

REBEL SPORTS

Gilliam makes debut at the Mack

by karen hall

sports editor

UNLV former Rebel Armon "The Hammer" Gilliam made his debut as an NBA professional with the Phoenix Suns Saturday against Micheal "Air" Jordan and the Chicago Bulls at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Wearing the familiar number 35, Gilliam waved to a crowd of 11,852 Rebel fans, who made his homecoming quite emotional. He received a standing ovation after being introduced as a starter for the game.

"It's great coming home," Gilliam said. "These fans are great."

Gilliam was right at home. He had his former coaches on hand, a few of his former teammates watching, Las Vegas who love him, and the convenience of playing on his once home court.

The 6'9, 248 pound forward, got off to a slow start, but after swishing two free throws early in the first quarter, "The Hammer" turned up the fire.

Gilliam began shooting his soft turn around jumper in the middle of the

lane and jumpers from the corner showing Las Vegas that nothing has changed, just gotten better.

An early highlight for the Pittsburgh native came just before the half when he dunked or should it be phrased "hammered" home a missed shot. It may have taken a while for him to get going but from that point Gilliam was definitely back on track.

"I wasn't nervous, the inside was just very congested and I didn't get the ball too much," Gilliam said.

In the second half,

Gilliam continued where he left off, he came out and hit three straight buckets.

Before cooling off Gilliam finished the game with 19 points and after wiping the glass clean, pulled in 11 rebounds.

However, it was in the fourth quarter that Gilliam showed why he was the Suns first draft pick. With 21 seconds remaining and the Suns up by one, Gilliam nailed a one-handed dunk to make the score 87-84 as the fans went wild.

Gilliam's clutch performance in the stretch

wasn't over, he was fouled and then converted both free throws to increase their lead to 89-84.

The Bulls came back, but their hopes of spoiling Gilliam's homecoming vanished when Sedale Threatt's back foot slipped out of bounds trying to set up for a three-point shot attempt. The Suns held on and won 90-87.

This victory was fitting for his return home.

"I will always feel very much a part of UNLV," Gilliam said.

According to Gilliam, the NBA schedule is unlike the college basketball life.

"The schedule is hectic and much tougher," Gilliam said. "The 6am flights and everything else is so much different. It's early so I haven't had to make too many adjustments just yet."

From Las Vegas Gilliam and the Suns will be traveling to Miami and New York.

Gilliam truly had a homecoming fit for a king and he has certainly made Coach Tarkanian and the Rebel basketball program proud, not to mention the University of Nevada Las Vegas.



GET OUTTA MY WAY — UNLV's Shawn Ritchie battles Fullerton opponent for possession.

photo by mike keller/asst. photo editor

Soccer team kicking towards PCAA

by ralph r. brown

staff writer

The UNLV soccer team took another step towards the PCAA championship last Sunday with a come-from-behind victory over Cal-State Fullerton.

The Rebels took the lead at the 31:47 mark on Jeff Wales eighth goal of the season. Wale took a long pass from Adam Keith, beat the defender for the ball, and pushed the ball into the net.

The Titans came back in the second half and evened the match at 50:39 when Scott Pearson took

a corner kick from Joeseeph Baeskens and drilled a low roller past Todd Neel.

The Rebels were dealt a blow at the 70 minute mark when Simon Keith gathered his second yellow card and an ejection from the game.

To their credit the Rebels pulled together and took their best shots at the Fullerton keeper, Jay Nettekoven. Nettekoven was equal to the task as he made three game-saving saves in the regulation period and the game ended 1-1.

It took Fullerton only two

minutes to take the lead on a goal Anthony Jacobs on an unassisted goal to make the score 2-1

Shawn Ritchie put the frosting on the cake when he took a cross from Borgel on a three on two break and beat the keeper for a 4-2 lead.

Fullerton got a gift from the Rebels in the waning seconds when Kevin Nute put the ball into his own goal to make the final score 4-3 Rebels in overtime.

The Rebels are currently 11-3 overall and 6-0 in the PCAA.

Spartans destroy Rebels

by ralph r. brown

staff writer

The devil's triangle is a dangerous place to be if your in a boat. The UNLV football team found themselves in a different kind of devil's triangle Saturday night.

Mike Perez, Guy Liggin, and Kenny Jackson combined for over 400-yards total offense and five touchdowns on their way to a 48-24 victory over the Rebels.

The San Jose State Spartans scored on three of their first four possessions and cruised to the easy win.

The Spartans went 76-yards in 14 plays. Jackson scored the first of his four touchdowns on a one-yard plunge to make the score 7-0 after the extra point was signaled good.

Jackson wasn't through quite yet, he scored again on a one-yard dive to up

the score 14-0.

After Perez hit Liggin's with an 8-yard pass, the Rebel's George Thomas took matters into his own hands.

Thomas took the kickoff and went 47-yards to the UNLV 42-yardline. Then quarterback Richard Williams hit Thomas with a quick pass and he went 58-yards for the touchdown.

San Jose scored two more touchdowns on Jackson's 6-yard run for his third touchdown of the game. Perez then hit Bill Krump with a 2-yard strike to increase their lead to 35-7.

Before the half, Thomas scored again when he gathered in a 27-yard pass from Williams to make the firsthalf score 35-14.

Things settled down a little after the half and the Rebels defense got stingy, forcing the Spartans to punt.

Anthony Drawhorn at

the UNLV 25 returned the punt 75-yards for an apparent T.D. but a clipping call nullified the run.

After the teams exchanged punts the Rebels went 71-yards in five plays with Cedric Davis catching a 5-yard pass from Williams for the touchdown.

The big play of the drive was a 54-yard run by Ickey Woods. The run was the longest of the year for UNLV. Woods on the night had 197-yards on 25 carries to lead the Rebels. It was the fourth 100-yard plus game for Woods this season.

Krump scored his second touchdown of the night on a 16-yard reception to make the score 42-21.

Jim Cook converted on a 24-yard field goal to close out the scoring for UNLV before Jackson scored his fourth touchdown to make the final score 48-24.

Meet the Lady Rebel
87-88 Basketball team

Tonite

7:30, Si Redd Room Thomas & Mack Center