was hard to get prepared mentally for both games back-to-back and now that won't be a concern," he said.

Senior defender Heather Pagano sees the benefits for the women's team.

"It's great to have Coach Gibbs only as our head coach. Now he is able to focus his attention solely on us," she said.

"We are doing what is best for the program and the players," Gibbs said. "The change was needed for the success of the program overall."

Baseball aims for NAIA World Series

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The Texas Wesleyan baseball team is aiming for the NAIA World Series this season.

"Our goal this season is to make it all the way in the NAIA World Series and be successful all throughout," Head Coach Mike Jeffcoat said.

The Rams' goal is arguably attainable with 18 experienced seniors and 13 newcomers this season. Joining the squad are four transfers and nine freshmen, seven of whom are walk-ons.

"We lost three seniors last year: our left fielder, short stop and a pitcher," Jeffcoat said. "But this season we feel improved with more depth in hitters and the pitching staff."

Senior Caleb McCool is looking forward to this season with high expectations.

"We have acquired a group of hitters to go along with the ones we had last year, so now our lineup should be fairly strong from top to bottom," he said. "If we can manage to score some runs, I'm sure our pitching staff can take care of the rest."

As for coaching, Blake Walker, former Wesleyan outfielder, has stepped up to be the Rams' assistant coach.

"With our new additions, we are expecting big things from this group of men," Jeffcoat said.

The Rams will start the season playing top competitors, but they are looking forward to the challenge.

"We are going to have a tough but good start to the season," Jeffcoat said. "We will play Lubbock Christian and Oklahoma City."

Lubbock Christian is the defending national champion of the NAIA World Series and recently took the No. 1 ranking in the 2010 NAIA Coaches' Top 25 poll.

Oklahoma City won third place in the NAIA World Series and claimed No. 3 in the 2010 NAIA Coaches' Top 25 poll. Both teams are in the Sooner Conference and will create strong match-ups for the Rams.

The Rams finished with an overall record of 42-22 last season and made national playoffs the past two years.

As for the NAIA World Series, the Rams were one win shy of making it into the finals to win a trip to the NAIA World Series the past two seasons.

The Rams opened the season against Southwestern University Feb. 2. The team will face Oklahoma City at 1 p.m. Feb. 5 and Lubbock Christian at noon Feb. 6. Both games are at home.

The Rams' first Red River Conference game is at 2 p.m. March 12 against the University of the Southwest at La-Grave Field.

The Weekly Sports Quote

"You can observe a lot just by watching."

Yogi Berra

Former MLB Player and Manager

Wesleyan week-in-sports

- The Lady Rams Basketball team (12-6, 8-2 RRAC) picked up a pair of wins against Huston-Tillotson University (Jan. 28) and Our Lady of the Lake University (Jan. 30).
- The Rams Basketball team (16-5, 9-1 RRAC) beat Huston-Tillotson University Jan. 28 in their 32 consecutive home win. They lost to Our Lady of the Lake University Jan. 30.

Upcoming Sports

	Game	Time/Place
Thursday	Women's Basketball vs. Texas College	5:30 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
	Men's Basketball vs. Texas College	7:30 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
Friday	Baseball vs. Oklahoma City Univ.	1 p.m. LaGrave Field
Saturday	Baseball vs. Lubbock Christian University	12 p.m. LaGrave Field
	Women's Basketball vs. Paul Quinn Coll.	5:30 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
Monday	Men's Basketball vs. Paul Quinn Coll.	7:30 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
	Women's Basketball vs. Bacone College	5:30 p.m. Muskogee
	Men's Basketball vs. Bacone College	7:30 p.m. Muskogee



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- 02.05.2010 - 7:30 pm
14th Annual President's Honors Concert
Martin Hall
- 02.09.2010 - 7:30 pm
Joint Senior Vocal Recital
Caitlin Fanning, mezzo, and David Gast, tenor
Martin Hall
- 02.20.2010 - 3:00 pm
SAI American Music Concert
Arlington Heights United Methodist Church
4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. - Ft. Worth, TX
- 02.21.2010 - 3:00 pm
Greater Fort Worth Community Band
Henry Schraub, director
Martin Hall
- 02.25.2010 - 7:30 pm
Faculty Voice Recital
Julie Whittington McCoy (soprano)
Keith Critcher (piano)
Martin Hall
- 02.26.2010 - 7:30 pm
Guitar Fort Worth
Johannes Moller, guitar
Martin Hall
- 03.02.2010 - 7:30 pm
Faculty Guest Recital:
Melanie Hadley, piano
Martin Hall
- 03.04.2010 - 7:30 pm
Guest Faculty Recital:
Carole Fitzpatrick, soprano
Rob Barefield, baritone
Eckhart Sellheim, piano
Arizona State University
Martin Hall
- 03.09.2010 - 5:30 pm
Joint Student Vocal Recital
Leslie Elston, tenor
Michelle Johnson, mezzo-soprano
Martin Hall
- 03.09.2010 - 7:30 pm
Senior Recital
Mary-Margaret Meyer, piano
Martin Hall
- 03.11.2010 - 7:30 pm
Combined Jazz Band & Wind Ensemble Concert
Dr. Bryan English, director
Martin Hall
- 03.23.2010 - 7:30 pm
Koebbe-Dunn Duo-Piano Recital
Jessica Koebbe and Lori Dunn
Martin Hall

- 03.25.2010 - 7:30 pm
7th Annual Fisher-McDonald Duo-Piano Recital
John Fisher & Bruce McDonald
Wesleyan faculty
- 03.27.2010 - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Texas Wesleyan University Youth Duo-Piano Competition
in cooperation with the Fort Worth Piano Teachers FORUM
Martin Hall
- 03.30.2010 - 7:30 pm
The Virtuoso String Quartet and Faculty Soloists
On Wenlock Edge - R. Vaughan-Williams
and other selections...
Joseph Davison, tenor
Dr. Bryan English, trombone
Maria Harman, flute
Keith Critcher, piano
Martin Hall
- 04.02.2010 - 7:30 pm
Guitar Fort Worth
Rene Izquierdo, guitar
Martin Hall
- 04.09.2010 - 7:30 pm
Stephen T. Barr Memorial Concert
Stephen Beus, 2005 and 2009 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition competitor
Martin Hall
- 04.11.2010 - 3:00 pm
Greater Fort Worth Community Band
Henry Schraub, director
Martin Hall
- 04.15.2010 - 7:30 pm
Wesleyan Singers/Chamber Singers Concert
Dr. Jerome Bierschen, director
Martin Hall
- 04.20.2010 - 7:30 pm
Faculty Piano Recital
Jessica Koebbe and Ilka Araujo, piano soloists
Martin Hall
- 04.27.2010 - 7:30 pm
Wesleyan Chorale Concert
Vivaldi's Magnificat and
Mozart's Vesperae de Dominica
Dr. Jerome Bierschen, director
Martin Hall
- 04.29.2010 - 7:30 pm
Senior Instrumental Recital
David Riddle, horn
Martin Hall

- 05.08.2010 - 7:30 pm
13th Annual Wesleyan/Highlander Jazz Festival
Dr. Bryan English, director
Martin Hall
- 05.16.2010 - 3:00 pm
Greater Fort Worth Community Band
Henry Schraub, director
Martin Hall

For more information, visit *The Music Department* on our promotional webpage at <http://www.txwes.edu/music/music/index.htm> or call 817.531.4992



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