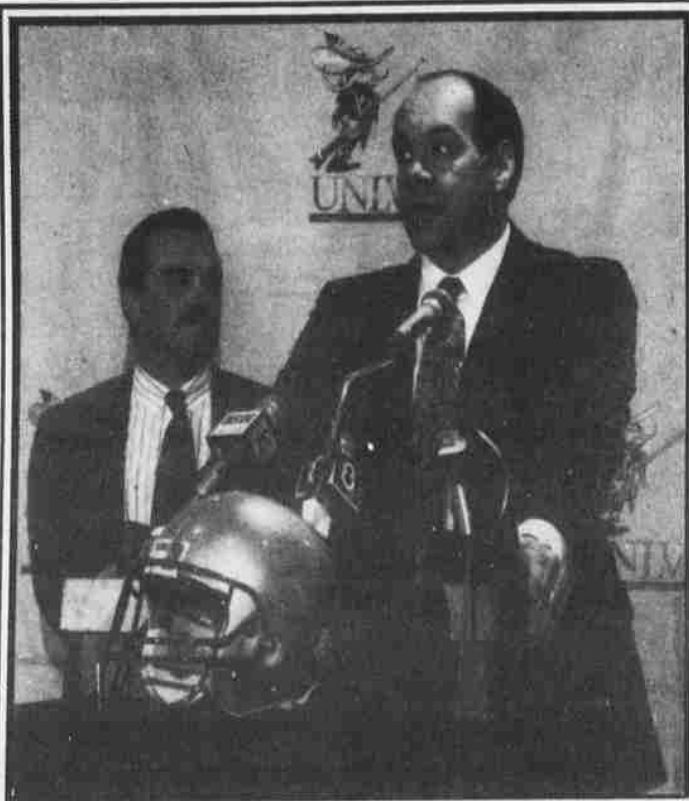


SPORTS

REBEL
YELL



Thursday: The annual UNLV basketball preview



Nick Haley/Rebel Yell
UNLV Director of Athletics Jim Weaver introduced Jeff Horton as the new Rebel football coach Tuesday afternoon.

Why Reno?

One can already picture the slogan for next year's UNLV football media guide: "If you can't beat 'em, hire 'em."

Tired of the seemingly hundreds of lopsided losses to Nevada's football team, UNLV decided that the best way to beat the 'Pack

was to take away the head wolf.

The courtship of former (and once again) Nevada head coach Chris Ault was one thing. But the subsequent hiring of the last Reno honcho, Jeff Horton, shows just how lost in the shadow of its older rival this university has become.

It seems that the prevailing wisdom at UNLV is the only way the football program can develop into a winner is by emulating the ways of Reno. The Rebels have hired almost all of Reno's coaching staff, will likely land some of their recruits and will definitely play a Reno style of football next season. Perhaps UNLV will dye their uniforms blue and silver, just to complete the transformation from lowly Rebels to the almighty Wolf Pack, a team which only made the move to Division I two years ago and hardly lit the Big West on fire this year.

While Horton may be the coach to turn this university's struggling program around, it's way too early to fall for the optimistic show being put on by the athletic department at the announcement of his hiring. All the talk about winning games, playing an exciting brand of football and returning fans to the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl won't mean a thing unless Horton can deliver. Las Vegas has heard these

promises before, not only from former Coach Jim Strong, but from his predecessor, Wayne Nunnely, as well. Only when the team has a couple of winning seasons will the public interest turn in favor of the program.

Winning games right off the bat may be harder than Horton realizes. His idea of winning the Big West Conference next season is difficult to understand. How does he plan to guide the remnants of a 3-8 team to the Las Vegas Bowl when he was unable to lead Reno, the 1992 conference champs, to a second straight title this past year? Patience, Jeff. Take your time and do it right.

While UNLV should aim for the successful level of its in-state rival, football was not invented in the "Biggest Little City on Earth." The time has come for UNLV to forge its own football identity and its goals should not be to become another Reno.

The way to resurrect football is to treat the program like we once treated basketball; winning the Big West is not enough. Simply beating Reno should no longer be enough to satisfy the team. Only when the Rebels move into the realm of big-time college football will this city embrace the program on the scale that many at UNLV seem to want.

It's time to build a program that will be successful over the long haul, not a one-year wonder that no one ever hears from again.

And such a task will take time - even if our new coach came from Reno.



Sportstalk

Chris Jones

Aussies too big, strong for Rebels

By PAUL GUTIERREZ
SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't a shameful thing for the UNLV basketball team to get beaten in an exhibition by the Australian National Team Saturday night, 102-95.

