

Rebel Sports

Al McQuire's SPORTS TALK

So now the lights can be turned down, the party's over in the Crescent City, and the first of all I want to say — General Patton, Michelangelo, Con Edison, whatever you want to call him, an Adidas sweater with an Archie Bunker waistline you're the best.

This time around for Indiana, the whole was definitely better than the parts, the kids did a magnificent job, and this should be your proudest moment — even above the Olympic gold and the two previous championship teams, one led by Isiah Thomas and the other by Scott May and Quinn Buckner.

This one was all Robert Montgomery Knight. The image is a clean program, kids that go to class, front and center, get their

degree, and it's a good step for the roundball world and in the direction the NCAA, the university presidents and the NABC want to go, so Coach, congratulations.

I also think Jim Boehm has finally received the credit he so justly deserves. His production players were predominantly underclassmen, and the future looks unlimited for the up-starters.

So Jim, a job well done, and it's been a long way, but you're finally eyeball to eyeball with Dave Bing. And, in a photo finish, ahead of John Thompson and Lou Carnesecca.

Now, he's above the trees, has shed the Rodney Dangerfield tag, is his own man, and this game mirrors the shot five years ago that Michael

Jordan made against the Hoyas of Georgetown, and let's hope the same thing happens to you.

Jim, may you win the championship the following year.

While I'm at it, I'd also like to congratulate New Orleans, the city did a great job in the hospitality end of things.

The championship game itself was a postage stamp, either team could have won it, it just so happened to end at a time when Indiana was leading, and I think the deciding factor was truly Keith Smart having a hot hand at the final curtain.

I'd like to look back now, at people and things that impressed me.

First, Tom Jernstedt, the NCAA's assistant executive director. He deserves to be the head of the NCAA when the great warhorse, Walter Byers, cashes in next year.

This man has been No. 2 behind Walter Byers,

and I think the job should stay in-house. You know, we use the NCAA as a dartboard lots of times, but it's an impossible job, and they've done the impossible, in trying to handle 290 city state Division I fiefdoms and have united them into a solid image.

I'm also pleased that Joey Meyer has popped out of the shadow of his legendary father, and I can't forget David Robinson, standing at attention after his final loss, while the Navy band which christened their flagship.

And who could forget John Cheney, my coach of the year.

If the corporate world only had the values and intelligence of John, then we wouldn't have a deficit trade balance with Japan.

Other memories of this last season: Dean Smith, with the trio of Hobson, Wolf and Kenny Smith showing class in their early swan out of the NCAA tourney ... Dale Brown doing the miracle of the loaves and fishes again at

LSU ... The UCLA Bruins showing they're back, that the drought has ended ...

The Iowa Hawkeyes and their marriage with Dr. Tom Davis that should last as long as the Duke of Windsor and Wally Simpson ... Tark the Shark having his first doubts about the time remaining for him to win the Kentucky Derby he wants so much ... and Ricky Patino telling his team, "We'll cry later" after his infant's death.

More memories: Lucky, lucky, lucky, David Rivers. A crunch time player with blueblood class lines ...

The heartache being over for the freshmen that were down with Proposition 48 ...

The fears and anxieties of the graduate assistant coaches, whose jobs were sacrificed in the political arena of the athletic directors meeting...The sham of charging money for seats that would make a mugger look like an alter boy ...

Two wrongs not making a right, with Memphis State winning the Metro and Denny Crum's Cardinals not being pick-

ed as one of the top 64 teams in the country.

We must get the selection process out of the hands of power brokers in smoke-filled rooms.

And while we're at it, let's stop making the band and cheerleaders feel like second-class citizens. They travel 42 hours by bus to get to the tournament, while the rest of the entourage gets there by jet in an hour and has a limo waiting.

But to sum up, in spite of all these things, I've enjoyed it. I enjoy doing these columns. I know lots of times I offend, but I'm a guy that works on the docks, incites riots and revolutions.

I just try to spark things, so the Harvard people can move in with their \$200 suits and get things done properly.

Meanwhile, I'll stay in my windbreaker and cap, and try to give a marquee to the people who have no springboard for exposure, that have no sounding board. That's what's important, what I do best.

Season Recap: Rebels lose to Indiana

by Steve Evenson

sports editor

There has been a sense of *deja vu* surrounding the UNLV basketball season, this year.

From day one, it was known that this season was the 10-year anniversary of the Rebel's only previous trip to the Final Four. In 1977, defeat in the semi-finals came from North Carolina, this season it was Indiana, the score, 97-93 in New Orleans.

The Rebels finished the season at 37-2. 37 ties the record for the most wins in a season, set by Duke last year.

Closing out their collegiate careers in high style were Armon Gilliam with 32 points and 10 rebounds, and Freddie Banks with 38 points including 10 three-pointers.

Mark Wade set a tournament record with 18 assists in the losing effort, Wade also had four steals.

As usual this season, guard Steve Alford was Indiana's main weapon.

Alford finished his Hoosier career with 33 points, including 10 of 19 from the field and 11 of 13 freethrows.

