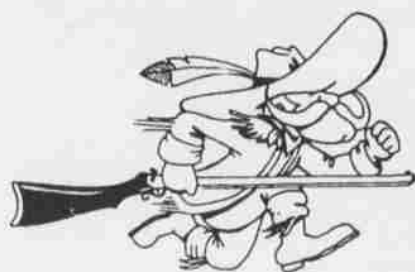


## SPORTS

REBEL  
YELL

"Great sport begins at a point where it has ceased to be healthy."  
—Bertolt Brecht

## Dear Santa...

Few things can wreck a Christmas like an unwanted gift. A gift so terrible that no matter how hard you try to like it, it just won't stop from ruining your mood (fruitcake is a good example). Yet nothing in the world can cause one to smile like finding that special gift you *really* wanted under the tree on Christmas morning.

Keeping with the spirit of Christmas, this column is dedicated to some gifts, both wanted and unwanted, that local sports fans could receive this holiday season.

•Bad gift No.1 is ESPN 2. Although ESPN can barely fill 24 hours of daily programming without delving into the ranks of Pro Beach Volleyball, motocross, and sport fishing, ESPN 2 is on the way. Cable viewers will get a second all-sports network, complete with additional coverage of arena football, roller hockey, pig farming, and any other "sports" they can find to fill up their schedule. Worst of all, "Sportsnight," the networks' evening wrap-up show which features Keith Olberman in black leather, ex-MTV annoyance "Downtown" Julie Brown, and the quick-editing style of a bad music video, is seen daily for *three* hours. This gift will arrive to cable subscribers Dec. 15. God help us all.

•Anything related to Michael Jordan is always a popular item, but didn't he say he was retiring from basketball to get out of the limelight? If that's the case, why has he been on every television show from "Oprah Winfrey" to "Beavis and Butt-Head"? He has also released a new book, a new line of Air Jordans and will appear on another Wheaties box in the next few weeks. He's doing such a poor job of being a regular non-celebrity that it's as if he never went away from sports in the first

place. Unless he dies, fans should never have to hear his name on television, the radio, or in print again - he's no longer a newsmaker. A moratorium on MJ stories would be the best present of all.

•One of the worst gifts would be having the Buffalo Bills in another Super Bowl. Please, please don't give us that again. Anything but having the greatest modern team of chokers ruin another Super Sunday by getting blown out. Three straight years is enough.

•A nice present will be unwrapped with the arrival of spring. When the winter finally ends, students at UNLV will get to visit the brand new Earl E. Wilson baseball stadium. The Hustlin' Rebels' new home looks great already, even though it won't be finished for another month. When complete, UNLV baseball fans will have one of the best stadiums for college baseball in the country.

•UNLV would like nothing more than to see the Thomas & Mack Center filled to capacity once again. It's amazing how many of the once "die-hard" Rebel fans have disappeared in the last two years. For the sake of the basketball program, which is the lifeblood of all UNLV athletics, fans in the community should support the Rebels by attending games. To help make this possible, pick up some tickets to UNLV basketball games as stocking stuffers.

•As a group gift, perhaps we should all chip in and get the Rebels some new uniforms. Who designed those stupid shiny triangle shorts? It's a good thing we aren't allowed to play all of our games on TV. The fewer people who see them, the better.



Sportstalk

Chris  
Jones

## Rebels A&amp;Mbushed in Texas

UNLV blows 16-point lead to Aggies, now 0-2.

BY PAUL GUTIERREZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time since the 1972-73 season, the UNLV men's basketball team has dropped its first two games of the season.

Wednesday night's 68-62 loss at Texas A&M made that possible.

"They played great in the second half," UNLV assistant coach Jay Wright said of the host Aggies, "and we didn't."

"We didn't make the adjustments we wanted to in the second half."

The Rebels started hot, grabbing a game-high 16-point lead, 27-11, in the first half. The Aggies went on a run to close the gap to 33-26 but UNLV eventually built its lead up to 41-28 at the half.

That's when the roof caved in for the Rebels.

Texas A&M went on a 26-10 run, eventually taking the lead.

The last Rebel lead would be with 4:15 remaining in the game on a Reggie Manuel score, 57-56. Patrick Savoy left the game injured with about two minutes remaining.

Though the Rebels started hot, they finished cold, converting only 8-of-25 from the field in the second half. The Rebels also made half of their free-throws, 11-22, while the Aggies were 16-22.

Texas A&M outrebounded the Rebels, 45-30.

Manuel paced the Rebel offense with 17 points while Lawrence Thomas scored 16. Clayton Johnson added 10 points and both Savoy and Dedan Thomas pitched in seven points apiece. Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith scored four points and Brian Heccevar added a free-throw.

Going back to last season, the Rebels have lost four consecutive games and eight of their last 13.

