

The Rebels host Fresno State at the T&M, Thursday at 8:05 p.m.

# Sports

January 21, 1992

THE REBEL YELL

9

## Rebels' zone stifles UC Irvine

### Home court win streak now at 42

by Ched Whitney

The UNLV basketball team is often thought of as a high-flying, high-scoring, fast-break team. The name Runnin' Rebels conjures up visions of slam dunks and 100-point games.

But last night the Rebels, 71-52 winners over UC Irvine, showed another aspect that has always been a trademark of Jerry Tarkanian-coached teams—a stifling defense.

"They got (only) six points after we went to the zone," Tarkanian said. "They got two field goals after we went zone and one was on a deflected pass."

During a 9:45 stretch of the first half, UNLV, playing their 2-3 zone defense, outscored the Anteaters 16-0.

Tarkanian was pleased with his teams first-half performance.

"I couldn't be any happier with the first half," Tarkanian said. "They really, truly didn't get any shots off. It wasn't that they were missing, they really didn't get any shots."

UC Irvine made just four of their 23 shots from the field in the first half, an abysmal 17 percent. The Anteaters scored just six points after the Rebels went to the zone with about 16 minutes left and trailed 35-12 at the half.

Guard Dexter Boney credited the zone with the Rebels' success.

"With the zone we get a lot of teams

rattled," Boney said. "We were playing hard—that's the key. It's more fun when you're playing hard."

In the second half, the Rebels experimented some defensively.

"Our man (to-man defense) is coming but it's not great," Boney said. "Our zone is better."

Boney said the team was inspired after Tarkanian got on them for their lackluster performance at San Jose State.

"We've been playing pretty good—except San Jose State," Boney said. "We didn't want to hear it again from him (Tark)."

The Anteaters were able to keep the margin from getting any bigger in the second half despite shooting just 34 percent from the field for the game.

Ten different Rebels scored, led by J.R. Rider's 25 (17 in the second half).

UNLV's 7-foot center Elmore Spencer played just 13 minutes. Tarkanian said Spencer had difficulty breathing and tired fast.

UNLV reentered the Associated Press Top 25 at No. 25 this week. The Rebels, who spent all of last season at No. 1 in both polls (they can't receive any votes in the CNN/USA Today coaches poll this season because of their probation), fell out of the poll after their loss to Rutgers in December.

The Rebels, now 15-2, ran their win streak to 12. They host Fresno State at the Thomas & Mack Thursday at 8:05 p.m. before traveling to Las Cruces, N.M., Saturday to play once-beaten New Mexico State.



Junior J.R. Rider led UNLV with 25 points.

photo by Wray Haltermann

## While you were away...

# REBEL Diary SPORTS

While many students spent the holiday break enjoying themselves the continuing saga of Rebel athletics continued to drag on. One of the most significant actions taking place was the resignation of Dennis Finrock as the Director of the Thomas and Mack Center. Finrock will take over as the vice president at the MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park, Feb. 1.

Dec. 15  
Lady Rebels lose to Louisiana Tech 70-67.  
Dec. 16  
Men's and Women's

swim teams capture the Las Vegas Invite. Merlelynn Lange was named the Big West Player of the Week. Assistant head football coach Jeff Horton quits UNLV football team to join Nevada-Reno staff.

Dec. 17  
The Runnin' Rebels beat Auburn 85-82. Pre-game fireworks set a burlap bag on fire, causing a lengthy delay.

Dec. 18  
UNLV/NCAA due process law gets its first hearing in U.S. District court.

Dec. 20  
The Lady Rebels lose to Southwest Missouri State 80-77.

Dec. 21  
Runnin' Rebels beat Eastern Michigan 79-59. The Lady Rebels beat Louisiana State 83-71.

Dec. 23  
The Runnin' Rebels beat Lamar 100-75. Reserve Brian Emerzian scored his first career 3-pointer and his first points since Dec. 8, 1989.

Dec. 25  
Runnin' Rebel center Elmore Spencer blasts the NCAA in a story that appeared in the *Las Vegas*

*Review-Journal*.  
Dec. 26  
Controversy over Final Four tickets is made public, in which an L. A. ticket broker bought hundreds of tickets from a UNLV official.

Dec. 27  
Dennis Finrock resigns as head of the Thomas and Mack Center, to become vice president of the MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park. Rebel football offensive line coach Tom Cable quits. UNLV officials claim no intentional wrongdoing in latest ticket scandal.

Dec. 28  
The Runnin' Rebels beat Nevada-Reno 93-72.

Dec. 30  
The Runnin' Rebels beat San Diego State 88-72. Runnin' Rebel Basketball Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian files a lawsuit against the NCAA.

Jan. 2  
The Runnin' Rebels beat Cal State Fullerton, 86-74.

Jan. 3  
Ex-Rebel Larry Johnson is named NBA Rookie of the Month for December.

Jan. 4  
The Runnin' Rebels beat

UC Irvine 71-57. The Lady Rebels beat New Mexico State 97-79.

Jan. 5  
NCAA decision with the UNLV track team is left to the NCAA Council Division I Steering Committee.

Jan. 6  
The NCAA gives the UNLV a waiver negating any track team violations that occurred last season.

Jan. 7  
The Rebel football team hires two coaches. Dave Wommack will take over as defensive coordinator and Pat Behrns will be the new quarterbacks coach.

Jan. 8  
The NCAA raises academic requirements for athletes. Instead of having a 2.0 GPA under Proposition 48, athletes will now have to have a 2.5 GPA to participate in collegiate athletics.

Jan. 9  
The Runnin' Rebels beat Long Beach State 88-63.

Jan. 10  
The Lady Rebels beat Cal State Fullerton 79-74.

Jan. 11  
The Runnin' Rebels beat UC Santa Barbara 78-54. The Rebels now have the nations longest homecourt winning streak at 42 games

after UCLA beat Arizona, 89-87, at Tucson stopping the Wildcats streak at 71 games.

Jan. 12  
Rebel football wide receivers coach Greg McMahon quits the program. McMahon is the 12th assistant to leave Head Coach Jim Strong's staff in the last two years.

Jan. 13  
Runnin' Rebel forward Evric Gray is named the Big West Player of the Week. The Hustlin' Rebel Baseball team begins practice.

Jan. 14  
New Athletic Director Jim Weaver speaks at Tarkanian's weekly basketball luncheon.

Jan. 16  
The Runnin' Rebels beat the University of Pacific 70-52. The Lady Rebels beat UC Irvine 95-60. Soccer player Terry Pryer was one of 32 players selected to play in the Major Soccer League showcase All-Star Game in Baltimore, on Feb 13.

Jan. 17  
The Runnin' Rebels beat San Jose State 79-67.