

## SPORTS

## Suns edge Bulls

by karch kondor

staff writer

Thank god for Michael Jordan and Armon Gilliam.

If not for the "atmospheric" play of the human highlight film, Jordan, and the excitement surrounding former UNLV star Gilliam's return to the Thomas and Mack, the pre-season exhibition game between the Phoenix Suns and the Chicago Bulls, which the Suns won 90-87, would have had all the excitement of a pick-up basketball game between the Supreme Court justices, even with Robert Bork playing center.

Neither team scored the first 2:05 of the game until Jordan took off on a flying dunk on a fastbreak that sent the crowd screaming.

Jordan, who led all scorers with 28 points, was just warming up. Over the next few minutes the Bull's all-pro guard fired up the crowd with two more dunks, including an incredible backward over-the-head stuff over Sun's seven-footer James Edwards.

After that dunk Jordan came back to the other end of the court and embarrassed Edwards again by jumping about four feet off the ground to block the center's shot.

Gilliam, who led UNLV to a 37-2 record and to the NCAA Final Four last year, didn't hit his first field goal until a minute to go in the second half when he connected on a 14-foot jumper. Gilliam suddenly found the basket, as he hit a 11-footer jumper and then closed out the half with a gorilla-jam.

Then he hit two short baskets to open the second half — a run of 10 straight points — as Phoenix went up 47-40.

The two teams exchanged leads throughout the second half, then Scottie Pippen, who finished with 20 points, scored with 38 seconds to play, cutting the Phoenix lead to

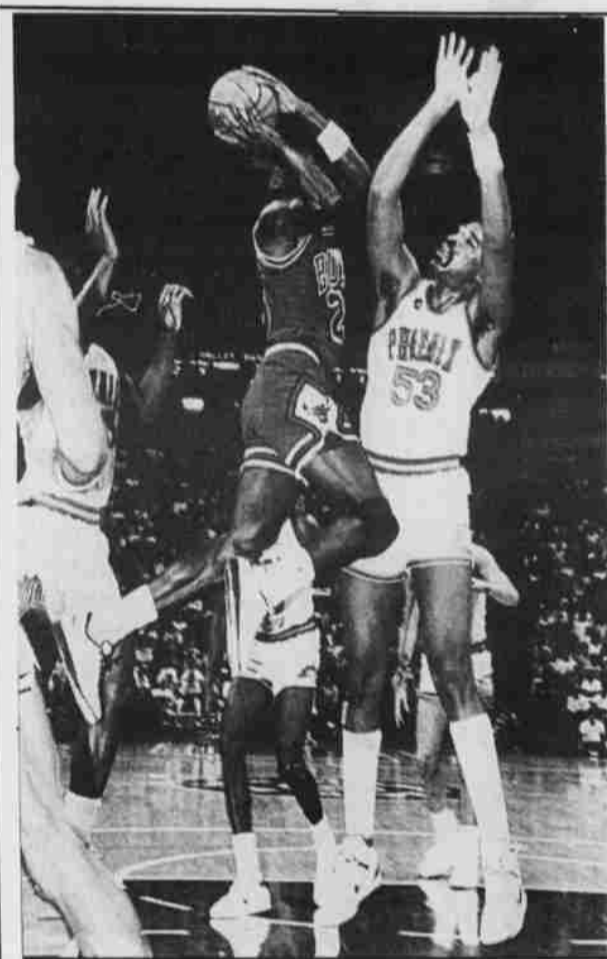
85-84.

Just like a former college star in his old arena should do, Gilliam was the hero at the end.

Gilliam, first slammed home a missed shot by teammate Mike Sanders and then added two freethrows to give the Suns a 89-84 lead.

Pippen hit a three-pointer with six seconds left to make the score 89-87 and then Sanders completed the scoring by hitting the front end of a two-shot free-throw.

Gilliam, who's averaging 14.5 points and 8 rebounds in pre-season, finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds in the game.



UP AND OVER — "Air" Jordan soars for two over the Sun's James Edwards during exhibition game

photo by jon ansok/Rebel photo editor

## Diving team young &amp; talented

by william stout

sports writer

The fourth annual Rebel Diving Invitational is a United States competition sponsored by UNLV serves as a "look see" meet attracting regional talent including California and Utah.

Coach Joe Murphy was pleasantly surprised at his very young squad's performance this early in the season.

Sophomore Alan Lagervall is the lone returning Rebel. Freshman Jim Banbury, Tom Harmon, and Melissa Ross are expected to add depth in points scored for the Rebels this season.

"We are in the process

of rebuilding," Coach Murphy said. "For the past two seasons we're the reigning Pacific Coast Athletic Association champions on both boards in Don Wilhelm.

"Our team is young and they are learning fast. I've seen much improvement in a short time," Murphy said. "This team has a great deal of potential, it's a pleasure working with them."

Freshman Melissa Ross, the only Lady Rebel diver, has only been diving for nine months.

Ross, who is looking forward to the collegiate competition is seeing the light.

"I can see myself plac-

ing in the top six in the PCAA's."

According to Murphy, Ross felt intimidated at the start because she was the only woman but as time passed she felt more a part of the team.

"We really support each other," Ross said.

Despite having a young team Murphy realizes that with a young team one must have patience.

"It is important to keep a team up especially a young team," he said.

Murphy emphasized that all his divers are student-athletes and academics are always high on their priority list.

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