

Chris Jones  
SPORTSTALK



## "No more Shell Games"

Whatever happened to "Commitment to Excellence?"

It certainly wasn't evident in the Los Angeles Raiders' 19-16 shaming at the hands of the Cleveland Browns last Sunday. In fact, excellence has been missing from the Coliseum for quite some time.

The Raiders have not won the big games in the past few years. If they play well enough to get an early lead, they quit and allow their opponent to come back in the second half. Their offensive play calling is inconsistent and their defense still hasn't addressed their yearly linebacking problems.

Still, the Raiders are one of the best teams in the NFL and could reach their first Super Bowl in a decade next January if they only get their act together.

In order to do that, head coach Art Shell must take control of the team.

The Cleveland game was a microcosm of the Raiders' problems. L.A. took an early 13-0 lead, held it through most of the fourth quarter,

and blew the game in the final seconds. Cleveland scored 19 points in the last eight minutes, an unacceptable performance for any team, let alone one of the league's best. But despite the defenses' inability to stop the Browns late in the game, they never should have been in position to lose the game in the first place. For that the blame goes to Shell.

The Browns' pass rush was awesome against L.A. and Raider quarterback Jeff Hostetler paid the price. He was sacked hard five times and was unable to move without a noticeable limp by the second quarter. With an immobile quarterback, the L.A. offense couldn't do a thing against Cleveland. Shell chose to leave Hostetler in the game anyway.

The Raiders went from 10 first downs and 13 points in the first half to one first down (on a penalty, no less) and three points in the second half. Clearly the offense was ineffective and something should have been done.

Shell did nothing.

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October 20, 1993

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### INTRAMURALS CORNER

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## Oozeball forced to deny six teams' entry

Oozeball continues to grow.

So much that Intramural

Coordinator B.J. Burris had to reject six teams from entering Saturday's third-annual event.

UNLV's three "pits" - which don't have lights - can accommodate no more than 64 teams in order to finish the mud volleyball tourney in one day.

Burris said that 70 team captains attended the mandatory informational meetings on Tuesday, causing a dilemma for the first time in the tourney's three-year history.

In 1991, 48 teams competed in the first mud volleyball tournament. Oozeball attracted 62 teams during the 1992-93 school year.

The growth continued this year although the university's accommodations will be unable to keep pace.

The result: prospective teams have been jilted.

"We promoted this event more this year than in the past," Burris said. "There's just so much talk about it now. I'm sorry we had to turn teams away."

Oozeball's ever-growing popularity is bitter-sweet.

"It's nice to see organizations wanting to enter three

or four teams, but other teams are being excluded because of it," the coordinator added.

The care-free atmosphere associated with Oozeball help make its popularity unmatched by other UNLV Intramurals events.

"Oozeball is different than anything else we offer," Burris said. "It's competitive but fun."

The double elimination tournament, which will last all day, begins Saturday at 7 a.m.

Key sponsors 98.5 FM (KLUC) and Rebel Pub & Grub will be joined by Alphagraphics this year.

With wannabee team's being excluded from Oozeball, one might wonder if the UNLV Intramurals organizers will move it to a two-day format instead in the future.

"We will look into it next year. We don't want to turn away teams," Burris said.

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Two teams from each of the four divisions remain unbeaten after one week of UNLV Intramurals volleyball.

As of Sept. 20, Kappa Sigma and Sigma Chi are  
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