

# Rider accepts leadership role

by Paul Gutierrez

The role of a team leader is one in which an athlete will do one of two things: either shy away from it or accept the challenge and excel. Senior guard/forward J.R. Rider has chosen the latter as the Runnin' Rebels embark upon a new era of UNLV basketball under first-year head coach Rollie Massimino.

Though Rider was the recognized team leader in terms of scoring last year, center Elmore Spencer was looked upon as the inspirational leader. This year, the Alameda, Calif. native will be saddled with both responsibilities, and he's more than happy to take them on.

"I'm very comfortable with the role of being one of the leaders," Rider said. "We have a young team and a lot of new guys. We need to step up and pave the way."

"We need to be leaders by example. As seniors, that is automatically our responsibility."

Rider is joined by Dexter Boney and Evric Gray as senior starters.

The No. 2 scorer in the Big West Conference a year ago, Rider led the Rebels with a 20.7 points per game average en route to being the Rebels' top scorer in 19 of 28 games from both shooting guard and small forward. Rider shot 49 percent from the field and 40.1 percent from three-point range in 1991-92,

while grabbing 5.2 rebounds per game.

The leadership offered by the returners in this transition year will be key if the Rebels are to duplicate last season's successes on the court, Rider said. The fact that the Rebels have a new head coach does not deter them from the same ethic and mission implemented last season.

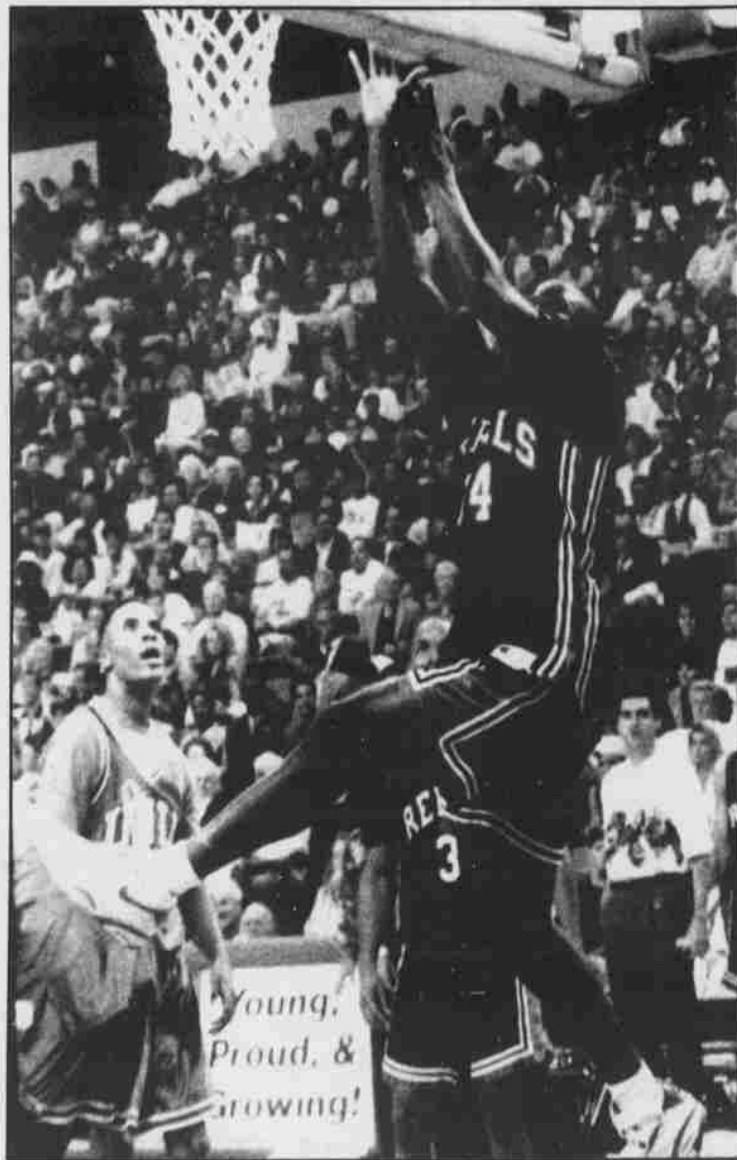
"For each coach we have to work hard," Rider said. "Everyone is looking forward to starting the season and hoping for the best."

