

Sports

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THE REBEL YELL

9

Rebels run to 20th straight win

No. 12-ranked Runnin' Rebs now 23-2 after 76-47 rout

by Ched Whitney

The scenario has become quite familiar by now. Another sacrificial Big West lamb is led into a Thomas & Mack slaughter.

Again Monday night, defense was the key as the Runnin' Rebels blew out Cal State Fullerton, 76-47. UNLV's zone defense stifled the Titans, holding them to just 30 percent shooting for the game—and just 24 percent in the second half.

Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian was pleased with his team's effort.

"The last three games, I don't know if anyone's shot over 27 percent against," Tarkanian said. "We've gone from an average team to being pretty close to a great team."

The zone defense also helped set up the Rebels' fast break.

During a one-minute stretch in the first half, UNLV forward J.R. Rider scored on three consecutive dunks as the crowd meter soared past the 100-decibel mark.

Rider, who led the Rebels with 23 points (19 in the first half), said the crowd's enthusiasm helps fuel their transition game.

"The crowd gets me motivated," Rider said. "We've always been a running team and we had it going tonight."

During their recent road trip, Tarkanian said, the Rebels have stepped the transition game up a notch.

"The running game has given us another dimension," Tarkanian said.

CSF actually led 11-5 early, but a 14-0 spurt put UNLV out in front to stay. The Rebels led 39-27 at halftime.

Rebel guard Dexter Boney said the Rebels concentrated on stopping the Titan guards' outside shooting.

Joe Small, the Titans' star guard didn't score in the game, missing seven shots, six from three-point range; as a



photo by Morgan Fisher

Rebel forward J.R. Rider dunks for two of his 23 points during UNLV's 29-point rout of Cal State Fullerton Monday night at the Thomas & Mack.

team, the Titans missed all ten of their three-point attempts.

"The first time we played them,

Small got hot on us," Boney said. "(This time) we didn't want any of the great shooters to get any three-point shots."

Same UNLV success story in '91-92

Last season's Runnin' Rebel team dominated college basketball. The Rebels were ranked No. 1 the entire season, finishing the regular season 30-0.

Many thought that things would be much different this season. But a check of some numbers shows a lot of similarities:

— With the win, UNLV, ranked 12th in this week's Associated Press Top 25, improved to 23-2, the greatest number of wins in Division I.

— The Rebels' 20-game win streak is the nation's longest.

— The win also pushed their nation's-longest home-court win streak to 46 games.

But the comparisons will be relegated to numbers this season. With probation, the Rebels' season will end March 3 at the T&M against Utah State, Tarkanian's UNLV swan song.

UNLV was even more relentless in the second half as they put together to 17-4 runs, building their lead to 74-39.

Boney scored 16 points for the Rebels. Center Elmore Spencer scored 11 second-half points to finish with 15; he pulled down 10 rebounds.

The Rebels, now 23-2 overall and 15-0 in the Big West, will host the 17-4 New Mexico State Aggies at the Thomas & Mack Saturday at 8 p.m. The Rebels beat NMSU 74-67 Jan. 25 at Las Cruces, N.M.

Women's swim team wins Big West title

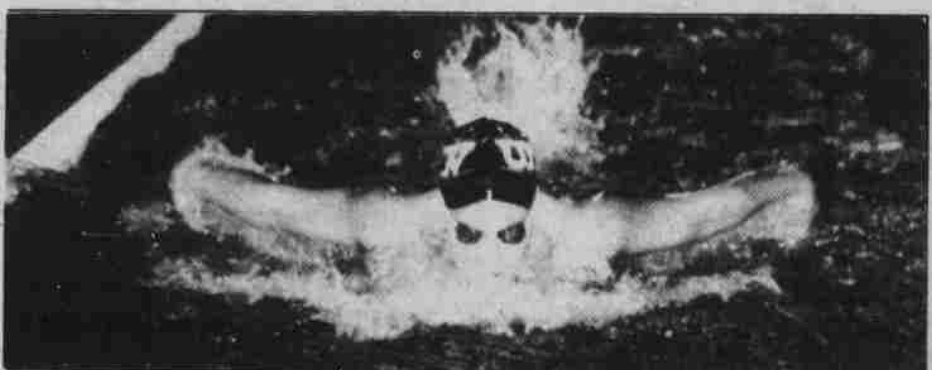
Men place second

by Richard Munson

The UNLV women's swim team captured their second consecutive Big West Conference Championship Saturday in Long Beach by outscored their nearest competition by 147 points. The men's team, as they did last year, placed second, 140 points behind UC Santa Barbara.

The women outpointed UC Santa Barbara 877 to 730 to win the title. The women captured four events Saturday en route to their victory. Maria Olsson placed first in the 200-yard backstroke, Rosie Zimsen first in the 200-yard butterfly and Mary Alice Torgerson first in the 200-yard breaststroke. The team of Lisa Dean, Mari Kasvio, Julie Mroziak and Zimsen captured the 440-yard free-style relay.

UC Santa Barbara won the men's title with a total of 824 points. The Rebels scored 684 points during the three-day event. The men's team cap-



Team captain Rosie Zimsen captured first in the 200-yard butterfly at Long Beach.

tured first place titles on Saturday. Tony Allick placed first in the 200-yard backstroke, Doug Swan placed first in the

200-yard butterfly. The team of Sal Castro, Jim Hughes, John Pink and Allick captured the 400-yard free-style relay.