



PHOTO BY PAUL GUTIERREZ

Coach Massimino ponders the situation in a recent home game. The Runnin' Rebels have lost two of their last three on the road.

See:

PAGE 6

Big West Men's and Women's Pairings.

UNLV hoops teams have a bad weekend

Runnin' Rebels follow rout of UC Irvine with upset loss at Cal State Fullerton.

BY PAUL GUTIERREZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Just two days after playing one of their most complete games in a 96-74 blowout of UC Irvine, the schizophrenic Runnin' Rebels allowed a seven-point lead to slip away at Cal State Fullerton in the last seven minutes. The host Titans took advantage and hit a last-second shot to upset UNLV, 84-83.

The Rebels finish the regular season with a second place finish in the Big West Conference be-

hind New Mexico State at 13-5, 20-6 overall. The UC Irvine win ensured the 12th straight season a UNLV basketball team has won at least 20 games. But the five BWC losses are the most ever.

At Fullerton, the Rebels were led by J.R. Rider's 32-point outburst and 16 rebounds. Dexter Boney scored 27 while Evric Gray contributed 15 points. Dedan Thomas scored six and dished off eight assists. Fred Haygood made his second start of the season and responded with three points, three boards, two blocks and a steal in 18 minutes.

UNLV shot a miserable 42.3 percent from the field against

see IRVINE page 6



Jim Bolla

Fouls, free throws make Hawaii no vacation for Lady Rebels

BY NICK HALEY
STAFF WRITER

As if playing the University of Hawaii wasn't difficult enough, the UNLV women's basketball team had an even greater challenge to overcome.

Fouls. In the course of losing both ends of a doubleheader—a Friday night loss 100-85 and a Sunday night loss 82-69—the Lady Rebels were whistled for a combined 55 fouls compared to Hawaii's 29. As a result, the Rainbow Wahines shot 43 free

throws in Game 1 and another 27 in Game 2, where the Lady Rebels shot 14 and eight respectively.

UNLV (22-4 overall, 15-3 conference), currently ranked No. 21 in the latest AP poll, needed only one victory over the weekend in Hawaii to win the Big West regular season title. Unfortunately for the Lady Rebels, it had to be against Hawaii and in their gym—the small, noisy Klum Gym similar to UNLV's own South Gym.

But while the free-throw differential was only directly responsible for the first game, foul trouble caught up with the Lady Rebels. In Friday night's game,

see HAWAII page 6

Lady Rebs split double header with Gamecocks

BY SCOTT HAVERLOCK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The non-conference "schedule from Hell" continued Sunday for the No. 12 Lady Rebels softball team as it hosted a twin bill with No. 16 South Carolina.

UNLV split the doubleheader, scoring six runs in the sixth inning to salvage a come-from-behind 8-5 win in Game 1, but lost Game 2 by a score of 4-2.

UNLV moves to 7-3 overall and 2-0 in the Big West Conference, including a 3-3 record against Top 20-ranked opponents this campaign.

"The reason UNLV has climbed so quickly nationally is because we play the best teams, teams that take advantage of your mistakes," UNLV head coach Shan McDonald said.

The visiting Lady Gamecocks improve to 11-3-1 on the season. In the first game, Cyndi Parus

singled home Lisa Wilkins-Eames for the first run of the contest in the initial inning; Melissa Jantz brought home Kim Fritts on a run-scoring double in the fourth frame.

The matchup was deadlocked, 2-2, after four innings of play.

Then South Carolina scored three times in the fifth inning to open up a 5-2 lead.

With its back against the wall, UNLV reeled off six runs in the sixth inning to secure the victory, 8-5.

In the six-run sixth, the Lady Rebels amassed five hits and took advantage of two Gamecock errors. With the bases loaded, two down and trailing 5-4, senior



Kim Smith

Tricia Reimche highlighted the comeback with a game-winning, three-run triple.

"We have an aggressive (offensive) team this year," McDonald said. "This team is capable of coming from behind no matter what the score. Sometimes it only take one pitch for us to turn a game around."

The second game of the twin bill wasn't as pleasing for the UNLV faithful.

The visitors instigated the scoring courtesy of Dana Fulmer's centerfield fence-clearing home run in the fourth inning.

UNLV tied the game in the fifth inning on Reimche's sacrifice fly which scored Hollie

Chadwick.

South Carolina wasted little time regaining the edge. In the top of the sixth, the Gamecocks scored three runs on three hits and three costly UNLV errors to claim a decisive advantage.

"The effort was there (in the second game), but we made a few mistakes," McDonald said. "But this is the time of year to make those mistakes rather than at the 50-game mark."

UNLV rallied once again in the bottom half of the sixth but scored just one run. UNLV pitcher Amie Stewart helped her cause, singling home Fritts. The next batter, Heather Markowitz, stepped to the plate with two outs and baserunners at first and second. Markowitz hit a deep shot which was confiscated by the outstretched arm of the Lady Gamecock leftfielder, cutting short the final Lady Rebel rally.

"If it dropped that hit would

have tied the ballgame," McDonald said.

UNLV pitcher Kim Smith, who threw the first six innings of the first game, improved her record to 4-0. Stewart pitched the final inning to lock up her second save of the year while losing a complete-game decision in the nightcap.

Three Lady Rebels—Reimche, Wilkins-Eames, and Stewart—collected three hits a piece in the two games.

South Carolina's All-America senior Tiff Tootle, who broke NCAA single-season records last year with 123 hits and 72 runs scored and hit at a .494 batting average clip, went 0-4 in the opening game. She redeemed herself in Game No. 2 with a 4-4 performance.

The Lady Rebels host conference rival Cal State Fullerton Saturday.