

Farewell, Tony, and good luck

BY JAY SAPOVITS

A strenuous worker, Tony Llanos held the position of sports editor since August of the past year. His objective when he took the job was to give every UNLV sport adequate coverage.

He's not dead, he's just not working for the paper anymore. The sports staff will miss the unique attributes which he brought to the office when his resignation takes effect Monday.

Llanos possesses qualities conducive toward producing a hard-working section. He is positive, motivated and organized.

Positivism around a newspaper is a pleasant change. Cynicism pervades most journalists. It's easy to write negative stories, but that's an angle we were often discouraged from taking.

As for his motivational skill, Llanos always stressed preparation.

On the first of this month he called the sports staff in for a meeting. He brought with him a seven-page, laser-printed memo which included daily time charts, a class schedule organizer and two pages of motivational jargon. Everyone at the meeting thought Llanos should loosen up.

Hours before deadline the entire sports staff would be writing to beat it. Llanos often submitted 10 or more stories for an issue. Unorganized people just don't maintain that type of production with much consistency.

Tony worked with many people at this university to provide information. Following is a sample of opinions from people who he worked with:

"The coverage we've had, as far as Olympic sports is concerned, has been far more extensive than the *Review-Journal*." —Larry Easley, UNLV head tennis coach

"Coverage in the last year has been fair. I think the young people there are trying to work toward a good future and *The Yell* has been excellent." —Jim Strong, UNLV head football coach

"Very conscientious, thorough in his questioning. I do a lot of interviews and he's never asked me a dumb question. He took a lot of pride in what he did. I appreciate what he did for us." —Jim Bolla, UNLV head women's basketball coach

"Tony always conducts himself professionally. I have the utmost respect for him. He's a very hard worker. He knew how to work within our frame work. He's a nice guy." —Tommy Sheppard, assistant sports information director

"Tony's one of the most prepared and thoughtful people I've ever met, not just in the journalism field, but anywhere. There's no question that the sports section of this

paper improved as the year went on under him." —Paul Gutierrez, new *Rebel Yell* sports editor

Commentary

"It's my responsibility to see that the students of this university have a good newspaper."

—Tony Llanos,
former *Rebel Yell* sports editor

Tony Llanos fulfilled his commitment of providing coverage of

Rebel sports. Now it's our job to build on the work he has done.

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In 1990, UNLV did more than win the NCAA National Championship. The Rebels created a tense rivalry with Utah State head coach Kohn Smith.

During the game at the Thomas & Mack Center, a fight broke out between a Rebel and Aggie player. Both benches

converged in front of the visitor's bench and a melee ensued. Then-Rebel Moses Scurry slugged Smith straight in the chops. Smith's head reeled back, but he didn't hit the floor.

Scurry denied that he intentionally hit the Aggie coach. In the post game press conference both coaches down played the entire feud. If ever there was one however, it's coming to an end.

This Saturday will mark Smith's last appearance in Las Vegas as the USU head coach (his contract was not renewed). We can have a spectacular halftime show.

Set up a boxing ring at half court, bring in Scurry and Smith and let's give the coach a chance to redeem himself. Moses is from Brooklyn, a town known for it's toughness, so the coach must be a real trooper not to hit the deck.

It would be the Rebel student body's going-away present to a man who certainly provided fireworks (water bombs) for us over the years.

I only assume that Smith, who was popped in front of about 12,000 Rebel fans, would covet an opportunity to redeem his pride, or at least get in a few swipes himself.

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UNLV hosts UNR tonight. I hope UNR gives the "best Nevada university" a game and doesn't embarrass the whole state.

They tried to on national TV against Pacific. UNR scored 18 points in the first 20 minutes of the game. The only solace for Nevada residents is that most people turned off the set because UNR is so bad.

Have a heart UNR, try to give the Rebels a game!

Oh, by the way, please start shining our cannon. We expect it back in the same shape you received it. Thank you.

—Jay Sapovits is sports director at KUNV, and a *Rebel Yell* columnist.

Gauchos, Thunderdome drown out Rebels

BY PAUL GUTIERREZ
STAFF WRITER

For the eternal optimist, it is comforting to know that the last time a UC Santa Barbara squad defeated a UNLV basketball team, the Runnin' Rebels went on to win a national championship.

Three years later, the Gauchos again turned the trick in the Thunderdome. More than 6,000 rabid Thunderdome fans, including former Rebel coach Jerry Tarkanian, watched on as UCSB upset the No. 13 team in the nation, 86-83, Monday night.

The Rebels fall into a first-place tie in the Big West with New Mexico State at 10-3, 17-4 overall.

J.R. Rider led the Rebels in scoring with 24 points but fell short of sending the game into overtime with a trey attempt that clanged off the front of the rim with about three seconds remaining.

The Rebels held a game-high lead of eight, 33-25, following two Rider free throws with 6:26 remaining in the first half but saw the lead evaporate to two, 42-40 at halftime.

The telling blow for the Rebels, and perhaps the turning point as far as emotion goes, came on a controversial charging call on Evric Gray that saw him foul out of the game with 3:43 left. Gray dunked and was given the basket but was called for charging on UCSB's Ray Kelly, who was standing under the basket. Rather than it being a no-call, Gray was sent packing, Kelly made both free throws, and the Rebels trailed by two, 80-78.

With Gray out, Reggie Manuel hampered with four fouls, and Rider saddled with three, the Gauchos extended their lead to five with 44 seconds to play, 84-79.



PHOTO BY WRAY HALTERMAN

Evric Gray, dunking in an earlier game this season, ran into early foul trouble at UCSB. Gray contributed 22 points and six rebounds before fouling out.

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Tonight's Runnin' Rebel Game
Who: Rebels vs. Nevada Wolf Pack
Where: Thomas & Mack Center
When: 8:05 p.m.

• **Where they stand:** The No. 13 Runnin' Rebels are 17-4, 12-1 at home, and tied for first place with New Mexico State atop the Big West with a 10-3 record. The Wolf Pack are in the cellar in the conference with a 3-12 record and 8-15 overall. Nevada is 1-5 on the road this season.

• **Streaks:** The Runnin' Rebels lead the overall series against their upstate rival by a count of 40-10 and have won five straight from Nevada since the Wolf Pack posted their last win in the series, 97-89, on Nov. 23, 1984 in Reno.

• **The J.R. Rider Report:** J.R. Rider is averaging 28.2 points and 8.7 rebounds per game and leads the team in both offensive categories. The 6-foot-5 senior scored 38 points and had 11 boards against Nevada this season. The Alameda, Calif. native leads the Big West in scoring this season.

• **Eric Morris, you're no Rider:** The 6-foot-5 guard/forward is the Wolf Pack's leading scorer and rebounder this season with an average of 15.3 points per game and 8.3 boards per game.

• **Dueling for three's in the Silver State:** UNLV's Kenny Gibson tallies a conference-leading shooting 50 percentage from three-point country. The Rebel gunner is 43-of-86 for "3." However, Nevada's Rod Brown is second with a 47.8 percent average (55-for-115).

• **Streaks, Part II:** UNLV has won 44 straight Big West home games.

• **Rebels' Outlook:** The Runnin' Rebels finish their home schedule Saturday against Utah State at 8:05 p.m.

• **Wolf Pack woes:** Nevada snapped a 10-game losing streak with its four-point victory over San Jose State 68-64 last week. It ended the program's longest losing streak since dropping 16 in a row in 1972.

UNLV



Rebels

