

# Pirates learn a lesson from Rebels

by Eileen Brady

The Runnin' Rebels proved to doubters that they could dominate any opponent as they regained their much talked about intensity in a victory over the Seton Hall Pirates, 77-65, in the West Regional final game March 23.

Before 23,666 fans at the Kingdome, the Rebels came out in the second half on fire. They scored 14 unanswered points in the first 4:14 of the half, with forward Larry Johnson putting in 10 of the 14.

It was the fired-up defense that gave the Rebels the opportunity to get back into the game and

get ahead. During the run, UNLV grabbed four steals—two of which were consecutive inbound passes stolen by Greg Anthony—and forced a fifth turnover.

"We work on that a lot. If you could hear coach yelling, 'Don't let it in, don't let it in,'" Anthony said. "We basically always try not to let the ball in bounds."

The Rebels controlled the tip in the first half and forward Stacey Augmon scored UNLV's first two points on a 16-footer. The Pirates then scored eight straight points to give them their largest lead of the night.

The play was close for the

whole first half and the Rebels headed for the locker room only three points ahead, 39-36.

The second half, however, was quite a different story.

"Seton Hall had been playing so well, and we just came in and basically destroyed them in the second half," UNLV Coach Jerry Tarkanian said.

Seton Hall Coach P.J. Carlesimo agreed.

"That's the best anyone's played against us and that's the poorest we've looked all year," Carlesimo said.

In a sea of red, UNLV fans decked out in all their Rebel gear

chanted, "Re-bels, Re-bels," with such volume it was almost like being in the Thomas & Mack. The decibel level of the fans cheering during the "Rebel Show" in the first half would have put the crowd meter at the T&M well above the 100-mark.

Johnson was UNLV's leading scorer, with 30 points and six rebounds. Seton Hall's Terry Dehere was held to 15, with only three points in the second half.

"I was getting the ball 25 to 30 feet away from the basket," Dehere said. "I usually get it at 15 feet."

Augmon finished with 13 points, five rebounds, four steals and forced several turnovers. Anthony totalled 11 assists and had five of the Rebels' 14 steals. Anderson Hunt had 13 points and George Ackles had six points and three blocked shots.

Prior to the game, a reporter told Augmon that if any team could beat UNLV it was Seton Hall.

"That's what they say about every team we play 'this is the team that can beat Vegas,'" Augmon said. "But nobody beats Vegas."

The following are sports opinions

## Rebels beat Duke but lose to the referee

by Adejoke Adenle

After watching many basketball games (both college and professional) I have concluded that the winner of a basketball game depends on the type of officiating.

The whistle is a strong weapon—it can shatter dreams. The loud shrill of the harbinger of loss deafens the ears of the unjustly treated. Wrong calls destroy the excitement of a game. It is those calls that give a player the license to play the game with violence, since luckily the referee is the 13th man on their bench.

Greg Anthony should never have fouled out against Duke. Ever since I've watched the Rebels, he has never fouled out. How many point guards ever foul out? Not too many because their job doesn't involve fouling—point guards get fouled.

The day before the tournament CBS concluded Anthony was a vital part to the Rebels' victory. Did you watch Coach Krzyzewski before and during the game? He looked so calm—at least calmer than he was during other games. That was very queer. Coach K was either positive about their loss or their win. No good coach ever has the

feelings of the former.

Billy Packer's preference clearly showed during the game when he claimed that Bobby Hurley did not foul Anderson Hunt. That foul was so hard that Hurley's intentions could be seen by a blind person.

In the beginning of the game, the commentators for CBS mentioned that the Rebels may not know how to play in a clutch situation—"pressure points" they called it. Umpf! The whole thing smells so fishy I need to get some air.

The referee took it upon himself to control the ballgame. He made sure the Rebel lead was never large. He blew the whistle so efficiently—a man of his talents should be a dog catcher.

Every action Gray made converted to a foul. They took Anthony out because they knew how it would affect the Rebels. The whole thing is just B.S. Everybody knows who deserved to win the game. The Rebels are back-to-back champions in Las Vegas if not anywhere else.

Basketball is such an exciting game and does not need unjust referees to take the fun out of it.



## The team—not the refs—lost the game

by Eileen Brady

To the chagrin of die-hard Runnin' Rebel fans, the Rebels played way below their normal level and lost in the semi-finals of the NCAA men's basketball tournament to Duke.

They may have had an off night, they may have been thinking about winning the whole kit and caboodle. Whatever went wrong, it went wrong with the Rebels. They were outplayed and outscored. Larry Johnson was held to 13 points, 10 less than his 23 points-per-game average. Coach Tarkanian congratulated Duke for playing "a great ballgame" and even said they "deserved to win."

"Duke shot 51 percent against us," Tarkanian said.

"Nobody all year shot better than 47 percent against us."

Just as the Rebels take the credit for their undefeated regular season, they should take the responsibility for the loss in the tournament. When they win, fans don't claim it was because of the poor play of the other team; they say, "The Rebs just kicked their butts."

After winning games against

Utah and Seton Hall on the road to the Final Four, the players were credited with regaining their intensity and outplaying the Utes and the Pirates. No one said, "Boy, it sure was good luck that the Rebels won." I have never heard one person credit the officials for calling a game for the benefit of UNLV, much less even allowing that maybe they called an extremely fair game.

It's like when students get an F on a test, they often say, "The professor gave me an F." But when the same students do well on another test, they are usually quick to point out, "I got an A on my exam."

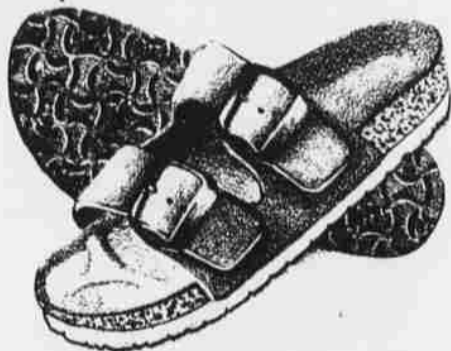
As true Rebel fans, the fair thing to do is to realize the team did not play up to par. They didn't win back-to-back championships, but it's not the end of the world. Although it's quite easy to do, stop blaming outside entities.

Give the Runnin' Rebels the respect they deserve as athletes for winning 45 straight games.

But also give them respect as human beings for being fallible.

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