

Rebels build 30-point lead, roll past Louisville Twelve-point win not a close game

by Ched Whitney

Sometimes a score can be deceiving. Such was the case with UNLV's 97-85 win at Louisville Saturday. The margin of victory could have easily been twice as much.

The Runnin' Rebels held big leads most of the second half and led by as much as 30. The Cardinals made a late run. With the Rebel subs in, Louisville started hitting three-pointers (especially senior guard La-Bradford Smith who led the Cardinals with 26 points and 11 assists) and cut the UNLV lead to as little as 10 points.

In a game that could have provided Louisville with some redemption for a subpar season (a win over

the undefeated No. 1-ranked team in the country in front of the home folks) UNLV controlled things from the outset.

The Rebels jumped out to a 28-13 lead midway through the first half, led by Larry Johnson's strong inside play. Johnson had 16 points and 10 rebounds in the first half. The Cardinals cut the margin to nine at the intermission, 43-34, leaving open the possibility that they might make a game of it in the second half.

But no, the Rebels pulled away in the second half, shooting seven of 11 from three-point range.

Johnson led all scorers in the game, again, with 27 points as he hit 13 of 18 shots from the field. He also contributed 13 rebounds, three

assists, three steals and three blocked shots. Stacey Augmon had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Anderson Hunt also chipped in 20 points.

This game was won handily by UNLV without their usual big advantages in assists and turnovers. Both teams turned the ball over 23 times and the Rebels had only one more assist than the Cardinals (20-19).

The Rebels played at Utah State Monday night and travel to play San Jose State Thursday at 9 p.m. before returning home for a nationally televised game with Rutgers Sunday afternoon.

"Bry-an, Bry-an, Bry-an"

by Richard Munson

There are less than two minutes left in the game and it's another blowout. Finally, he gets the call. He's grabbed by his teammates and pushed toward the scorer's table.

He rips off his warm-up suit and reports in as the tension begins to build. There's a break in the action and the announcer says, "checking into the Rebel lineup, number 15, Bryan Emerzian."

He is in a position that many can only dream of—a member of a National Championship team on the floor of the Thomas & Mack with all the fans chanting his name.

"It's great that people are supporting me and it's great that they recognize me. But it's hard to come into a game after sitting for all that time and listen to everyone saying 'shoot' when I get in," Emerzian said.

Emerzian has yet to score this season.

"Scoring isn't important for me, but when I do..." You can bet when he does score, the Rebel crowd meter will top the 100 mark with ease.

Although he's not a starter, his name and face are as recognizable as any other member of the team. New-found stardom hasn't changed Emerzian. When

he went home during the summer, family and friends treated him as usual.

"Most people knew I was a part of a championship team but they didn't treat me differently," he said.

But that isn't true when he steps on the floor at the Thomas & Mack Center. Without a doubt, he is the crowd's favorite.

Emerzian, a junior, was a walk-on in 1988 and hasn't missed a practice in the three years he has been on the squad.

"I come here everyday and do what

coach tells me. It's like having a full-time job." He carries 18 units while maintaining a grade point average better than 3.0, along with the two- or three-hour practices everyday.

Winning one championship will stay with him forever.

"I can look back at this and share it with others when I'm older," Emerzian said.

Although he hasn't played a lot, he said if he "was at another school and not playing a lot, I'd be a nobody. Here they know me."

To fans at the Thomas & Mack, the names Johnson, Augmon, Anthony, Ackles and Hunt will stand out easily. But in the back of each fan's mind will be the ever-present chorus of, "Bry-an, Bry-an, Bry-an."



Bryan Emerzian

Lady Rebels snap three-game losing streak with win over UCI

by Deborah Soper

This is the first season since 1987-88 that the Lady Rebels have lost three straight games. Saturday night, they came out forcefully against the UC Irvine Anteaters attempting to break that three-game losing streak - and they did, very successfully.

UNLV controlled the tip with Sharon Hargrove going in for two. The first half was very exciting, as Hargrove scored 10 points, Teresa Jackson scored eight and Vicki Lander had six. Iris Dinerman, the 6-foot-3 freshman from Israel, had a strong first half with

six points.

UNLV kept control of the game throughout the first half, building a 12-point spread with 1:21 left. They closed the half with a 41-31 lead over UCI.

The second half just reinforced UNLV's control. UCI came out for the second half fighting hard, but not hard enough. The Lady Rebels put their hand on the Anteaters' foreheads and held them back, ending the game with an 80-64 win over UCI.

Sharon Hargrove was high scorer with 16 points, while Tasha Bradley came close with 15. Next

in line were Vicki Lander with 12 points and Merlelynn Lange with 10.

After the game, fans stood in line for autographs and a chance to meet the Lady Rebels.

When Jim Bolla was asked how he felt about the game next Saturday against Stanford, he seemed quite confident. The Lady Rebels are playing San Jose State Thursday, Jan. 31, with a rest Friday to play eighth-ranked Stanford Saturday, Feb. 2. Bolla said he feels the Stanford game will be "a great opportunity" to move up in the rankings.