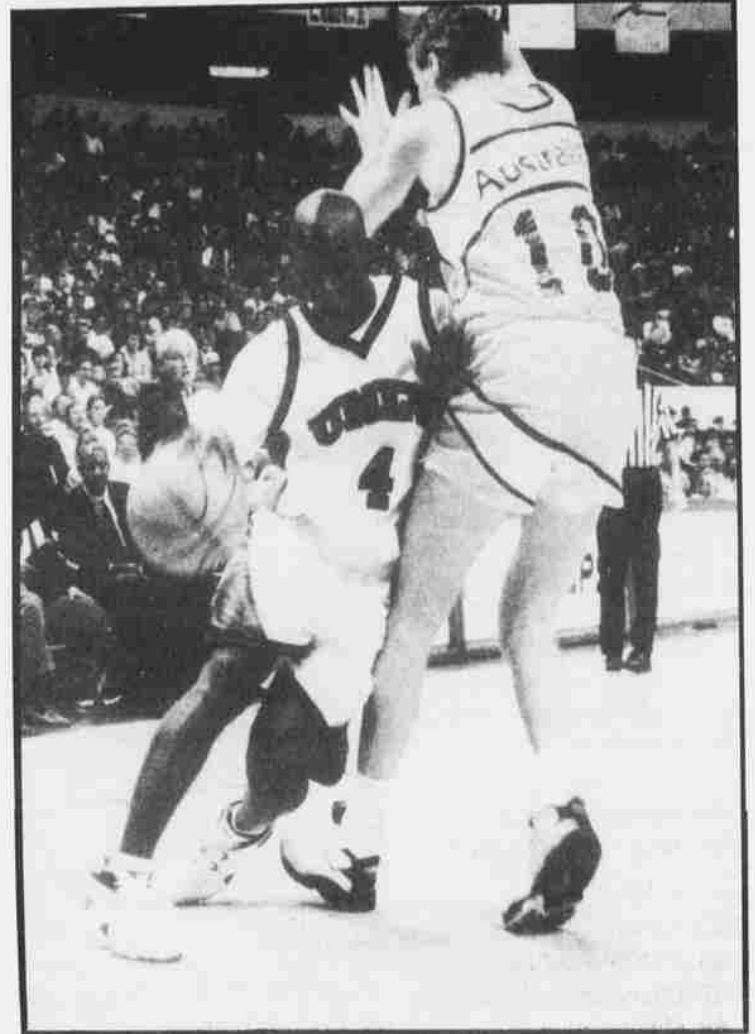
After all, the Aussies are a pretty good team, having beaten the likes of Long Beach State, UCLA, Maryland, North Carolina State and Kentucky on their tour of the United States. Their only losses came at Virginia and at Duke.

"I thought they were terrific," UNLV Coach Rollie Massimino said of the squad from Down Under. "They shot the ball tremendously well. They're one of the better teams we'll face all year."

The Aussies shot the lights out, hitting on 57.1 percent from the field and 50 percent from three-point distance. The Rebels struggled, converting 50.8 and 38.5 percent, respectively.

UNLV jumped out to a quick five-point lead four minutes into the contest following a Dedan Thomas lay-up. Thomas would dish out 10 assists and score 13 points before the night was over.

The Rebels' last lead was with 11:40 left in the half following a dunk by Patrick Savoy. He would



Hyun-Ho Han/Rebel Yell

Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith led the Rebels with 17 points.

finish with 14 points before fouling out late in the game.

The Australians eventually built a 10-point lead, 40-30, with five minutes left but a late Rebel run cut the deficit to two at the half.

Clayton Johnson dunked to get things going in the second half, knotting the score at 45-all. Australia then hit a three-pointer to take the lead before Reggie Manuel, who would score 14 points, answered with his own three.

Australia took off from there, building an 18-point lead, 77-59, nine minutes into the second half.

"We didn't play as hard or as smart in the second half" said

Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith, who led the Rebels in scoring with 17 points. "Plus, they shot the ball well. Those were the main reasons we lost."

Savoy agreed.

"They were just stronger and bigger," he said. "And when I got in foul trouble I couldn't go to the basket as strong as I wanted to and help my teammates."

Still, Massimino said his team will benefit from playing the Aussies and will be ready for the season opener Saturday at No. 14 UCLA.

"This was a good learning experience for us," he said.



Dedan Thomas had 10 assists.

Lady Rebels hand AIS team first loss

By SCOTT GULBRANSEN
STAFF WRITER

In their first game of the young season, the UNLV women's basketball team did something they have gotten used to - winning.

This time the victim was the Australian Sports Institute who took a pounding and lost to the Lady Rebels, 71-59.

The Lady Rebels took the court with as much intensity and determination that drove them to a 24-7 overall record in 1992-93.

Three minutes into the first half the Aussies started playing a physical game inside throwing elbows and pushing UNLV out of the key. Then like a thunderbolt, Tracy Titus struck back throwing a vicious elbow knocking down the Australian defender and setting the pace for the rest of the game.

The Lady Rebels, the more physical and conditioned team,

took charge of the game as they took control of the offensive and defensive boards finishing with 47 rebounds on the night. Iris Dinerman pulled down an incredible 20 rebounds and scored 7 points to give the lady hoopsters their first win of the year.

Senior point guard Cherie Hogg led the Lady Rebels with 20 points and forward Tracy Titus dumped in 15 points.

The Lady Rebels next take the hardwood this weekend in the UNLV/7 Up Desert Classic. Villanova, Colorado State and Tennessee Tech come in to Las Vegas to challenge the Rebels on their home turf. Games are this Friday and Saturday and 5:30 and 7:30 pm. The site is the South gym at UNLV.

Lady Rebel Notes.....

Junior point guard Gwynn Hobbs was suspended from the team last week for an unknown reason. The UNLV sports infor-

mation office said Hobbs was suspended for violating team rules...

Newcomer Melissa Batchelder, a 6-foot forward from Reno, is sidelined with a reoccurring sprained ankle. She will hopefully play this weekend... Freshman guard Angie White scored six points in 11 minutes.



Iris Dinerman grabbed 20 rebounds Saturday night.