

UNLV hammers Irvine

by Brian Hurlburt

There was showtime, there was Hammer time, but above all else at the Thomas and Mack on Saturday night there was Rebel Time. UNLV beat UC-Irvine 114-86 but the score was the farthest thing from anybody's mind.

For the seniors it was their final game together at home. George Ackles, Greg Anthony, Stacey Augmon, Chris Jeter, Larry Johnson and David Rice will all graduate. These six were not only the Rebel graduating seniors, these six were the Rebel's starting line up. Sending out all six seniors for the tip off was coach Jerry Tarkanian's way of showing

his loyalty to the group.

"I'll never have a great group of kids like this again," Tarkanian said. As for starting six seniors? "I checked with (Irvine coach) Bill Mulligan and talked it over with our kids and everyone agreed it was a good idea."

UC Irvine's Jeff Von Lutzow made both of the ensuing technical foul shots and Irvine also converted it's possession to take a 4-0 lead.

"When we went down early, I thought to myself, geez, what if we lose this game by two points," Tarkanian joked after the game.

It was only a matter of time until the Rebels started running.

For one final time the Rebels

and their seniors wowed the UNLV fans with a barrage of three-pointers and slam, bam, jam dunks. Led by what could be Stacey Augmon's try out video tape for next year's NBA slam dunk contest the Rebels played the game for the crowd. "We wanted to go out and put on a show for the fans," UNLV guard Anderson Hunt said.

It took the Rebels a few minutes to recover from the emotional pre-game ceremonies but when Stacey Augmon slammed home the second of the Rebels' 19 slam dunks they never looked back. The bucket gave UNLV its first lead at 19-17.

After a dunk by Anthony, another by Augmon and a lay in by Hunt the score was 28-21 and another rout was in progress.

On Augmon's dunk Greg Anthony became the all-time Big West conference assist leader. He had 16 assists on the night.

One of the crowd's favorite moments came during this portion of the dunk-a-thon. MC Hammer and Heavyweight Champion Evander Holyfield made their way to their Gucci row seats accompanied by great fan approval. The Hammer visited with the Rebel players in the locker room after the game.

"He told us he enjoyed the game and it may be Rebel time in Las Vegas, but it is still Hammer time everywhere else," David Rice said.

After the Hammer had settled into his seat UNLV used a 11-2 run late in the first half to take a 60-43 halftime lead.

UNLV came out in the second half and used the long shot to perfection. Augmon, Anthony, Hunt, and Travis Bice combined for six three pointers in the first nine minutes of the second half and UNLV built a 96-55 lead and it was time for seniors to take their

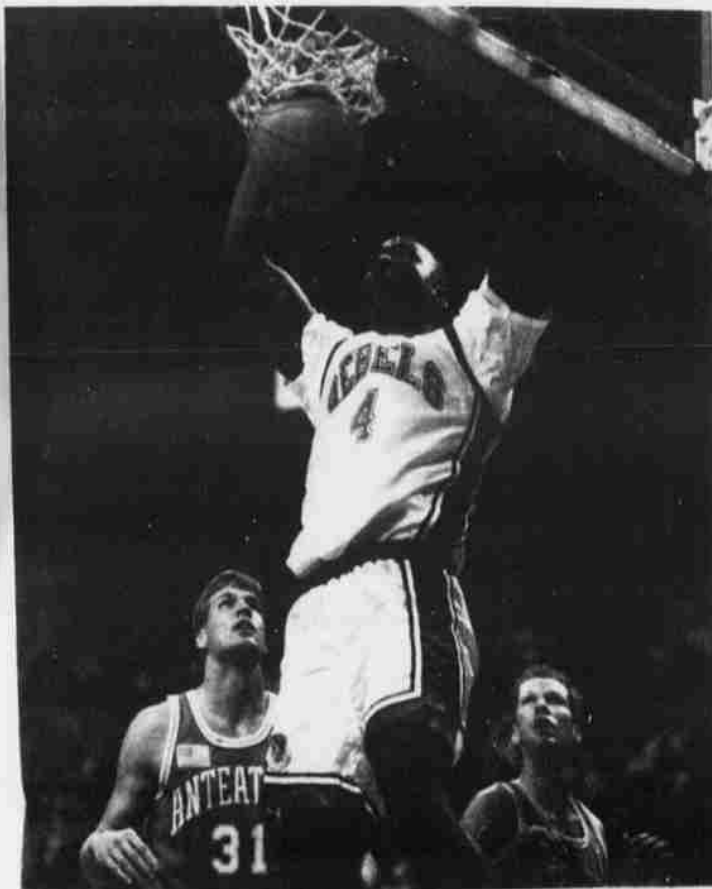


photo by Eileen Brady

Johnson slams down two in the midst of three stunned Anteaters.

