

Rebels take 102-91 victory in NIT season opener

By Andrea Reitan
YELLIN' REBEL

UNLV Runnin' Rebel basketball opened play in the Dodge NIT Tournament against Loyola Marymount Wednesday night in the Thomas and Mack. UNLV defeated Loyola 102-91 to earn a place in the second round.

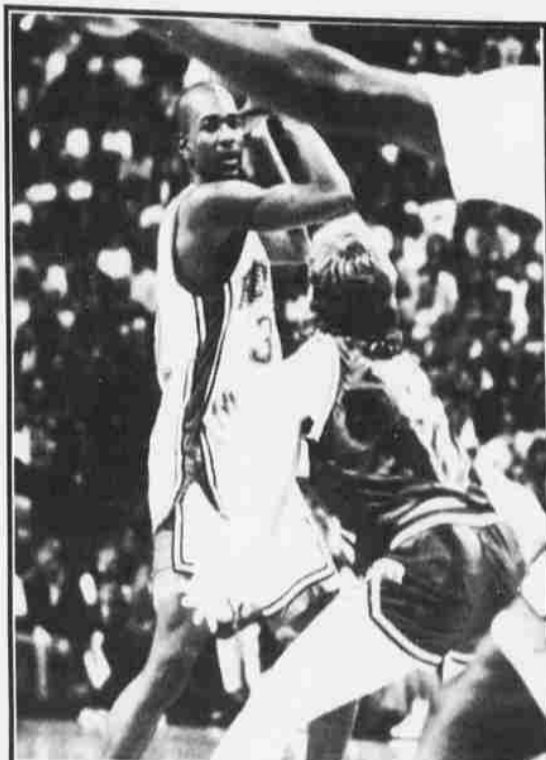
The first five minutes of play were a slam fest by several Rebels. Anderson Hunt began the streak after a steal followed by Greg Anthony also with a steal and jam putting the Rebels up 12-10 at 16:23. After a time out was called Stacey Augmon followed with his jam off of a feed from Hunt who followed with another dunk after a rebound from Augmon and a full court pass. A few Rebel possessions later Anthony and Augmon hooked up for an alicoop and dunk putting UNLV up 23-15.

Loyola answered back with

two three point field goals, three lay ups and freethrows to take over the lead for the remainder of the half. The Rebels made a quick comeback but finished the first half trailing Loyola 54-52.

However, UNLV came out running in the second half to eventually tie the score at 62. Augmon put the Rebels ahead after a basket and a freethrow after being fouled by Loyola's Terrell Lowery. UNLV never relinquished the lead.

Larry Johnson who had 12 points in the first half added some key baskets in the second. "Larry started out slow but had some clutch baskets,"



Steve Spatafore

Junior Stacy Augmon looks for an open man versus Loyola-Marymount. Augmon will lead the Rebel's against U. of Cal. tonight.

Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian said. Tarkanian feels Johnson may not be used to running as much as he did in the game and may have gotten a little tired. There isn't much depth to that position however, Johnson finished with 23 points.

UNLV's leading scorer was Anderson Hunt who finished with 27 points including three from three point range. "He got hot at the right time," Tarkanian said.

Loyola never quit running with the Rebels and maintained a full court press for much of the game. Tarkanian said after the game that his team should have handled the press better. "The press bothered us more than it

should have," Tarkanian said. The team will have to get used to the press as Tarkanian mentioned they will see it again when they face Oklahoma, Iowa and Long Beach.

Tarkanian was never quite comfortable during or even after the game. "It was a tough game, I never felt comfortable," Tarkanian said. "I still don't. I still think they're going to catch us."

Basketball wasn't the only excitement at the Thomas and Mack though. At 5:41 in the first half the officials took a time out for a bomb threat. When Tarkanian was asked after the game how the threat affected his players he replied, "The way we were playing I wasn't worried about the bomb threat."

UNLV earned a spot in the second round of the NIT with the win over Loyola. The Rebels face Cal-Berkely who defeated Air Force 73-49 Wednesday. Game time is 8:30 at the T & M.

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