



SPORTS

November 21, 1991

The Yellin' Rebel

9

COMING TUESDAY...

The Rebels finish out the '91 football season against Pacific on Saturday

Runnin' Rebels too slick for Marathon Oil

by Brian Hurlburt

The Runnin' Rebels burned Marathon Oil for a 89-67 victory Monday night at the Thomas & Mack Center. Rebels J.R. Rider, Dexter Boney, Elmore Spencer and Evric Gray combined for 80 points as the Rebels improved to 2-0, ending their exhibition season.

UNLV struggled to a 46-38 halftime lead but used a 25-9 run early in the second half to put away the tired Marathon Oil. Marathon Oil is on a grueling cross country schedule that has left the team tired, coming off a game in Tennessee the night before they flew to Las Vegas.

"The players (Marathon Oil) have to be tired. If not the players, then I know the coach is tired," Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian said.

Tarkanian said it was hard to judge the Rebels performance because of the fatigue of the opponent but felt his team did some good things. "I thought we got the ball down low to Elmore (Spencer) very well and Dedan (Thomas) did a great job defensively."

Tarkanian could not stop talking about the defensive play of his point guard. "If you have highlights of this game, go back and watch Dedan," Tarkanian said. "He put on a defensive clinic. He kept in his stance and he hardly ever got beat on the dribble." Thomas is in a battle

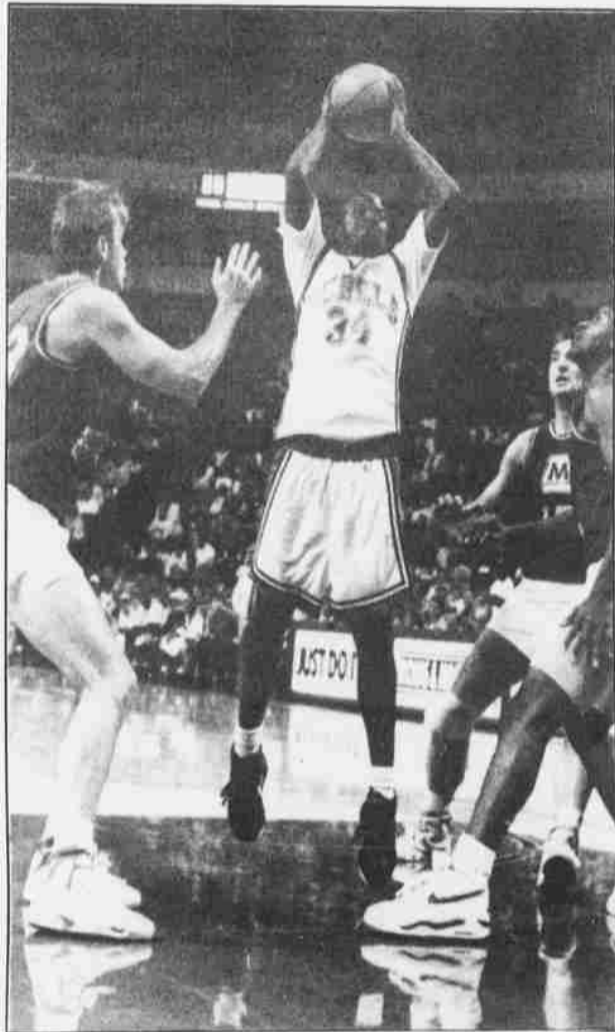


photo by Greg Klund

J.R. Rider led the Rebels with 24 points against Marathon Oil

with H Waldman for the starting point guard position. Waldman had to sit out of the game with a sprained ankle. Even though Tarkanian was pleased with Thomas' play, he said he had still not made up his mind about who will start. "H played great against the Cubans and his defense has improved," said

Tarkanian. Tarkanian has said all along that he will play whoever is playing better.

Thomas said that his competition with Waldman is friendly and both players are making each other better. He also said that he learned a great deal about defense from watching Anderson Hunt last year.

"Defensively, I always watched Hunt because I am a small guard like him and he always played tough D (defense)," Thomas said.

Tarkanian stressed that he needs four other guys playing defense like Thomas. "We need to tighten up defensively."

Offensively he said he thought the Rebels moved the ball well and again thought that Dedan had a good game offensively. "We distributed the ball well and had good overall movement." With several Rebels having good games, none could match the performance of reserve Rebel phenomenon Bryan Emerzian. With seven seconds left in the game, Emerzian took a pass from Clint Clausen and scored his first points in the last two years.

"It felt great, I thank Clint Clausen for that pass. It's an exhibition game and this doesn't go on my stats. I could still end up with a 0.0 average for the season," Emerzian said.

The Rebels open the season on Saturday in Hawaii against Brigham Young University-Hawaii.

