

Basnight may make Olympics

by karen hall

sports editor

Having a chance to make the Olympics is a common wish, but for Jarvis Basnight the opportunity to become an Olympian is not unrealistic.

Basnight, and two of his teammates were among 93 players invited to next months trials in Colorado Springs, Co.

Even though the number of players invited is large, including Danny Manning, and David Robinson, Basnight is extremely confident about making the team.

"I'm just as good as the rest of the guys," said Basnight. "I will really be

able to show my game because I will be out of the post."

Besides playing the post, Basnight played various position for the Rebels and was unable to demonstrate his shooting ability. However, his ability to handle the ball became evident as the season progressed.

In preparation for the trials Basnight said his workouts will include increasing his ball handling skills, shooting range, and running.

He would also like to gain 15 pounds to help him with his physical strength.

"The more you progress, the more physical

contact you will endure, and the extra weight can only help me," said Basnight.

The physical contact however will not begin until May 18 and Basnight mentioned that the waiting is hard.

"It feels like someone has control of your life, all I can do is keep my head on straight," added Basnight.

Basnight has kept his head above the water and has done what he had planned while at UNLV.

Awaiting Jarvis Basnight now is a shot at the Olympics and a chance to show that he has the abilities of a great player.

Spring football game on way



Spring football drills are over and on Saturday at 1pm the UNLV football team will play in their annual Spring Football game.

The game will take place at the Bill "Wildcat" Morris Rebel Park and fans, students, and faculty are encouraged to bring out the lawn chairs, blankets, and suntan lotion to view their 1988-89 football squad.

There will be a barbecue after the game. Tickets are \$5 for adults (includes both game and barbecue) and \$3 for UNLV, faculty, and alumni.

If information is still needed contact the UNLV Athletic Ticket Office at 739-FANS.

Silver Streaks begin Spring training

The Las Vegas Silver Streaks will begin their training camp on Monday, April 25. Players report on Sunday with practices beginning Monday at UNLV's McDermott Physical Education Complex.

The Silver Streaks will practice twice daily - 10 to

noon; 3-6 p.m. in the North or South Gym depending on availability of the facility. Practices are open to the media and public.

"20-25 players will report to camp," Silver Streaks Coach Sonny Allen said. "By April 30th, we will reduce the roster down to 12-15 players."

During the season, teams in the World Basketball League must carry 10 players with two on the taxi squad.

The Silver Streaks open the season on Wednesday, May 18 against the Fresno Flames. Tipoff is 7 p.m. at the Thomas and Mack Center.

karen's kolum

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Freshmen eligibility has been discussed by those involved with athletics. The question is often raised is "should freshmen be eligible to compete in their first year of college?"

I for one have two views on the topic. First off, I think freshmen should be allowed to compete in athletics their first year, if they have demonstrated the academic capabilities throughout the four years of high school.

Why four years? I say four years because some student-athletes slack off their first two years of high school and when it appears that they may become a candidate for a

scholarship they decide to buckle up the straps.

By then it is often too late as indicated by their transcripts. The discipline to learn should be there and school should come before athletics anyway.

I believe if an athlete can't perform in the classroom what right do they have to perform in the playing arena.

The first year without a sport will enable the student-athlete to concentrate on classes and understand what college is all about.

On the other hand, athletics help students learn to budget their time. From the first day of conditioning to the end of the season athletes are constantly under time

constraints.

During the season a player must learn to budget his time around classes, practice, games, and road trips. There is little room for activities other than to study.

Without playing an athlete may lose the touch with the sport. The opportunity to get out of shape would always be a fear.

The biggest reason I would not have freshmen sit out a year is because most athletes are identified through the sport they play and losing that identity could have psychological effects.

The problem would be solved if all athletes balanced academics with athletics.

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