Rider, 21, said Massimino brings the same family atmosphere that former coach Jerry Tarkanian did.

"He (Massimino) kind of has the same philosophies as far as playing on the court," Rider said. "But he stresses academics a little more. That's the biggest difference."

And as far as differences go, the prognosticators feel that the conference will be different as well. The selection of New Mexico State as the conference's preseason frontrunner has sent shock waves throughout the Big West and amusement to the Runnin' Rebels themselves.

"I think it's a joke," Rider said. "We beat them twice last year. I think it's mainly because they went to the 'Sweet 16' last year. We're looking forward to playing them. It will definitely be our biggest game in conference."



The Rebel Yell  
J.R. Rider averaged over 20 points per game for last year's 26-2 team.

Rider, who has been projected as a potential lottery pick in the 1993 NBA draft, will be helped in terms of exposure along with the rest of the team. UNLV will be allowed back on television and is eligible to compete in the NCAA tournament—luxuries the Rebels were not afforded in Ark's final season at the helm due to a resolution of the 1977 NCAA infractions case.

"Personally, I think the word is already out on me as far as scouts go. I need to improve on my ball-handling," Rider said. "But as a team, I hope we win at least 24 games and advance in the tournament."

"I just want to have a good year scoring and rebounding so I can go high in the draft and take care of my family."

## Polls

### Playboy Top 25

1. Indiana
2. Michigan
3. Duke
4. Kansas
5. Memphis State
6. Kentucky
7. UNLV
8. North Carolina
9. Florida State
10. Seton Hall
11. Arizona
12. Oklahoma
13. Georgetown
14. Connecticut
15. UCLA
16. Cincinnati
17. Utah
18. Iowa
19. BYU
20. Massachusetts
21. Evansville
22. Auburn
23. Tulane
24. Purdue
25. Georgia Tech


### Big West Basketball Coaches Poll

1. New Mexico State
1. UNLV (tie)
3. Long Beach State
4. UC Santa Barbara
5. UC Irvine
6. Utah State
7. Nevada
7. Pacific (tie)
9. CS Fullerton
10. San Jose State

## FUNJUMPERS

*of Las Vegas*

B  
U  
N  
G  
E  
E  
!



Bring in your Student ID and jump for \$10, Normal Rates from \$18 to \$15  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER  
2642 Paradise Road  
(on Paradise just South of Sahara)  
Open 7 Days A Week

792-JUMP

## NURSES. CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION...THE SMART WAY.

Army Reserve Nursing offers a variety of opportunities to further your education at little or no cost to you.

- **Specialized Training Assistance Program (STRAP)** provides an extra monthly stipend of over \$750 for nurse anesthesia, operating room training, RN-BSN and selected master's degrees.
- **Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program** will repay qualifying federally insured student loan at a maximum of \$20,000 for select specialties.
- **Montgomery GI Bill** can give you up to \$5,040 to complete your B.S.N. degree.

Think about it. Then think about us. Then call:

# 1-800-USA-ARMY

**BE ALL YOU CAN BE!  
ARMY RESERVE**

### IMPROVE YOUR VOICE

use the **PROVEN** method

*"Able to direct a singer toward to a healthier, more extensive use of his voice"* Michael Jackson

*"My ear, power, and vocal production have improved greatly"* Bette Midler

*"A valuable addition to making your styling easy, always available"* Luther Van Dross

Over 86 Grammy Wins  
4 Metropolitan Opera Wins  
ALL styles, ANY level

call  
**876-3220**  
a local Seth Riggs Associate

## INNOCENT BYSTANDER.



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and your State Forester

The Rebel Yell is now accepting applications for the position of:

## ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Contact Mallory at 739-3889