UCSB hands UNLV first home loss

by Deborah Soper

Thursday night, Jan. 24, the Lady Rebels were sadly defeated at the Thomas & Mack Center by the UCSB Gauchos. The Lady Rebels went into the game with a

14-2 overall record (6-0 at home and 8-2 on the road) and 5-1 in Big West Conference play.

UNLV controlled the tip and Tasha Bradley scored on an assist from Vicki Lander. The Lady Rebels were in control for the first

seven minutes of the game.

However, the Gauchos went ahead, taking the upper hand through the rest of the first half. UCSB took an 11-point advantage into the locker room at halftime.

The Lady Rebels began the second half with a 39-28 deficit. Tasha Bradley again scored the first basket for the half. However, the Gauchos increased the spread in the second half to 15 points with 11 minutes left.

In the second half Vicki Lander scored her 1,000th point, becoming only the eighth player to achieve this landmark.

UNLV closed the UCSB lead late in the game. With this late run the Rebels were able to send the game into overtime tied at 71.

Although the crowd was sparse, the energy was high. The fans were going crazy in support of the Rebs.

The Rebels, who pulled even a number of times, were never able to take the lead in the overtime period and lost 85-82.

After the game, coach Jim Bolla expressed his displeasure with the officiating.

"We got hosed at Texas, hosed at Fullerton and now hosed at home," said Bolla.

"They put the pressure on us and we folded up like an umbrella. We let it slip through our hands," said Bolla, "that's very frustrating."

People want to beat the Lady Rebels, he said. "This is a great win for them (UCSB)."



photo by Richard Munson

Vicki Lander drives to the hoop in the Lady Rebels game with UCI.

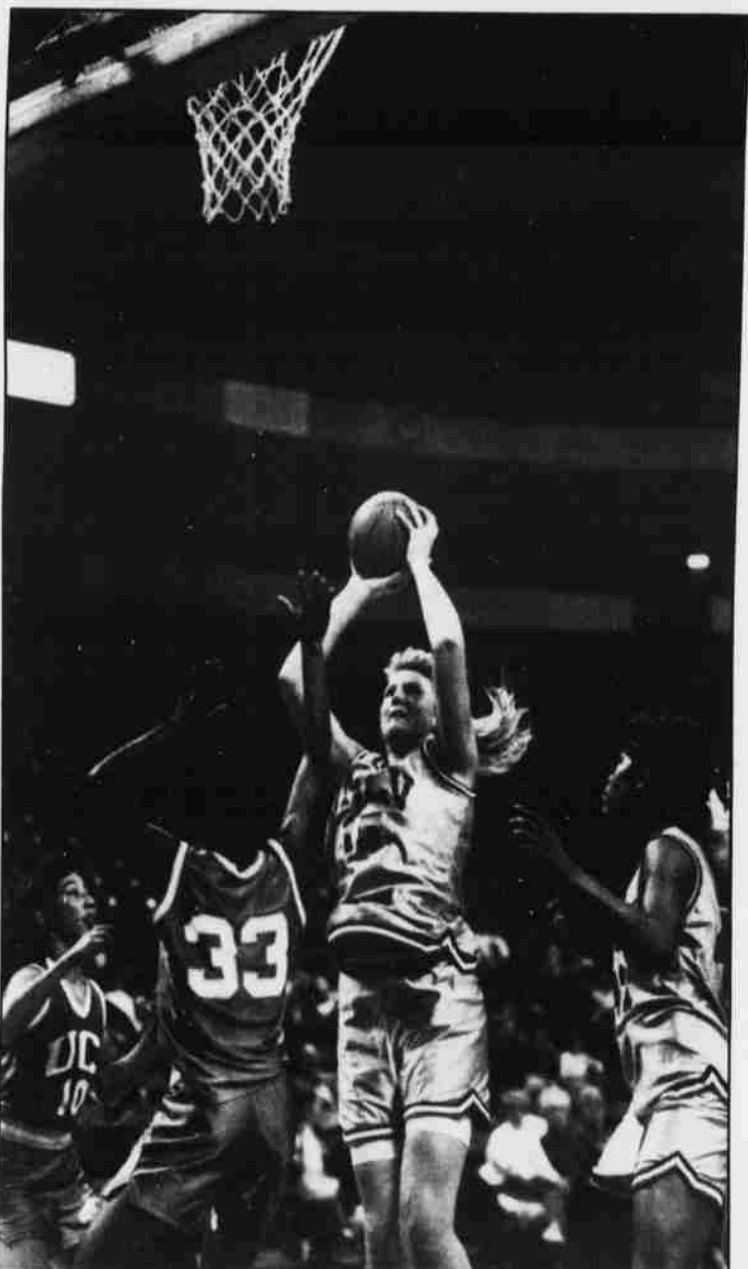


photo by Richard Munson

UNLV's leading scorer Merlelynn Lange shoots from the key.

UNLV baseball is coming!
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The Yellin' Rebel.

