

# Maxson wants to mend fences with NCAA

University president reiterates support for Tarkanian

by Ched Whitney

In a recent interview, UNLV President Robert Maxson said he feels it is high time to end the UNLV-NCAA conflict. UNLV's program is often the subject of questioning and criticism in the media, especially the basketball team and Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian. Maxson said, contrary to some reports, that he supports Tarkanian.

"I have supported Coach Tarkanian," Maxson said. "I indicated my support for Coach when I signed his last three-year contract. That should resolve the question of support."

Maxson said that he would not jump to any conclusions about possible NCAA findings having to do with the athletic program. He did say, however, that if the university is found guilty, he would then take the proper steps to clean up the mess.

"Coach Tarkanian has assured me that there are no major improprieties in the program," he said. "Until such time that I am shown otherwise, I accept his word. If, however, major problems exist, I am prepared to take appropriate

action."

Each year Maxson formally evaluates many administrators and other employees at UNLV.

"Evaluation is a serious undertaking for me, and I have yet to evaluate any of these persons in the (media)," he said. "I do not

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intend to set a precedent with a public or ongoing evaluation of Coach Tarkanian."

Tarkanian was about to leave town and could not be reached for comment but has said all along that his intentions are to stay at UNLV. He has not, however, ruled

out the possibility that he would accept another offer if it were beneficial to him and his family.

UNLV has long been associated with glitz and gambling, and not with academics. Maxson has taken steps to change this image. He said that the university's reputation has been hurt by the media and that the ongoing conflict with the NCAA must be resolved.

"Recently, national media have called into question our values as a university," Maxson said, "and they have called into question our ethics and our institutional integrity. Our academic reputation can be gravely affected by these questions and assumptions. We must remove the cloud from over the basketball program. We must ease the tension between the university and the NCAA. There is no inherent tension between good athletics and good academics. The best schools do them both well."

"I am single-minded in my commitment to academics since I arrived almost seven years ago," he continued. "I will take whatever steps necessary to live up to the expectations (of UNLV's students, faculty and staff)."



President Maxson

## Key changes in big-time sports made at NCAA convention

(CPS) — Reformers carried if it would cause athletes to hit the the day at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) convention in Memphis, Tenn., forcing critics say may or may not ease some of the problems afflicting big-time college sports.

Among other reforms, representatives voted overwhelmingly to:

- Force schools to cut the number of coaches on staff.
- Slash the number of scholarships by 10 percent in each sport.
- Try to ease the isolation of athletes from other students by eliminating athlete-only dorms.
- Require academic counseling for all athletes recruited at Division I schools.
- Shorten practice time and playing seasons so athletes will have more time for their studies.
- Require Division I schools to spend more on women's sports and men's sports other than football and basketball.

"What we really want is for athletes to earn their degrees," said Pat Cleveland, associate athletic director for academic support at Northern Arizona University.

Northern Arizona doesn't have separate dormitories for athletes because "it is in the athletes' best interest that they be integrated," Cleveland added.

Others weren't sure that limiting practice time and the other reforms passed at the Jan. 7-11 convention would actually help keep athletes in class.

"Athletes are going to be athletes," said Paul Leudken, assistant athletic director at Eastern Kentucky University. "I don't know

books harder."

Leudken is more concerned about the cut in scholarships, which will mean fewer students going out for sports.

Schools will "require a lot more walk-ons (athletes who were not recruited and do not have scholarships)," Leudken said.

Colorado State University football coach Earle Bruce thought the scholarship cut, which will leave football squads with 85 instead of 95 players, could be especially difficult for schools that don't get many walk-on players.

The reason, he said, is that injuries typically leave every team shorthanded as the season wears on, and marginal football programs won't have the walk-on players to substitute for injured players.

Convention delegates also voted for several limits on recruiting, including a cut in the number of campus visits allowed for football and basketball recruits, a limit on the number of coaches who can recruit off-campus and an extension of the "dead period" during which coaches may have no contact with recruits.

The recruiting limits were cost-cutting measures and not in response to recruiting violations, NCAA officials said.

