

SPORTS

REBEL
YELL



"Ninety percent of this game is half mental" — Yogi Berra

NBA Prep: Which college is No. 1?

To honor the start of the college basketball season, the answer to the following question was sought: What university's basketball program has produced the best current NBA players?

The answers below were based upon the talent level and total number of alumni who are active in the NBA. While the top programs may not surprise you, some of the schools who didn't make the Top 10 will. Perennial powerhouses like Duke, Kansas and Indiana are nowhere to be found. St. Johns and UCLA came close, but in the end only the following can lay claim to being one of the NBA's best "farm teams."

10. Fans in East Lansing have seen a number of talented players wear a Spartan jersey. **Michigan State** was the home of the Atlanta Hawks' rebounding specialist Kevin Willis, Orlando Magic point guard Scott Skiles and up-and-coming star Steve Smith of the Miami Heat. If ex-Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson was still active, MSU would rank much higher.

9. Although **Auburn University** is known as a football school, it has been home to some fantastic basketball players as well. First and foremost is the Phoenix Suns' Charles Barkley, last season's MVP. Sir Charles is joined by the Timberwolves' hot-shooting and hot-headed Chuck Person and the enigmatic Chris Morris of the Nets.

8. It's quality, not quantity, that puts the **University of Houston** on the list. Former "Phi Slamma Jamma" teammates Clyde Drexler of the Portland Trailblazers and Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets made two trips to the Final Four before moving on to the NBA Finals as professionals.

7. The first Atlantic Coast Conference team to appear is **Georgia Tech**. The Yellow Jackets developed two of the NBA's better point guards, Cleveland Cavalier Mark Price and New Jersey Net Kenny Anderson. Dennis Scott is always a three-point threat and should improve when healthy in Orlando.

6. Back to the Wolverine State for number six. **The University of Michigan** boasts this year's number one draft pick in Golden State's Chris Webber, as

well as Miami three-point ace Glenn Rice, the Clippers' Loy Vought and two underachieving point guards in the L.A. Clippers' Gary Grant and New Jersey's Rumeal Robinson.

5. Last season's NBA Rookie of the Year, the Magic's Shaquille O'Neal, carries **Louisiana State** into the top five. Shaq isn't the only former Tiger to do well as a pro. After two disappointing seasons, Chris Jackson changed his name to Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf and his game from stiff to potential All-Star. Out west, the Clippers got significant playing time from both center Stanley Roberts and John "Hot Plate" Williams, who add weight to LSU's ranking.

4. **UNLV** comes in fourth. The Rebels 1990 National Championship team sent three of its members to the pro ranks. The Charlotte Hornets' \$84 million man, Larry Johnson, the Knicks' Greg Anthony and the Hawks' Stacey Augmon all made playoff appearances last season. Former coach Jerry Tarkanian also brought Gerald Paddio (cut Tuesday by the Pacers), Armon Gilliam (Nets), Elmore Spencer (Clippers) and Isaiah "J.R." Rider (Timberwolves) to Las Vegas before watching them become NBA players.

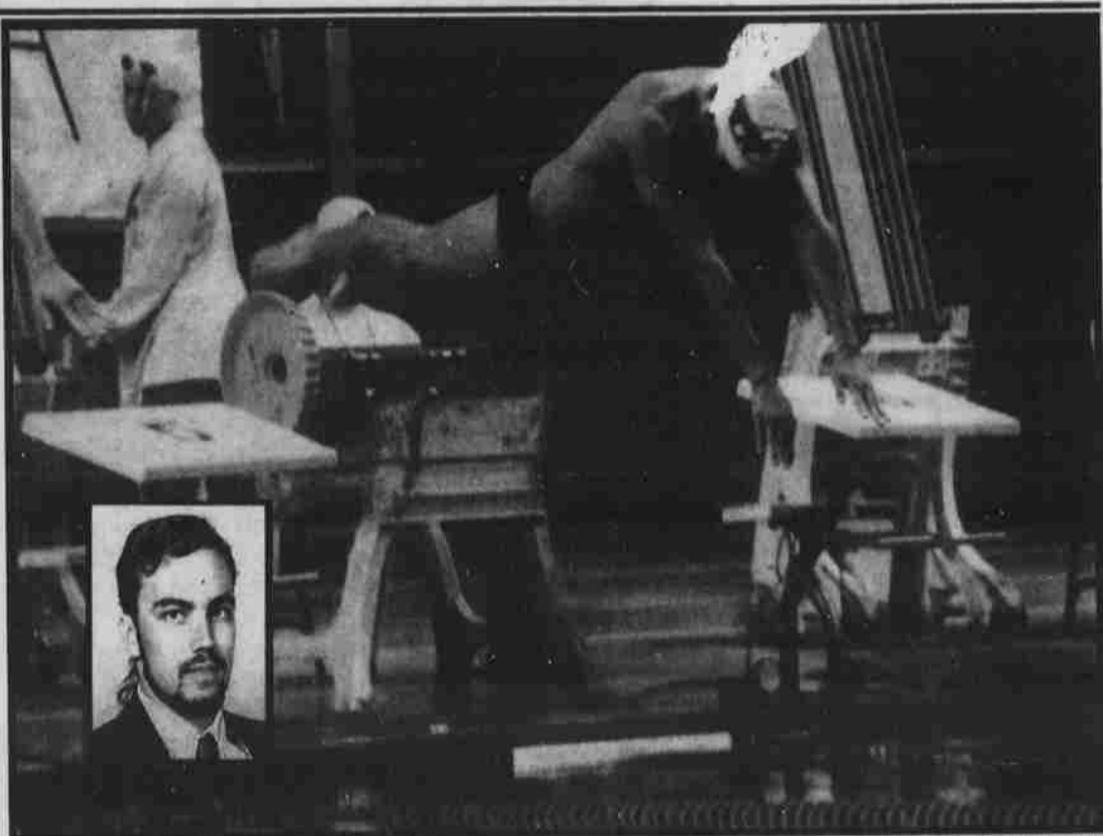
3. It gets pretty cold at **Syracuse**, but the basketball team has kept fans in the Carrier Dome hot for years. Like him or not, New Jersey's Derrick Coleman is one of the NBA's best players. The Heat's Rony Seikaly is a solid center, Boston Celtics' guard Sherman Douglas can be spectacular at times, and when healthy, Golden State's Billy Owens has shown signs of becoming a very good NBA player. Chicago's Dave Johnson is just one more Orangeman to play in the big leagues.

