

THE YELLIN REBEL

Special Section

Lady Rebels also strive

by karen hall

sports editor

The 1987 UNLV Lady Rebels Basketball team looked within themselves to overcome a rocky season start.

Led by lone senior — Angela Christian, the Lady Rebels opened up the season impressively against Southern Methodist University in their annual Seven-Up tournament.

However, the next 11 games for the lady Rebels were like riding the steepest roller coaster in the world.

Instead of trading baskets they saw their record going up and down, up and down.

It was not like they were not playing good basketball, because they play a mean game of ball, but the team was young and was trying to establish some formation along with consistency.

Unfortunately, by January 10, their record was

a mere 7-6, overall. Three games later their record increased to a marginal 10-7. However, their last loss for eight games would be to Fresno State by three points.

After that loss, the lady Rebels regained control of their roller-coaster and dominated in the Pacific Coast Athletic Association Conference.

They ended the regular season with a 20-9 record.

As the PCAA playoff started the Lady Rebels were in top form. With the first game played at Long Beach State, the Lady Rebels whipped a pesty Cal-State Fullerton team to advance to the second round against Fresno State in the majestic Los Angeles Forum.

They defeated the Lady Bulldogs like the Lakers would the Boston Celtics, very impressively. For awhile, the Lady Rebels were denied their fourth PCAA championship title

when Joan Bonvincin and her 49'ers, who

were destined for the Final Four, handed the Lady Rebels a terrible whipping in the championship to strip them of their PCAA crown.

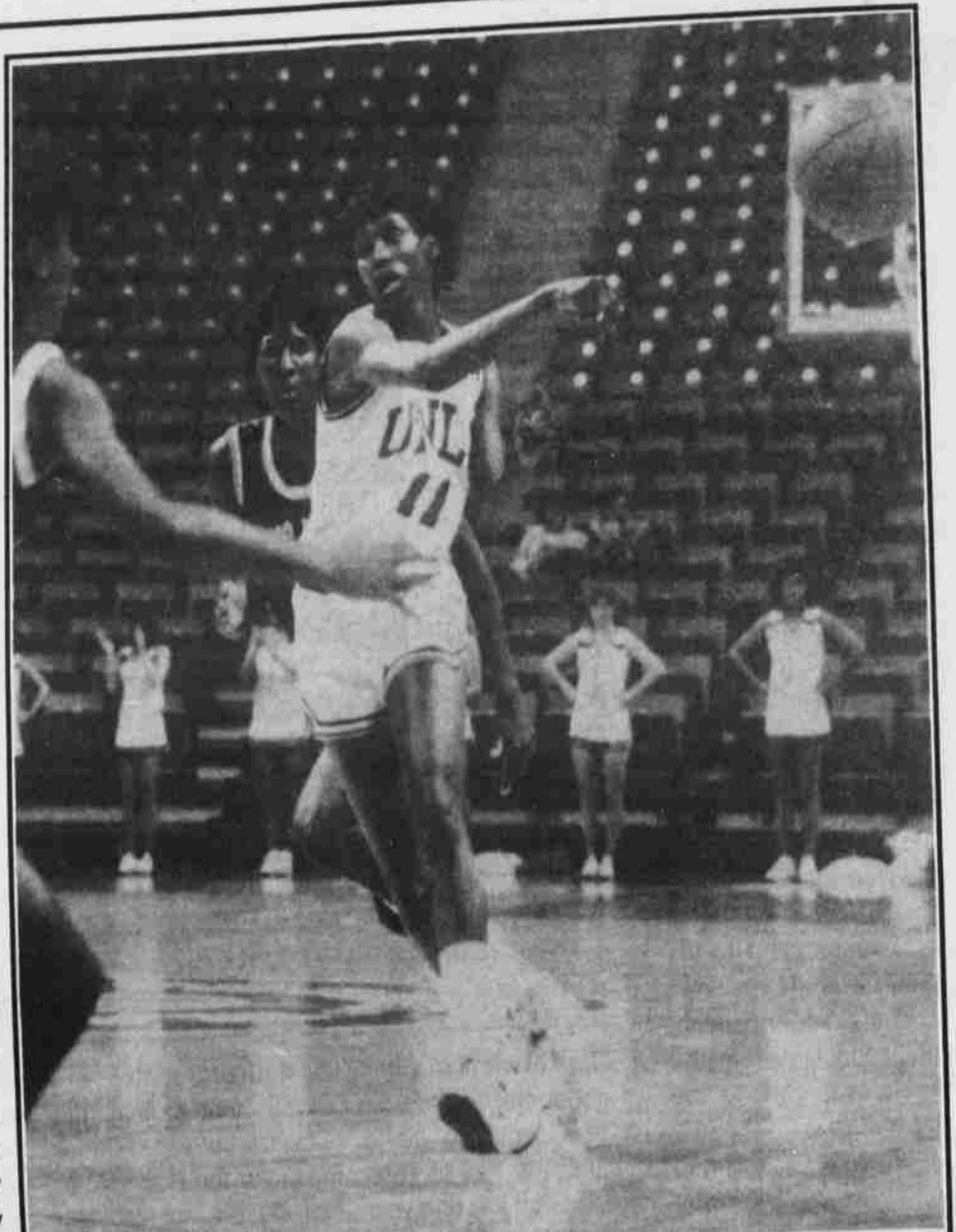
Not only were they stripped of their crown but they did not receive any post-season play from the NCAA.

