



By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Sports
Columnist

(VILLAGER Sports)

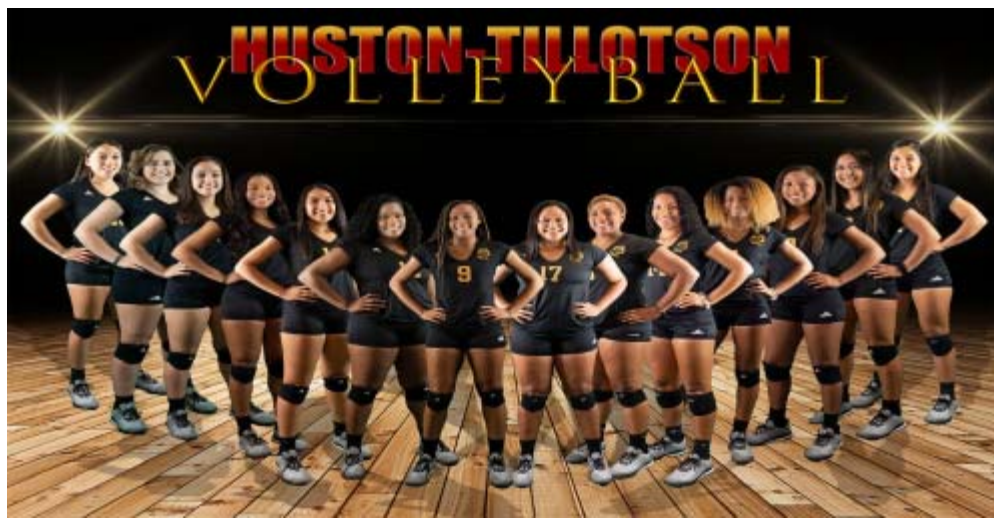
- Huston-Tillotson athletics have returned to East Austin campus following a one-year absence resulting from the coronavirus. The current fall schedule features women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer and men's cross country.

Let's start with women's volleyball.

The Rams won the the Red River Athletic Conference championship two years ago, losing only one league match, and advanced to the NAIA national tournament for the first time in school history.

But as so often happens in sports, Dan Behnke's success at HT attracted suitors from other schools. He posted a 75-20 record over a three-year period with

Huston-Tillotson Fall Athletic Schedule in Full Swing



the Rams after taking over a program that went 16-145 the previous five seasons. Despite experiencing unprecedented success, Behnke departed Austin for Saint Martin's University, a Division II school located an hour south of Seattle.

HT's new volleyball coach, Joelle Mafo, hails from the University of Mount Olive, a Division II school in Mount, N.C. Prior to that, she was an assistant at Division I Jackson State.

So far, so good.

Under Mafo's leadership, the Rams are 6-3 and 4-1 in the Red River Athletic Conference. Like Behnke before her, HT has also defeated Divi-

Men's soccer

The Rams' upcoming schedule includes a conference home match against Our Lady of the Lake Friday, October 8 at 6 p.m. at Mary E. Branch Gymnasium.

Men's soccer

The Rams are 5-2 and 2-1 in the Red River Athletic Conference. Off to an excellent start following a 5-7-2, 2-6 mark two years ago, the Rams feature a total of eight Austin players on the roster.

Upcoming games a home contest against Jarvis Christian Saturday, October 9 at 3 p.m. against against Texas College at the Round Rock Multipurpose Complex.

Women's soccer

Led by fifth-year coach Dr. Carlos Cervantes, the Rams are currently 4-2 and 3-1 in the Red River Athletic Conference. Two years ago, the Rams were 4-5 in league play and 6-7-1 overall.

Both the men's and women's soccer teams play home games this weekend. The women host Texas College Saturday, October 9 at 1 p.m. at the Round Rock Multipurpose Complex.

Men's cross country

The Rams will compete in their second meet of the season at the Our Lady of the Lake Invitational Saturday, October 9 in San Antonio.



Edited By
Naomi Richard
VILLAGER
Entertainment
Reporter

(RCA RECORDS)

- Grammy-winning Texas music artist Kirk Franklin teamed up with Compassion International to re-release his single, "Lean on Me," featuring the voices of youth living in poverty around the world.

Compassion International (CI) is a Christian child development organization that is working to release children from poverty. Founded in 1952, the organization partners with more than 8,000 local churches in 25 program countries to deliver spiritual, economic, social, and physical care to over two million babies, children, and young adults in poverty.

