

Lady Rebels win UNLV/7-UP Desert Classic

Lady Rebels rout Alabama in first round

by Mario Diaz
Staff Reporter

After opening with the exhibition loss to the German team, TSV Bayer Leverkusen, Coach Jim Bolla and his Lady Rebels faced a stubborn Alabama team in the opening round of the UNLV/7-UP Desert Classic. This time they had better results trouncing Alabama by 18, 80-62.

UNLV was led in scoring by Vicki Lander, the 5-foot-8 senior scored a game high 21, six of which came from the three-point range. Sharon Hargrove, a first-year player from Central College

in Arizona, and Teresa Jackson, a sophomore guard, added 14 and 12 points respectively.

Going into the locker room at the half, UNLV had a 41-31 lead.

In the second half, UNLV was able to capitalize on the loopholes in the Alabama defense and was able to jump out to a 20-point lead, 78-58, late in the game. The Lady Rebels defense and speed really helped them prevail in the end.

After the game, Coach Bolla was happy about the way his team was able to bounce back from the German game.

Lady Rebels capture championship

by Richard Munson
Staff Reporter

The UNLV Lady Rebels captured their fifth consecutive UNLV/7-UP Desert Classic championship with a 78-55 victory over the Salukis of Southern Illinois University, Saturday in the South Gym.

Trailing 4-0 early the Lady Rebels went on a 12-2 run and built a lead they would never give up.

In a close first half the Lady Rebels were able to extend their lead to 13 points. But with five minutes left in the half the Salukis started their comeback. A well-balanced attack from all five starters cut into the Lady Rebel

lead. With one second left in the half, Salukis' guard Karrie Redeker hit a jumper to cut the lead to six at the half, 32-26.

The Salukis came out determined in the second half. After an Amy Rankers layup the Lady Rebel lead was only four. But that was as close as Southern Illinois would come. The second half and the game belonged to UNLV.

The Lady Rebels pressured the Salukis with an impressive full court trapping defense that left the Salukis watching the Rebel lead increase. The Salukis turned the ball over 23 times in the game.

Thanks to the trapping defense, the Lady Rebels worked the transition game to perfection. Their lead reached as much as 24 points and with five minutes left to play the celebration had started.

Vicki Lander led the Lady Rebels with a game high 21 points. Lander scored 15 points in the second half and was three of four from three-point country.

Merlelynn Lange came off the bench to score 17 points and pulled down six rebounds, while starting guard Sharon Hargrove scored 17 points and dished out nine assists.

In the consolation game the Crimson Tide of Alabama defeated the University of San Francisco Dons 76-61. Alabama was led by Linda Burgess with 21 points.

Lander was the tournament MVP and was joined by Hargrove on the all-tournament team. The team also included Amy Rankers of Southern Illinois, and Kendra Willis and Linda Burgess of Alabama.

The Lady Rebels next game is Friday, Dec. 7, against Grambling State at the Houston Tournament.



Shoot for two - Lady Rebel, Vicki Lander (23) takes a shot over the back of an Alabama player.



Up for the rebound - UNLV Lady Rebels Debra Davis (35) and Tasha Bradley (24) fight for a rebound during their game with Alabama.

Bolla surprised by Big West coaches poll

by Andrew Siracuse
Staff Reporter

As the women's coaches poll was read aloud, UNLV Lady Rebels coach Jim Bolla became quite surprised. The Lady Rebels, last year's Big West Conference champions, were picked to finish second behind Long Beach State.

"We're the team to beat in this conference this year because we are the defending champions," Bolla said.

Long Beach State picked up six first place votes, while the Lady Rebels received the remaining four. Long Beach State coach Joan Bonvicini stressed that their main goal, was winning back the conference title.

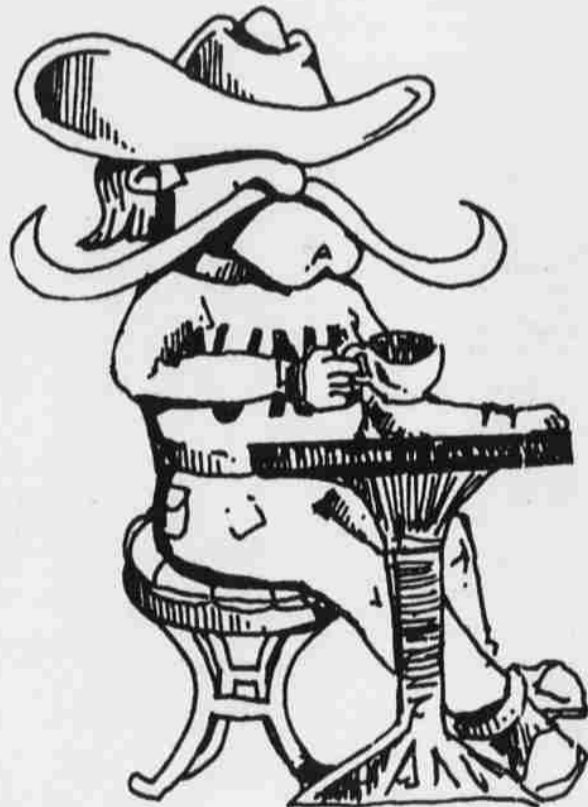
However, regardless of what the polls say, Bolla feels that this year's team will repeat. "This year's team is pretty deep and we've never had so many new kids in at the same time."

With new faces and losing the tandem of Pauline and Geannine Jordan, Bolla and his coaches have worked very hard to try and get this team ready.

"As coaches, we are earning our money this season because we are trying to teach our new kids the system and they still don't know the offense," said Bolla, "We're going to take our lumps early in the season, but by the end of the season, we will be able

see POLL page 16

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