

Will this be the Rebel's Year?

The world of college basketball is starting to buzz with excitement as the season quickly approaches.

Soon, the long says of practice will be over and more time will be spent concentrating on games and possible post-season play.

This year is supposed to be the year of the Rebel.

UNLV is ranked at or near the top in almost every college basketball pre-season poll. In the Sporting News the Rebels are number 1 and in

SPORT magazine they are number 3.

Undoubtedly the UNLV basketball team will be playing under much more pressure this year. Even coach Jerry Tarkanian said he believes that this could be the best time he has ever had.

Expectations have already been set at the Final Four. Anything less will be a disappointment to Rebel

fans. One of the key ingredients to the team is Larry Johnson. UNLV lacked a dominant big man last year and Johnson could be the answer to the Rebels' inside woes experienced last year. Rebounding, something necessary to win big games, should increase tremendously this year.

Rebel guards Greg Anthony and Anderson Hunt have a year of experience and both displayed considerable talent last year running the backcourt.

Even without David Butler for the beginning of the season the Rebels look very impressive on paper. When Butler returns to the lineup, the Rebels could be unstoppable, barring any injuries.

Yes, this year's team appears to be the best ever. But it will have to survive constant media attention, travelling, and a very tough schedule.

COMMENTARY
by John Keating

BREAKAWAY

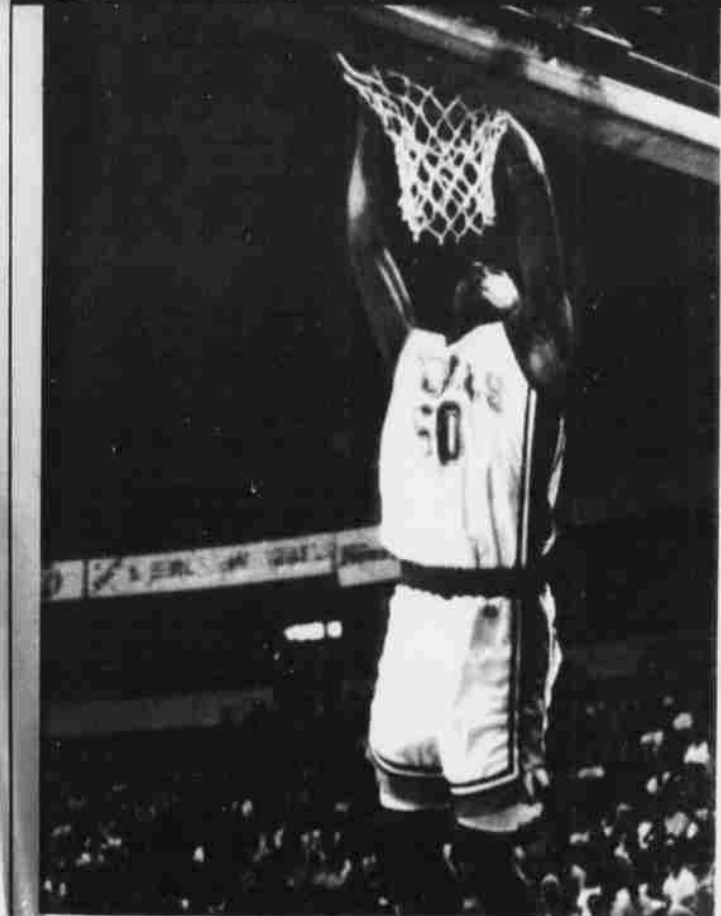


photo by Robbie Anderson

AIR ANTHONY-Runnin' Rebel guard Greg Anthony puts on a slam dunk contest for the T & M crowd during Sunday's game against High Five America.

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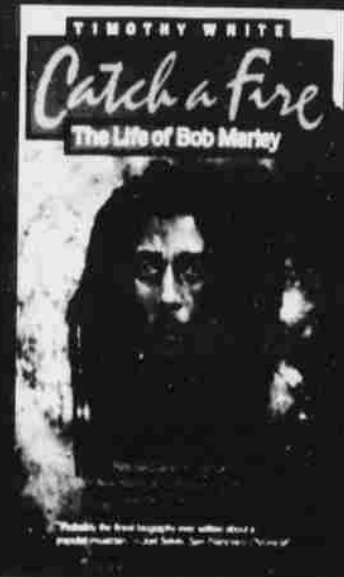
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