

A mystery in Philly, a hit in Vegas: Rollie runs the Rebels

by Jay Sapovits

When Rollie Massimino left Villanova to accept the head coaching job at UNLV, the Wildcat students cheered and celebrated. The slowed-down, methodical offense that fans had loved so much was suddenly gone. The nickname given to the Rebels was

switched from "Runnin'" to "Walkin'" by witty individuals of both his former and present employers. Unfortunately for those same people, the Rebels came out and scored 4 points in their first game, making those comments sound both foolish and thoughtless. Forget the clamor and gibberish of Rollie being a head coach, he's anything but one.

The man who brought notoriety and respect to a head sports town in 1985 was not in the graces of the Philadelphia faithful when he resigned last year. In seven years, Rollie went from loved to not liked. There are reasons why he wasn't liked in the end of his career, but you can find those out yourself; I like the guy. He was a large contributor in one of the three greatest moments in sports during my life. The three events were the 1980 USA vs. Russia hockey game, 1980 World Series which the Phillies won, and the 1985 Villanova vs. Georgetown NCAA championship game.

I remember sitting in the living room as my dad told me that the Wildcats was going to beat Patrick Ewing and the defending National Champion Georgetown Hoyas. The memory that always follows that victory was Rollie hugging longtime trainer and friend Jake Nevin, who was aged and in a wheelchair crying out of joy that the school he loved had won the biggest game it ever played in.

It's amazing how people readily forgot that accomplishment. The reason I always thought they played slow down basketball was to counter the other school's talent. I'm sure UNLV's academic allowance will be a less stringent than any of the Big East schools. Since the game is fair, Rollie can recruit both students and

athletes, at Villanova they had to be both.

Rollie will win a lot of games in the Big West before his contract is renewed. Forget the Rebels have no size, and they just lost out on recruiting Rasheed

Wallace, who is one of the greatest players ever in Philadelphia

High School history. Massimino can coach and as he had to do every game at Villanova. Remember, San Jose State is no "Providence," regardless if they both finish last in their conference.

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What would these Jerry Tarkanian sympathizers want this university do if he was dead? Dig his corpse up, let it sit in the ghost chair, and hold a memorial during each home game for the only coach the Rebels ever had.

The man is now an NBA coach in a new town. The only reason animosity developed is his cult followers failure to let him go. When I watch them on television, they look like infants in suits.

During his stay here he was a great coach, but surely you can't believe any action the university took to release him was any sneakier than his own recruiting tactics. I just wish that the money people are spending in his defense would have been contributed to helping improve the classroom. In my own words, get off President Robert Maxson's back; he's got more important things to do.

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Before President-elect Bill Clinton is inaugurated in January, university sports departments around the country should unite in "The Year Of the Women," to gain equality. My first suggestion is that all female athletes have their weights printed in media guides and newspapers just like the male athletes. I'd like to point out this politically incorrect example of reverse sexism which exists in collegiate sports.

-Jay Sapovits, a Philadelphia native, is sports director at KUNV.

Commentary

Runnin' Rebels travel to San Diego State

by Paul Gutierrez

Following a less-than-spectacular opening season victory last weekend that extended the longest win streak in the nation to 24 games and began the Rollie Massimino era of UNLV hoops, the schedule sees the 22nd-ranked Runnin' Rebel straveling to Southern California once again to face the Aztecs of San Diego State Saturday evening.

The match-up against San Diego State will be UNLV's 1000th collegiate basketball game in its 35th season.

SDSU sports a record of 1-2 with a win over Cal Poly Pomona (72-68) in between losses to the University of San Diego (85-60) and Arizona State (67-64). The Aztecs face NAIA foe Westmont College tonight before hosting UNLV Saturday.

The Aztecs return four starters and are led by freshman guard Jason Hamilton (10.3 points per game and 10 steals off the bench) and 6'11" center Joe McNaul (8.1 ppg, 11.3 rebounds per game).

UNLV leads the overall series with the Aztecs, 14-4, counting last season's 88-72 win in the Thomas & Mack Center on the next-to-last day of 1991. The Rebels have won the last



three meetings against the Western Athletic Conference representatives dating back to the

1981-82 season.

SDSU finished the 91-92 campaign on a 21-game losing skid, finishing up at 2-26 overall, 0-16 in WAC play.

Tip-off is set for 7:35 p.m. Saturday in Peterson Gymnasium on the SDSU campus.



When: Saturday
Dec. 12, 7:35 p.m.
Where: Peterson Gym
Series Record:
UNLV leads 14-4

BIG WEST CONFERENCE

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Long Beach State	0	0	2	0
UNLV	0	0	1	0
CS Fullerton	0	0	1	0
Nevada	0	0	1	0
UC Santa Barbara	0	0	1	0
New Mexico State	0	0	5	1
San Jose State	0	0	2	1
Pacific	0	0	1	1
Utah State	0	0	1	2
UC Irvine	0	0	0	0

Saturday, Dec. 12

UNLV at San Diego State	CS Fullerton at Drake
San Jose State at Montana State	New Mexico at New Mexico State
Pacific at Indiana Tournament	Utah State at Weber State
UC Irvine at Kansas City Classic	Fresno State at Nevada

Lady Rebels travel to Pelican State for two

by Tony Llanos

The Lady Rebels must not only get ready for final exams next week, they also have the uneasy task to prepare for two tough games in Louisiana.

The Lady Wave of Tulane, who captured the UC Irvine Disneyland Freedom Bowl Classic, host the Rebels in New Orleans on Friday. The Lady Wave drubbed the Anteaters 64-48 and won the championship game over Boise State, 79-76.

Tulane, who finished fourth in the Metro Conference with a 4-8 record last season, possess a 2-0 record this year. Keisha Johnson returns for the Lady Wave, a 5 foot 11 junior who averaged 14.2 points and 9.2 rebounds a game last season. Tulane is coached by Candi Harvey, who is in her third season.

This is the first meeting between the two schools. Game time is 5 p.m. Friday.

Next, the Lady Rebels travel to Baton Rouge Sunday for an afternoon contest against the (2-1) Louisiana State Tigers. LSU return three starters from last year's squad: 6 foot 1 center Julie Lewis, 5 foot 5 guard Miriam Farr, and 5 foot 9 guard Cornelia Gayden, who put up an average of 19.1 points per game and also pulled down an average of 6.4 rebounds last season.

Head Coach Sue Gunter's Tigers finished 10th in the Southeastern Conference with a 4-7 record and 16-13 overall. The Tigers this season have



Jim Bolla leads his undefeated team for two road games in Louisiana against the Tulane Lady Wave and the LSU Lady Tigers.

defeated Southeastern 100-55 in their season opener and slipped past Hartford, 59-57, in the Dial Classic in Tallahassee, Fla. LSU faltered in the championship game of the tournament 79-59 against the Florida State Semi-

noles.

Last season, the Lady Rebels beat LSU in last season's Showboat Shootout 83-71 in the consolation game.

Tip-off is scheduled at noon on Sunday.