

Defense keyed Duke victory

by Richard Munson

"The most important thing in a game like this is to be positive. We had four goals on defense: stop their transition game, stop (Larry) Johnson, (Anderson) 'Hunt awareness,' rebound and go after loose balls," said Mike Krzyzewski, the Duke Blue Devils' head coach, after his team upset the top-seeded Rebels.

The Blue Devils played tenacious defense, as UNLV had earlier in the season. The Blue Devils were successful in stopping the transition game as the Rebels were never able get their offense running. The Duke defense fronted UNLV players and denied them the ball both inside and outside.

"We were tentative at the beginning. We didn't play smart," Anderson Hunt said.

Greg Koubek was the key for the Duke defense as he held All-American Larry Johnson to only 13 points, his third lowest scoring total of the season. Koubek also had help as his teammates double-teamed Johnson and kept him frustrated.

"Greg knew exactly what he



Duke's Mike Krzyzewski

photo by Richard Munson

had to do. That's what we talked about all week—how he would play defense," said teammate Christian Laettner about Koubek's defensive play.

Johnson wasn't the only Rebel stopped by Duke's defensive play, as UNLV's other All-American, Stacey Augmon, was held to only six points. Augmon was unable to

make his usual "slashing-through-the-lane" baskets, which are his specialty.

"We tried to make it difficult for (Augmon) to dive to the basket," Krzyzewski said.

The one fault in the Blue Devil defense was Krzyzewski's "Hunt awareness,"—it was only that.

Hunt continued to be on fire

against the Blue Devils. He matched the 29 points he scored in last year's championship game with another 29-point performance including four three-pointers. Hunt was the only Rebel to shoot over 50 percent from the field, excluding three-pointers.

"They were keeping on Larry on the inside and that's how I got

my points," Hunt said.

Duke attacked the Rebels from the start of the game, out-hustling them each time down the court. The Blue Devils keyed on matchups and hurt the Rebels as no one was able to stop Laettner and Brian Davis on the inside. Duke shot 51 percent while the Rebels shot 47 percent.

"What we were afraid of going into the game was the matchup. Laettner is really a forward and he can handle the ball. It changed our whole defense," said Coach Jerry Tarkanian.

The Rebels' frustration was evident in the second half when Augmon received an intentional foul for pushing Davis. Johnson received a technical foul when he elbowed Grant Hill.

"He was talking a lot and crying to the officials," Davis said about Johnson.

Tarkanian didn't make excuses for the team.

"We just got beat," he said. "We came to the big game and didn't do the job."

Indianapolis, a gracious host for Final Four

by Richard Munson

The city of Indianapolis did everything but roll out the red carpet for the teams and fans participating in this year's Final Four. Indianapolis, a city located in a state where basketball could be considered a religion, was transformed into a college basketball fan's dream come true.

Final Four weekend was officially kicked off Friday morning at the Pan American Plaza, where all four school bands performed at a rally held by the city of Indianapolis. The plaza was the home of a 50-foot inflated basketball that wasn't hard to miss.

The plaza also had an exhibit showing the history of the Final Four. There were stages where live bands performed and souvenir tents were located. The road surrounding the Hoosier Dome was properly renamed Final Four Road. Another street was closed and rows of basketball hoops were set up to entertain fans between games.

Souvenirs galore awaited fans everywhere. From street peddlers to corner shops to specialty stores, they were filled

with anything a fan could ever want.

Indianapolis was also the host of the National Association of Basketball Coaches' convention and all-star game. Coaches from high schools to major universities were in town to attend clinics and look at new products on the basketball market.

Several Player of the Year/Coach of the Year awards were announced and awarded at banquets during the weekend. Among the awards were the Associated Press Player and Coach of the Year, the U.S. Basketball Writers Association awards and the Mercedes Benz Players of the Year.

Scalping is legal in Indianapolis and was taken advantage of by those who had tickets for sale. Tickets were said to be as high as \$2,500. One scalper was offering third-level tickets for \$300—the regular price was \$40.

Indianapolis was the host of the 1980 Final Four and will once again host the event in 1997. The tournament committee had given the city the rights even before this year's event had begun.

Sweet 16: Runnin' Rebels cruised past Utah

by Eileen Brady

The Runnin' Utes of Utah became yet another casualty in the Runnin' Rebels' path to the Final Four, March 21.

In front of a crowd of 22,628 at the Kingdome in Seattle, top-seeded UNLV dominated No. 4-seeded Utah most of the game to win 83-66.

All-America forward Larry Johnson led the Rebels with 23 points and 13 rebounds. Stacey Augmon and Elmore Spencer (off the bench) added 15 points each. George Ackles and Anderson Hunt finished with 12.

Utah's Josh Grant led the Utes with 17 points and 10 rebounds, making seven of 12 shots from the field. Guard Jimmy Soto had 12 points and Walter Watts had 11. The Utes ended their season with a 30-4 record.

Hunt opened the game with a three-pointer. Three minutes into the game the Utes were ahead 10-7, their largest and last lead of the game. The Rebels then scored nine unanswered points, pulling ahead 16-10 and giving the momentum to UNLV.

Although the Rebs shot 60 percent during the first half, the Utes were still very much in the game trailing at halftime, 41-35.

Utah Coach Rick Majerus said he felt good at halftime.

"We were getting good shots. We had good ball movement," he said.

Johnson scored the first four points of the second half, including one of his three slam-dunks. While UNLV scored 20 points in 10 minutes, Utah only scored half as many in the same amount of time.

With 5:51 left in the game, Ackles led a consecutive trio of dunks. Utah's Grant promptly retaliated with a slam for the Utes. Not to be undone, Johnson made the score 74-57 with a slam-dunk of his own.

The Rebels scored their last seven points with 2:20 remaining in the game, giving UNLV a 21-point lead, its largest of the game.

The victory pushed the Runnin' Rebels' record to 33-0, 1988-89 NCAA West Regionals. Anthony said it would be the biggest game of his career.

Afterward, Coach Jerry Tarkanian said he was "very, very pleased" to win by 17 points.

"I was very disappointed, however, that we weren't able to take them out of their offense," he said.

Greg Anthony, who registered 10 assists, said the team was lacking in defensive intensity.

"We haven't played (defense) well in the last month. We aren't a very good basketball team right now," he said.

Anthony added that he hoped they could "get it together" Saturday and play better against Seton Hall, a match-up he said he was praying for after the Rebels' "most embarrassing loss" when UNLV lost to Seton Hall 84-61 in the 1988-89 NCAA West Regionals. Anthony said it would be the biggest game of his career.

Habitat for Humanity is coming April 8th, 7:30 p.m. at the CENTER. Come and find out how you can get involved! 726-0887 The Center, 4765 Brussels

REBELNOTES

Johnson named regional's most outstanding player

The West Regional all-tournament team was announced after the final game between UNLV and Seton Hall Saturday, March 23. The team, chosen by attending media, consisted of:

Larry Johnson	UNLV	forward
Stacey Augmon	UNLV	forward
Terry Dehere	Seton Hall	guard
Greg Anthony	UNLV	guard
Brian Williams	Arizona	forward
		center

Johnson received the most votes as outstanding tournament player and was named as such.

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