They finished their season 22-10 just one defeat more than their 85-86 record of 22-9.

How will the Lady Rebels look for next year?

Although, they lose Angela Christian to graduation, the Lady Rebels will return five Sophomores, including Pauline Jordan, a Muir High School star who did not play this season, three Juniors and two Seniors.

Additional talent featured on the 87-88 Lady Rebels team of the Lady Rebels will be Mandy Hanna, out of Compton, Ca., and Denise Ballinger from a Junior College in Texas.



THE OTHER REBELS—much overshadowed by this year's men's team, the Lady Rebels are looking forward to a better season next year. Here, Angela Christian cuts down court.

Cheerleaders provide comfort away from home

kurt hildebrand

managing editor

The UNLV cheerleaders provide the players with a little bit of home when they are out on the road, according to Tina Kunzer, Assistant Athletic Director and cheerleading advisor.

"It would probably be better to ask the players," she said. "We couldn't make it to a few games, and the players said it made a big difference. The cheerleaders provide a kind of link with home, since they're there. They represent the students."

Over the season a new mascot of sorts has been added to UNLV's roster of cheerleaders, a giant foam rubber shark, dancing along the sidelines.

"We have tried to find someone to be Hey Reb, but we just haven't found anyone who can get the character across," she

said. "It's a shame, because we have the costume and everything just sitting in the closet gathering dust."

"Then one day, someone showed up with a shark costume he bought himself. He and his wife just bought general admission tickets and started coming down to the floor."

Kunzer said the person who plays the shark is Russell Grant, a local person.

In order to become a cheerleader, there is a week clinic at the end of April, Kunzer said.

The cheerleaders then train in various maneuvers until the first cut.

"We have from 50 to 100 girls try out for cheerleader. After the first cut we have 25 girls and we end up with eight girls and one alternate."

Tryouts for male cheer-

leaders operate along the same lines, with the exception that there usually are not enough males trying out for the position to warrant the cuts.

"We just haven't had enough males in the past to have to make a cut," she said. "Now we have five males on the squad."

Funding has always been a problem for the cheerleading squad, Kunzer said.

"We do all kinds of things to make money for the squad," Kunzer said.

"We worked the Beach Boys concert, we hold car washes. Tark has really been helpful and has even suggested that the basketball team hold an exhibition game to raise money."

"But, it is always a constant burden on the squad to raise money on top of everything else the students have to do."



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