For several months, Franklin worked with youth from all 25 countries in CI's child development program. Through virtual auditions and rehearsals, the Compassion Youth Choir, made up of more than 120 youth, ages 11-19, worked with the artist to record the song, which was originally released in 1998.

After a trip to the Dominican Republic

Grammy Winner Kirk Franklin Re-releases Hit Single, "Lean on Me," Featuring Youth from Compassion International



Cover courtesy of Fo Yo Soul/RCA Records

with CI in early 2020, Franklin felt called by God to use his talents, platform, and personal story to inspire youth around the world to pursue their own giftings.

In late 2020, CI sent out a call to youth in its Field Countries, where the ministry serves children in poverty, to participate in a virtual choir. Franklin was originally planning on selecting winners from each country to participate in the choir, but after reviewing video submissions from the youth, he was so moved by their talent and passion that he chose everyone who auditioned to participate in the project.

Franklin shares, "It was such an honor working with so many young, talented, and gifted kids from across the globe! I'm grateful to the team at Compassion International for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity."

During the virtual sessions, Franklin provided vocal coaching, answered questions about his life and musical career, and even taught the group some dance moves.

Eleven-year-old Yshara from the Philippines says she enjoyed the entire process. "I'm very excited to be part of the youth choir, to show everyone my talent in singing, and to be with other singers from different places." She says her favorite part of working with Franklin was hearing his life experience and improving as a singer.

Maria, 18, from Nicaragua adds, "My favorite part was to hear Kirk's testimony and his words of motivation and inspiration - that if you can dream about something, you can reach it in Christ Jesus."

"I feel extremely happy to be selected," says Kakama, 18, from Uganda. Born without

arms, Kakama began to realize he was musically talented at age 16. "I feel God has blessed me so much, beyond what words can explain."

The music video for the re-release of "Lean on Me," featuring the Compassion Youth Choir, can be seen at www.compassion.com/kirkfranklin or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/NFbE9uPziZQ>. Your heart will be moved with these beautiful young singers.

Franklin concludes, "It's unbelievable that a song like this still resonates with so many people. I pray this version provides a little hope for the people across the globe."

Fo Yo Soul/RCA Records and Franklin will donate proceeds from the sales and streams of the song to Compassion International. You may go to <https://kirkfranklin.ink.to/LeanOnMeCompassion> to download or stream "Lean on Me" featuring the Compassion Youth Choir.

We Want YOU!
Advertise With
The VILLAGER

Country Boyz Fixin's
4140 E. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78721
Featuring Fish, Poboyos, Hot Wings, Pork Chops, Homemade Gumbo, Shrimp and Alligator
DINE IN OR
ORDER TO GO
Mon - Fri: 11 am - 8 p.m.
Saturday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
Call (512) 928-5555

DOUBLE "R" GROCERY
*We cash ALL Tax Refund*Checks *Check Out
4501 East Martin Luther King Blvd.

EBENEZER
WE INVITE EVERYONE!
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Join us in-person or live on YouTube.
8:45 a.m. Christian Education Ministry
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - Midweek Prayer Service via Zoom*

Agape Baptist Church
In "THE CENTRE" Bldg. F-15
7801 North Lamar Blvd. (S.E. Corner of North Lamar and 183)
AGAPE: A church for all people. "Where Jesus Christ is Magnified and the Love He exhibited is Exemplified."
Church Services Sun. School - 9:30a Sun. Worship - 11:00a
Mid-Week Thurs.: Praise, Prayer and Bible Study - 7:00PM

NAMC NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS
Advocacy Education Procurement
Samuel T. Blango, III President
1101 Satellite View Suite 405 Round Rock, TX 78665

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
4805 Heflin Lane, Austin, Texas 78721
"A Church Empowered by The Holy Spirit"
Worship Service: Brotherhood 8:00am, Sunday School 9:00am, BTU 10:00am, Morning Worship 11:00am

DAVID CHAPEL Missionary Baptist Church
SUNDAY Christian Education 9:15a.m. | Worship 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Available WEDNESDAY |
Worship 1st Wed. monthly 7:00p.m. | Bible Study 7:30p.m.
2211 East Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd. Austin, TX 78702

Olive Branch Fellowship of Austin / All Faith Chapel
4110 Guadalupe St. Bldg #639 Austin, TX 78751
Sunday Morning Worship @ 11: am
Kenneth Hill, Pastor

BETHEL-ST. PAUL UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH
877 W. Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942
Weekly Schedule Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:00p.m.