

Rebs 34 points better than Grizzlies in first round

by Brian Hurlburt



photo by Greg Cava

Larry Johnson played a key role in UNLV's victory.

The Runnin' Rebels were supposed to play their first tournament game in Tucson, Ariz., but with snow falling outside and a capacity crowd of Rebel-haters inside, it was easy to mistake the arena for the home court of the Montana Grizzlies.

The UNLV Rebels looked past all of the distractions and posted a 99-65 win over the Grizzlies. Larry Johnson led the way for the Rebels by scoring 23 points and grabbing nine rebounds. Stacey Augmon and Greg Anthony each added 20 points as UNLV won its 42nd straight game.

For the first eight minutes of the game, Montana managed to keep it close by penetrating the sluggish Rebel man-to-man defense. With the Rebels leading 15-12, UNLV Coach Jerry Tarkanian switched the Rebels to their patented amoeba zone which shut down the Grizzlies.

"We couldn't score against their zone," said Montana Coach Stew Morrill.

The Rebels used their zone to spark a 25-11 run and put the Rebels up 40-23. Johnson scored 12 points in this key stretch and Augmon had 16 first-half points.

Midway through the second half UNLV rattled off 16 straight points and the Rebels were cruising again, 92-55.

"They are the real deal," Morrill said. "They have an awful lot of talent."

The Rebels had a scare in the first half when center George Ackles went down with a sprained foot. It was only a minor injury so plans for Indianapolis have not been changed.

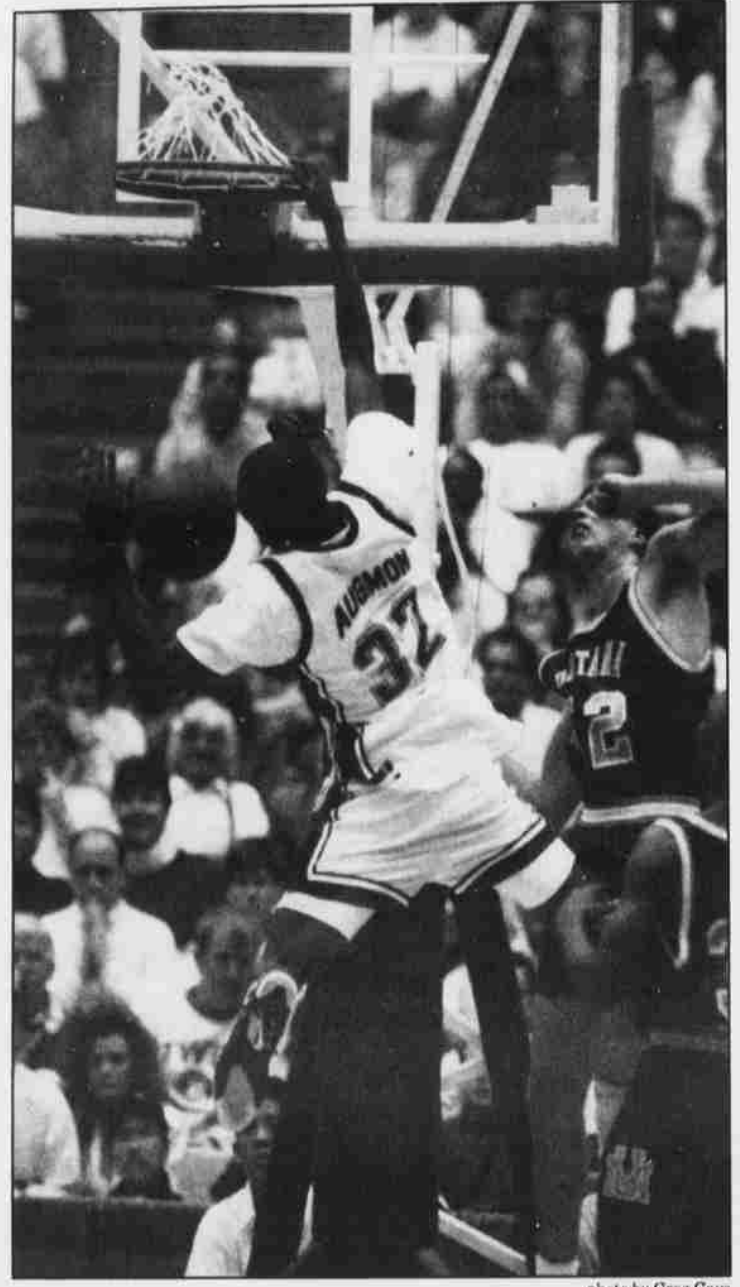


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Stacey Augmon flies to the hoop in the 99-65 win over the Grizzlies.

MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