A reform requiring Division I schools to spend a minimum of \$250,000 on men's and women's sports besides football and basketball raised the ire of many smaller schools, who fear 70 schools may have to change divisions.

Most of the reforms must be in place by 1992.

### BIG WEST CONFERENCE

	Baseball standings						Overall		
	Conference			Overall			W	L	Pct.
	W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L			
Fresno State	8	1	.889	-	26	13	.667		
Long Beach St.	7	2	.778	1	31	12	.721		
UNLV	6	3	.667	2	20	15	.571		
CS Fullerton	6	3	.667	2	22	17	.564		
San Jose State	3	6	.333	5	17	21	.447		
Pacific	3	6	.333	5	16	22	.421		
UCSB	2	7	.222	6	22	16	.577		
UC Irvine	1	8	.111	7	19	23	.452		

### BIG WEST CONFERENCE

	Softball standings						Overall		
	Conference			Overall			W	L	Pct.
	W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L			
Fresno State	22	2	.917	-	42	5	.894		
UNLV*	15	4	.775	4 1/2	36	11	.760		
CS Fullerton*	15	6	.705	5 1/2	39	11	.775		
San Jose State	9	7	.563	9	18	15	.545		
Utah State	10	8	.556	9	23	17	.575		
Hawaii	7	11	.389	12	23	15	.605		
Long Beach St.	7	13	.350	13	25	19	.568		
Pacific	6	14	.300	14	19	27	.413		
UCSB	7	17	.292	15	13	34	.277		
New Mexico St.	1	17	.056	18	8	35	.186		

\* - Teams have a tie.

## REBELEADERS

### Baseball

#### Batting

Average: Nick Kuster, .403  
 Hits: Tim Johnson, 57  
 Runs scored: Tory Miran, 38  
 Home runs: Kuster, 8  
 Runs batted in: Don Madsen, 31  
 Stolen bases: Miran, 11  
 Walks: Miran, 27

#### Pitching

Wins: Brian Boehringer, 6  
 ERA: Lance Schuermann, 3.86  
 Complete games: Boehringer, 2  
 Shutouts: none  
 Strikeouts: Boehringer, 68

### Softball

#### Batting

Average: Christine Parris, .374  
 Hits: Parris, 58  
 Runs scored: Tricia Reimche, 34  
 Home runs: none  
 Runs batted in: Parris, 28  
 Stolen bases: Parris, 17  
 Walks: Michelle Moreno, 22

#### Pitching

Wins: Kim Smith,  
 Lori Harrigan, 18  
 ERA: Harrigan, 0.54  
 Complete games: Harrigan, 25  
 Shutouts: Smith, Harrigan, 10  
 Strikeouts: Harrigan, 154

## REBELNOTES

### Lady Rebels scoreless

The UNLV softball team has gone 12 innings without scoring. They scored all four runs in the first inning of their 4-0 shut-out of Cal Poly Pomona in the first game of a doubleheader. They were shut out, 2-0, in the second game.

### Highest ranking ever

The softball team was ranked No. 4 in this week's NCAA poll, its highest-ever position.

### Rider still undecided

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* got conflicting reports on whether J.R. Rider, a 6-foot-8 forward from Antelope Valley (Calif.) College will select UNLV for next season.

Rider's coach, Newton Chelette, told the *R-J* that UNLV was the top choice. However, Antelope Valley College publicist Glenn Haller said Rider was still considering other schools. His next choice is believed to be Kansas State.

## Correction:

The caption under picture of Lady Rebel pitcher Lori Harrigan mistakenly identified her as Kim Smith.

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## NCAA softball top 20

1 UCLA	6 Iowa	11 Okla. St.	16 Missouri
2 Fresno St.	7 California	12 Utah State	17 SW La.
3 Arizona	8 Arizona St.	13 S. Carolina	18 New Mexico
4 UNLV	9 Texas A&M	14 L. Beach St.	19 C. Michigan
5 CS Fullerton	10 Florida St.	14 Michigan	20 Mass.