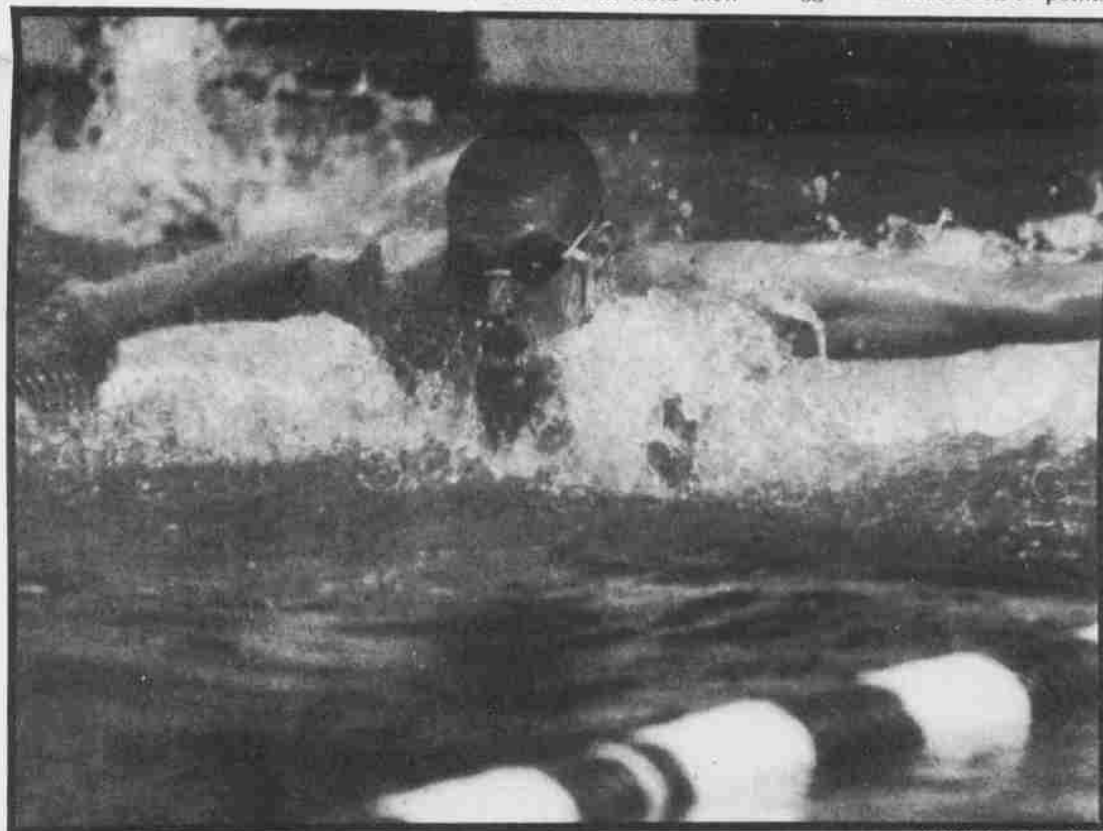
## Rebel Rumblings

The Rebels will hold their

longest home stand of the year over the winter break. Loyola Marymount will visit Dec. 18 followed by Vermont Dec. 21. Late additions Eastern Kentucky and Adelphi will be at the Thomas & Mack Center Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 and Virginia will be here Jan. 3 in an ESPN-televised game.



Reggie Manuel scored 17 points.



Nick Haley/Rebel Yell

Bob Smale and the rest of the UNLV swim team will host their annual fundraiser this weekend.

## Swimmin' Rebels set for all-nighter

BY JULIE MROZIAK  
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV Rebel swim team will be putting in overtime in the pool this weekend. The swimmers are holding their annual fundraiser. They are not selling candy bars or baked goods either. The Rebel swimmers are doing what they do best - swim.

Both the men's and women's swim teams are having a 24-hour marathon relay to raise money for travel and equipment.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, a Rebel swimmer will enter the water and begin the quest to break the 80-mile barrier before 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The team will be divided into

groups of four to eight people and swim for three hour shifts. Each group will swim a continuous relay until the next one takes over. According to head coach Jim Reitz, it is tradition that the freshmen swimmers get the graveyard shifts.

Sophomore Bill Gay volunteered to take his shift in the middle of the night to swim a continuous 10,000 yards. According to team members, Reitz made the suggestion jokingly, but Gay jumped at the chance.

It will take Gay about two hours to complete the distance which is equivalent to almost six miles. In reference, Gay will be swimming the distance from the MGM Grand to Circus-Circus and back.

Gay's record distance at one

time is 5,000 yards, but he is optimistic about the challenge of completing 10,000 yards.

"I've never gone that far at once and I thought it would be fun to try it," Gay said.

Over the past few weeks the team members have been busy getting sponsors for the event. People have made pledges per mile and straight donations. The team set goals for each member to raise at least \$200 in hope of raising a total of \$10,000. The team will not know the total funds raised until the marathon is completed and all money collected.

Reitz said that contributions are still being accepted. For more information contact the UNLV swim team office at 895-3636.

## Fraser leads track team

Dennis, Sowerby named to coach national teams.

UNLV's women's track and field team entered the indoor season last Saturday at the All-Comers Meet in Norman, Oklahoma.

The Lady Rebels took a 14-woman squad to the six-team event and won five of 10 races.

"It was a bright beginning," assistant coach Fred Sowerby said. "We know where we're at and where we want to be."

Sophomore sprinter Judy Fraser picked up where she left off

last spring, in first place. Fraser won the 200-meters with a time of 25.41 and also the 400-meter race with a time of 55.97. She also contributed to the victorious mile-relay team, whose 3:46.48 was a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championships. Senior Latrice Dendy, Jean Fletcher and sophomore Cheryl Allen made up the rest of the quartet.

The 800-meters belonged to UNLV as Fletcher placed first with a 2:09.35 time and Dendy right behind in second at 2:09.53. Both times were provisional qualifiers for the NCAA's.

see Track pg. 18