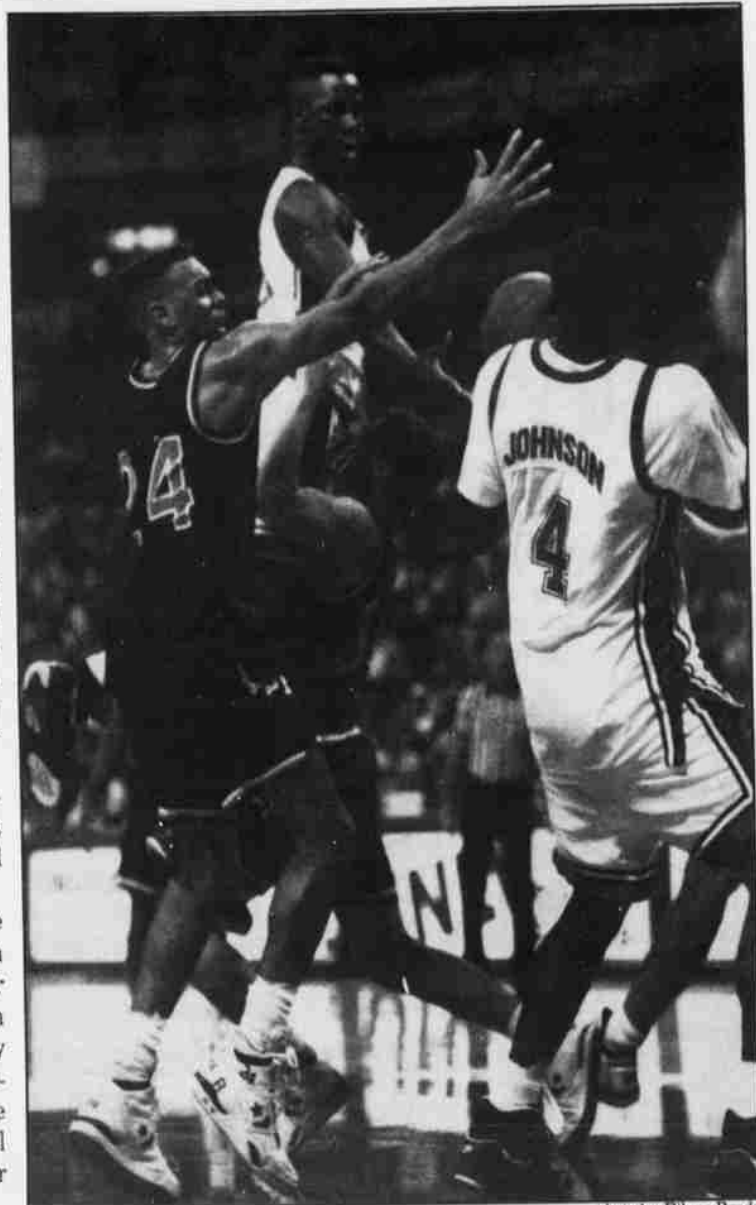


photo by Eileen Brady

Eric Gray dishes to Larry Johnson as Rebels cruise past Pacific.

final bows.

Larry Johnson left first with 19 points and 12 rebounds. This was standing ovation number one.

Then it was Stacey Augmon, 27 points, 7 rebounds, and standing ovation number two.

Greg Anthony left with style. A behind his head, no look, Magic Johnson-like feed to Evric Gray for a slam, bam, jam. 11 points, 16 assists. Standing ovation number

three ensued.

As Anthony left with style, George Ackles left with power. A left handed, tomahawk dunk and Ackles was done at the Mack. Eight points, seven boards, three blocks and standing ovation number four.

The final two seniors David Rice and Chris Jeter played until the final buzzer marking the end of the six great careers at UNLV.

Loyalty oath? None taken here

by Richard Munson

is tradition.

UNLV students have no tradition.

Fan is short for fanatic, not for "once-in-a-while-if-I-don't-have-an-thing-to-do- I'll-attend-a-game."

While many loyal students attend Runnin' Rebel games, there have been a great deal of empty seats in the student section during the season. True, we don't play the best competition, but we are the best basketball team in the nation and we have the best coach in the nation. So why can't we be supportive at every home game?

Students packed the Thomas & Mack Center on Saturday to pay their final farewell to the six seniors who played their last game in UNLV's home arena. But if there are so many students in support of the Rebels for that game, where have they been the rest of the season?

I continue to hear the same complaint around the campus—"Why aren't there any more seats for students?" They want not only more seats, but seats downstairs. And everyone keeps referring to Duke University, where students line the court and have the best seats.

But at Duke University there

Duke fans stand during the entire game. Duke fans stay and urge their team on over the winter break. Duke fans come to the games dressed in school colors, creating a sea of blue and white. Duke fans have preconceived cheers they do in the stands during the game.

What do Rebel fans do? Rebel fans sit. Don't want to exert too much energy now do we? Rebel fans take that much-needed vacation during the winter break. There is a sea of red—empty red seats—all during the break. Rebel fans come to games dressed in the latest fraternity, sorority or dress-to-impress fashions. I'm very impressed.

But I must give credit where credit is due. Everyone has got the following chants down pretty well: "Rebels, Rebels, Rebels" or "Bryan, Bry-an, Bry-an" or "Threeeeeeee, ...oh!" and how could we forget "U-N-L-V?"

We have the best basketball team in the country, much better than lowly Duke. Why don't we have the best fans in the country?

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