2. Dean Smith's **North Carolina** alumni alone could have contended for the NBA Championship until Michael Jordan hung up his Nikes. Still, an ex-Tar Heel starting five of James Worthy (Lakers) & Sam Perkins (Sonics) at forward, Brad Daugherty (Cavaliers) at center, and Hubert Davis (Knicks) & Kenny Smith (Rockets) at guard would win quite a few games. Coming off the bench you have Scott Williams (three championships with the Bulls), the Celtic's Rick Fox. *see NBA Prep pg. 10*



Sportstalk

Chris Jones



Matt Westphal is aiming at qualifying for the NCAA's in the 400 individual medley.

Hyun-Ho Han/Rebel Yell

Westphal a renaissance man for Swimmin' Rebels

BY JULIE MROZIAK
STAFF WRITER

Tough, cocky, hard-working, inspirational and reliable. This is how UNLV swim team members and coaches use to describe Matt Westphal.

Westphal is the lone senior on the men's swim team and according to Coach Jim Reitz, his maturity and experience provide leadership for the team.

Westphal is a native of Olympia, Wash. and is majoring in computer science engineering. He swims the individual medley events as well as middle distance freestyle. However, his versatility in many events allows him to swim wherever the team needs him, Reitz said.

He has been coached by assistant Bill Saxton for the last two

seasons. Saxton described Westphal as a silent leader.

"He leads by example. He doesn't say much, but his hard work is reflected on the rest of the team," Saxton said.

Teammates agree he is an inspiration to swim with.

"He gets on me and makes me swim harder," sophomore Bill Gay said. "If I'm slacking off in workouts he'll get in my face and yell at me to get moving."

Coach Saxton is pleased with Westphal's training so far this season. He said that Westphal has a good shot at making the NCAA's in the 400 individual medley.

"He's really come around in the last year. He's progressed right along the path we want him to. We just have to keep him healthy," Saxton said.

Westphal suffered a back in-

jury last season which kept him out of a great deal of early season training. Despite his injury, Westphal bounced back to win his first Big West Conference title in the 200 individual medley.

Along with an individual conference title last season, Westphal swam legs on the first place 800 freestyle relay and the second place 400 freestyle relay. Both relays finished in school record times.

Westphal's full beard, long hair and flannel shirts, have earned him the nickname "Mountain Man" by his teammates.

"He looks intimidating to other people on the team and to his competitors. Also, he really doesn't like to lose both in practice and in meets," senior Audra Martin said.

In his spare time Westphal can usually be found fixing a *see Westphal pg. 10*

Desert Classic tips off this weekend

BY SCOTT GULBRANSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Rebels will take to the floor this weekend in the 7Up Desert Classic at UNLV's South Gym.

Coming in to challenge the Lady Rebels are Tennessee Tech, Villanova, and Colorado State.

Tennessee Tech is the strongest of all the competitors coming to Las Vegas this weekend. The Golden Eaglettes were 22-7 in the 1992-93 season and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. This season, the Golden Eaglettes are 1-0 after beating the Saluki's of Southern Illinois 69-67.

Colorado State is coming off a less than spectacular season, finishing under the .500 mark, 14-15.

The Rams are 1-0 after defeating Southern Utah 78-60 last week.

Villanova will tip off their season at the Desert Classic. The Wildcats finished 15-13 last season.

UNLV has played Villanova and Colorado State once each winning both contests. Tennessee Tech holds a 2-0 advantage over the Lady Rebels. They last played during the 1983-84 season with Tennessee Tech winning that one, 63-59.

The Lady Rebels are heading into their 14th Desert Classic having captured the championship eight times. They have won five of the last six titles.

UNLV won the 1992 tournament defeating Alabama-Birmingham, 80-65, in the final game. Trudie Hoppood was named the

tourney MVP with a total of 38 points.

Following the 7Up Desert Classic, UNLV travels to Loyola Marymount on Dec. 11 and Pepperdine the following day. The Lady Rebels next play at home in the Showboat Shootout, Dec. 21-22.

Classic Schedule

Friday, 5:30 p.m.

Colorado St. vs. Tennessee Tech

Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Villanova vs. UNLV