Forward Rick Galloway, guard Keith Smart also finished in double figures for the Hoosiers.

Alford's positioning during picks was UNLV's main concern and the Rebels felt they fell short.

"I thought we had a pretty good plan, but it sure didn't work," UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian said. "We worked all week on fighting those screens, we didn't do nearly as well as we had hoped."

Wade, who had to guard Alford all day, was drained by all the picks Indiana set up.

"It is like trying to get through an offensive line," Wade said. "Every time you turn around someone is setting a pick on you. They're whole offense is

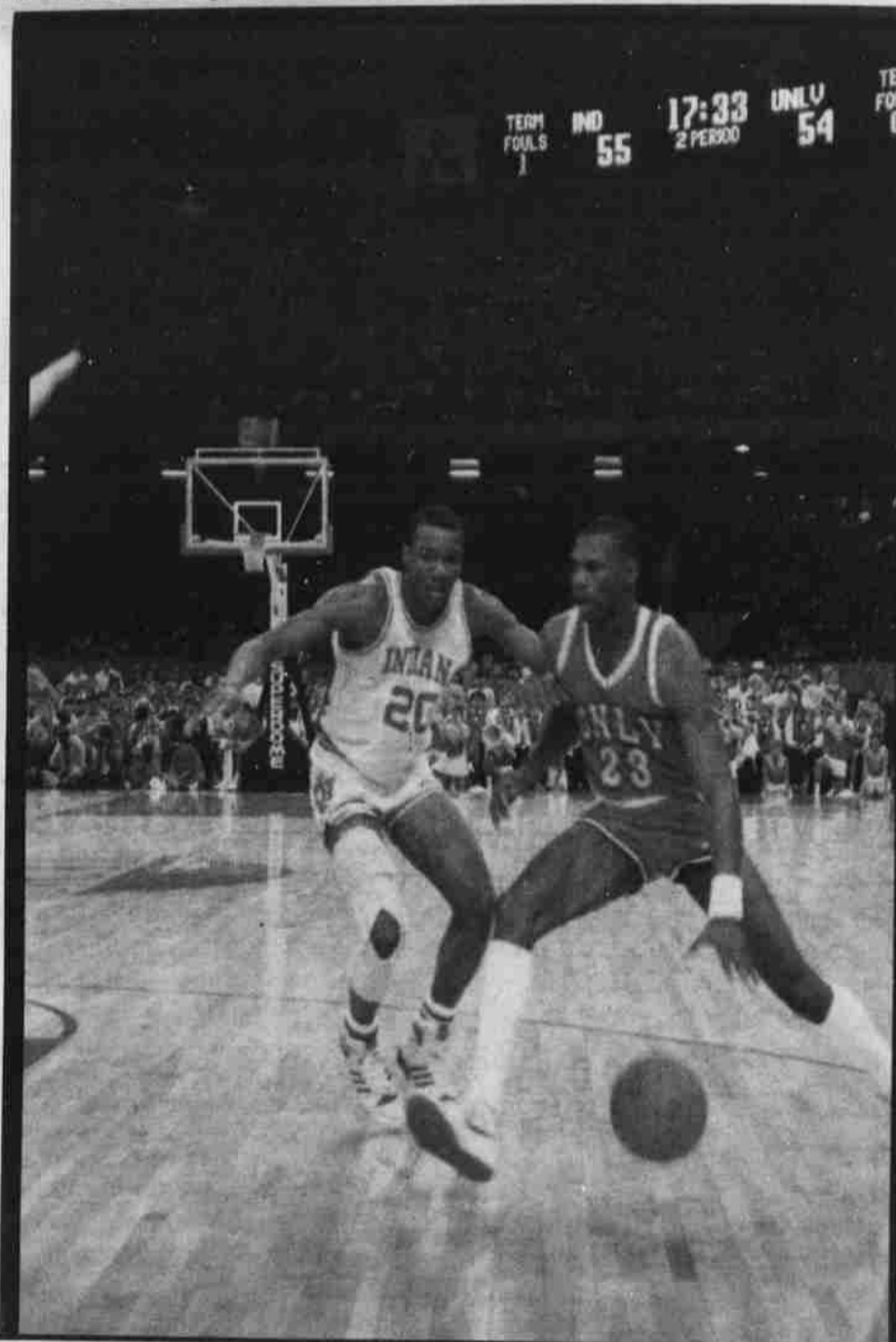
here to get Alford open and they do a pretty good job of it."

Another major factor in the game was the Rebel's performance at the freethrow line. Although UNLV ended with only three more fouls than Indiana, 26-23. The Hoosiers went to the line 28 times hitting 21, UNLV went to the line 19 times, hitting only 10.

"Ten of 19 is not a good day," Tarkanian said. "That really hurt us."

In the space of 20 seconds at the end of the first half, UNLV missed four of five freethrows.

When asked if he thought this was a case of Indiana playing above average and UNLV playing below average Eldridge Hudson said, "That could be it. If we had played well, you would be asking them these questions.



BASELINE DRIVE— Gerald Paddio explodes towards a basket against Indiana defender, Brad Calloway.

photo by robin winter