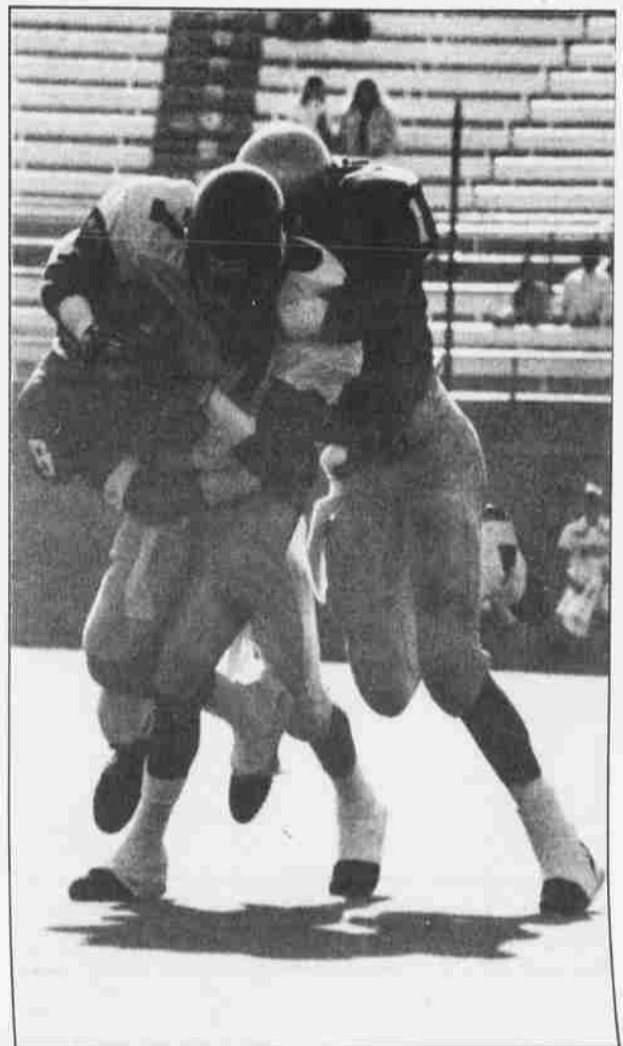


photo by Morgan Fisher

Carlton Johnson (1) and Dave Efferson (8) tackle NMSU's Atlas Reagor (7).

Football hosts Pacific in season finale

by Richard Munson

running back Ray Walters.

Cooper had the best game of the season as he threw for 212 yards, rushed for 89 yards, for 301 total yards on offense in the Rebels 38-28 victory over New Mexico State University. The Pacific Tigers were beaten last week by the Utah State Aggies 21-14. The Aggies overcame a 14-7 deficit in the second half. Tigers' quarterback Troy Kopp threw for 309 yards, despite throwing four interceptions.

The game will mark the last day for 11 seniors including center Joe Biritz, running back Derek Black, quarterback Hunkie Cooper, defensive back David Efferson, running back Teddy James, defensive back Carlton Johnson, defensive lineman Elgin Lofton, linebacker Royal McDaniel, defensive lineman Chuck Reed, quarterback Derek Stott and

The Rebels hold a 7-3 lifetime series against the Tigers including a 37-28 victory in Pacific last season.

The Runnin' Rebels start the regular season Saturday at BYU-Hawaii

Cross country

McCarthy forced out of meet

Hampered by a severe head cold, UNLV distance runner Dianne McCarthy did not place at the 1991 Region 8 Cross Country Championships in Fresno.

McCarthy, a 5-foot-6 freshman from Fermoy in Cork County, Ireland, dropped out of the 115-runner field about midway through the 5,000-meter race held at Woodward Park.

"Her cold was so bad I wasn't sure she should have even attempted running at all," said UNLV Cross Country Coach Al McDaniel. "But she was determined. She said she had gotten this far and wanted to give it a try."

McCarthy recently earned all-league honors with a third-place time of 18:32 at the Big West Conference meet in Las Cruces, N.M.

Sweeney helps Rebs score in the classroom

by Jay Sapovits

The UNLV football team may not be winning on the field, but students on the team are winning in academics largely due to Kevin Sweeney, academic advisor for the team.

Sweeney is a 1986 graduate of DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in computer science. He went on to receive his master's de-

gree in business administration from Notre Dame, where he began his relationship with coach Strong, while working as a graduate assistant in the football team's strength and conditioning program.

Sweeney emphasizes the value of a good education. He said he does not feel very good about players being negatively stereotyped.

"I don't think it's fair see SWEENEY page 10

INSIDE...

'Rebel Basketball '91'
A special section of
'the Yellin' Rebel' devoted to
the 1991-92 UNLV basketball teams