

# SPORTS

REBEL  
YELL



"Fireworks, fireworks, fireworks" — L.A. Clipper center Elmore Spencer when asked what he remembered most about the T & M

## Rebel fans aren't only ones laughing

What do Akron, Samford (and son?), Furman and Howard University have in common?

They are all ranked higher than UNLV in the latest NCAA Division I football computer ratings as published in USA Today.

This week, the Rebels hit the charts at No. 135. Not even Casey Kasem counts that high.

While rankings can always be disputed, no one can argue that the interest in this Saturday's homecoming game is at an all-time low, even for UNLV.

The last time the Rebels were in action, they were beaten 24-18 by nationally renown football powerhouse Cal-State Northridge.

After rushing for 278 yards against the Rebel defense, Northridge tailback Robert Trice said, "Hell, it was like they were giving us yards."

With this kind of play, it's easy to see why interest is slipping.

Should the fans even bother with the rest of this season, or just write off this year and hope for improvement in 1994?

One look at the Big West Conference standings gives you an answer.

This week's opponent, Utah State, San Jose State, Pacific and UNLV all have records of 1-5. Louisiana Tech is 1-4 and Arkansas State is 1-6.

Of the six wins, all but two have come in conference play. That means the only way these teams can win is by playing each other, when one team has to go home victorious no matter how hard they try to lose.

The only wins against non-conference teams are no more impressive. UNLV got their victory against Central Michigan, ranked 110th, and Arkansas State beat No. 183 Southern Illinois.

You can only feel sorry for the people who have to promote the Las Vegas Bowl. They'll be lucky if they outdraw a high school game.

Who would want to pay to sit outside in the mid-December cold while watching the champions of the Big West Conference battle it out?

Optimists will point out that UNLV is only 0-1 in conference play. If the Rebels win the rest of their games they'll have a shot at the conference title and, after all, this season is far from over.

Those who view reality will see that this season is over, homecoming is ruined and no one will care about the UNLV football program until they start winning consistently.

Unless you care who will be named homecoming queen, don't bother heading out to the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl Saturday.

lose to Ft. Wayne, your ticket stub will be worth one free ticket to a future Thunder game.

Game times are Saturday at 7:05 P.M. and Sunday at 6:05 P.M.



Sportstalk

Chris Jones

## UNLV hosts Aggies for Homecoming

By SCOTT GULBRANSEN  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday's battle between the Rebels and the Utah State Aggies looked like a promising game before the season started. Now the game is a battle for respect for both teams.

The Rebels are coming off one of the biggest upset losses in school history, a 24-18 loss to Division I-AA Cal-State Northridge. Utah State lost a close game to Nevada last week, 48-44. Both teams are 1-5 overall. But the Aggies have lost three games by a total of 10 points. The Rebels lost



their last three by a total of 57 points.

A loss for either team would be the virtual end to any hopes of a conference title in 1993. The Aggies and Rebels, despite their poor overall record, are 0-1 in Big West Conference play and still in the hunt for the conference title and Las Vegas Bowl bid.

The Rebels have an added incentive as UNLV is celebrating homecoming. The scarlet and gray hold a respectable 16-9 homecoming record. The last time the Rebels hosted the Aggies on homecoming, Utah State beat UNLV, 28-10, in 1983.

The Rebels will once again start sophomore Jason Davis at quarterback. Davis started against Cal-State Northridge but was pulled early by coach Jim Strong after completing only two-of-eight passes for 27 yards.

Last week was Utah State's homecoming as they dropped an offensive shootout to Nevada. The Aggies had led most of the game

before Nevada's Chris Vargas rallied the Wolf Pack from a 44-41 deficit. The teams combined for an astounding 1,189 yards in total offense.

The Aggies are led offensively by running back Profail Grier who ran for 127 yards and four touchdowns against the Wolf Pack. The Aggie quarterback is Anthony Calvillo, who has already reached the 1,900 yard mark and has thrown eight touchdown passes. Butkus Award candidate Jermaine Younger anchors the Utah State defensive corps from his linebacker position.

Game time at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl is 7 p.m.



## Boney, Spencer return to T & M

### Lakers defeat Clippers, 119-99

By PAUL GUTIERREZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was too good to believe. It was too theatrical. Too Hollywood. Heck, even too Las Vegas.

In what could prove to be Dexter Boney's last game in a Los Angeles Lakers uniform, the former UNLV Runnin' Rebel swished a three-pointer at the buzzer against the Los Angeles Clippers. The shot gave the Lakers a 20 point victory over their cross-town rivals, 119-99, Wednesday night.

"I asked coach to give me the ball at the end so I could go out with a bang," Boney said. "I didn't think it was going to go in at first but then it curved and made it."

Boney stood at half-court after the successful shot, raised his



Dexter Boney

THE REBEL YELL



Former Rebels Elmore Spencer and Dexter Boney took time to talk with each other and sign autographs before Wednesday's game.

arms and soaked in the Las Vegas cheers.

It had to be a bittersweet feeling for Boney. Despite scoring 16 points, second on the Lakers behind James Worthy's 19-point effort, it is not thought that Boney has much of a chance to make the opening day roster as a shooting guard. After all, he was not drafted last June and signed a free agent contract last month after playing for the Lakers' summer league team.

"Dexter was great tonight," second-year Lakers coach Randy Pfund said. "He can run, play good defense and go strong to the basket. But as I've said before, he's up against a numbers game. We have a lot of guys that can play that two guard spot."

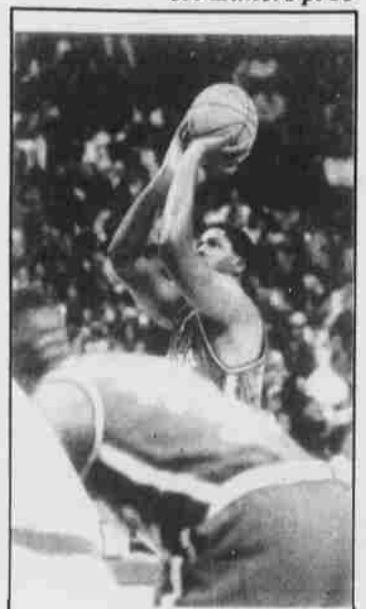
"I don't want to be overly optimistic and give a wrong picture. But he has worked extremely hard and has impressed a lot of people."

Boney scored his 16 points on five-of-nine shooting from the

field, including two three-pointers. He also grabbed four rebounds in 20 minutes.

"I was nervous at first" said Boney, who was first-team all-Big West Conference last year. "But

see Lakers p. 13



Elmore Spencer

## Thunder host Komets

### Famous Chicken to grace T & M Saturday night

By SCOTT GULBRANSEN  
STAFF WRITER

The Las Vegas Thunder begin their second homestand of the season as they take on the Fort Wayne Komets this weekend at the Thomas and Mack Center.

The Thunder are 3-1 and are in sole possession of first place in the IHL's Pacific di-

vision. The Komets are one of the IHL's best teams and showcase a quick paced offense that can score at will.

Saturday the famous San Diego Chicken will be on hand and Sunday is "Guaranteed Win" night which means if the Thunder

lose to Ft. Wayne, your ticket stub will be worth one free ticket to a future Thunder game.

Game times are Saturday at 7:05 P.M. and Sunday at 6:05 P.M.

