

Lady Rebels roar to 14 straight wins, but then...

Women lose second straight, Titans beat UNLV 86-80

by Ched Whitney
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This week UNLV's women's basketball team has lost consecutive games for the first time in three seasons.

Saturday night in Fullerton, Calif., UNLV fell victim to the Titans of Cal State, 86-80. The Lady Rebels had gone 81 games without losing two in a row (UNLV was routed by Texas, 89-67, earlier last week).

Six-foot-3-inch All-America candidate Genia Miller led Cal State Fullerton with 31 points and 12 rebounds. Miller, who has to be considered a decided favorite for Player of the Year honors in the Big West, leads the conference in four different sta-

tistical categories (points, rebounds, blocked shots and field goal percentage).

The loss overshadowed a great performance by UNLV's junior center Merlelynn Lange who led all scorers with a career-high 32 points.

The Rebels, who actually outrebounded the Titans (35-31) and shot a respectable 51 percent from the field, came back from a 12-point halftime deficit to challenge CSF in the second half. But the Titans' free throw shooting down the stretch secured the win.

The Rebels, now 14-2 overall and 5-1 in the Big West, will likely drop out of the top 10 in this week's AP poll. They had been ranked

UNLV 84, La. Tech 77 Dec. 17.

The Lady Rebels used their transition offense to upset No. 6 Louisiana Tech before 1,040 fans at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Sharon Hargrove led the Lady Rebels with 21 points as Lady Techsters lost their second consecutive game.

O'Douls in the Desert UNLV 79, Detroit 53 Dec. 20.

The overflow crowds that prompted the UNLV women's basketball team's move from the 2,000-seat South Gym to the 18,500-seat Thomas & Mack Center were not evident for the Lady Rebels matchup with Detroit.

Only 546 fans saw UNLV rip the Titans, 79-53, in the first round of the O'Douls in the Desert.

Mandy Hannah led the Rebels with 13 points.

Virginia Commonwealth beat SMU, 61-53, in the other first round game.

UNLV 90, VCU 58 Dec. 21

The Lady Rebels won their O'Douls in the Desert tournament as they exploded to a 42-20 halftime lead and cruised to a 32-point rout of Virginia Commonwealth.

UNLV had four players in double figures led by Debra Davis with 14.

UNLV 82, N Arizona 32 Dec. 27.

The Lady Rebels upped their record to 8-0 and led by as many as 53, in pounding NAU 82-32.

UNLV, which raced to a 33-2 lead, was led by Senior Vicki Lander's 18 points. Merlelynn Lange had nine rebounds and blocked four shots.

UNLV 71, San Diego 61 Dec. 29.

A strong second half powered the 10th-ranked Lady Rebels past San Diego 71-61.

Sharon Hargrove scored 19 points for UNLV (9-0) going a perfect six of six in the first half.

The Lady Rebels led 39-31 at halftime, but built a 20-point lead in the second half and cruised from that point on.

UNLV 94, Fresno State 69 Jan. 4.

Theresa Jackson and Merlelynn Lange had career highs (24 and 22 points respectively) in scoring as the Lady Rebs cruised past Fresno State in their second Big West contest.

UNLV, ranked No. 6 in the nation, raised their record to 11-0 as they recorded their sixth road victory of the season.

UNLV 84, San Jose St 55 Jan. 9.

A 13-2 run midway through the first half keyed yet another Lady Rebel blowout. UNLV led 44-29 at halftime.

UNLV's 6-foot-6-inch center Merlelynn Lange continued her strong play, hitting all six shots from the field in the first half.

"I'm staying out of foul trouble and staying in the game longer," Lange said about her increased offensive output. "Now they're trying to get me the ball."

Lange finished with 19 points and 7 rebounds and Theresa Jackson added 14 points.

The game, at Thomas & Mack, was the first game of a doubleheader with the UNLV men's basketball game against Utah State. Head coach Jim Bolla said he liked the idea of playing doubleheaders.

"We'd like to play as many doubleheaders as possible," Bolla said. He said the Lady Rebels would benefit from playing in front of larger home crowds.

UNLV 80, CSLB 75 Jan. 12

Vicki Lander made three free throws in the final minute and a half to ice a victory for the Lady Rebels over their conference rival from Long Beach. Lander scored a game high 26 points. During the closely fought affair, center Merlelynn Lange pulled down a career-high 15 rebounds.

The victory moved the Lady Rebels into the top five according to the Associated Press poll.

UNLV 90, New Mex St 75 Jan. 14.

Sophomore guard Theresa Jackson had 20 points and a career-high 13 rebounds as the Lady Rebels, now ranked fifth in the nation, beat the Aggies at Las Cruces, N.M.

UNLV led 45-34 at halftime and by as much as 19 in the second half in winning their 11th straight road game.

Texas 89, UNLV 67 Jan. 16.

UNLV's unbeaten season was ruined in Austin by the 19th-ranked Texas Lady Longhorns.

The Lady Rebels were trailing by 26 in the first half, when the game was interrupted to broadcast President Bush's speech announcing that war in the Persian Gulf had begun.

Texas led 50-28 at the half, after shooting 67 percent from the field.

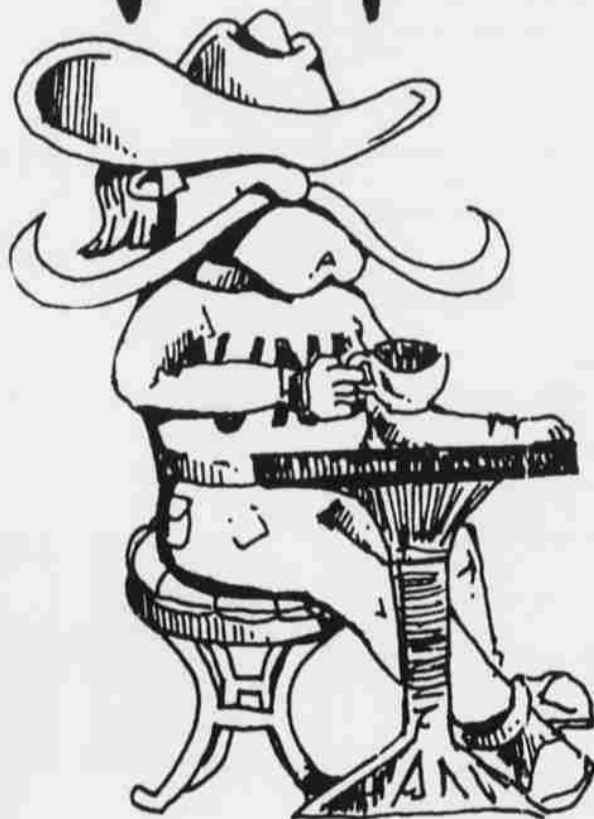
The Rebels were led by Sharon Hargrove's 13 points.



Sharon Hargrove (42) drives for a layup as UNLV routs San Jose St.

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