

**Coming Thursday,**  
**UNLV tennis hosts**  
**invitational**

# SPORTS



## Fans left in the cold in February

### Sports Talk

By Chris Jones

For most sports fans in Las Vegas, February is a funk month.

Football season is over, major league baseball is still a few weeks away, the NBA playoffs, where the real games take place, don't start until late April and the NHL is merely skating out the stretch until its postseason begin.

There's always college basketball. But, unlike years past, you have to turn on a television to see a good team play. After months of watching sports at home, many feel it's time to get out and see some sporting events in person.

Unfortunately, that's not as easy as it sounds.

The local sports scene hasn't offered much lately. The Runnin' Rebels are running on empty, both on the court and on the schedule. An 0-4 road trip all but killed what little fan interest was still around and the team's lack of an identity won't bring in any new fans.

The next two home contests promise more boredom as conference doormats Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine come to the Thomas & Mack Center. One can only imagine how little Las Vegas will care about the team by the time the city hosts the Big West Conference tournament in mid-March.

UNLV's other (and better) basketball team, the Lady Rebels, is playing great, but their schedule has only one home game (last Thursday's 83-50 win over Reno) between Jan. 22 to Feb. 25. It's tough for any team to develop a consistent fan base when they don't play at home for extended periods of time, regardless of how well they are playing.

The UNLV baseball season is underway but until the weather improves, you have to be an eskimo or a die-hard fan to sit through nine innings at chilly Wilson Stadium. The winds make it uncomfortable to stay warm once the sun starts to set. For the sake of the players and fans, spring can't come too soon.

Coach Shan McDonald's UNLV softball team has once again earned a pre-season ranking, but they too will suffer poor attendance due to the less-than-perfect weather at the start of the season. On top of that, they don't begin their home schedule until Feb. 22 when the team hosts Utah State.

Swimming and diving season is over but few cared that it ever started. UNLV golf is underway, but golf is not a spectator sport.

So what's left for sports fans? A few tennis matches, including this coming weekend's UNLV Invitational, intramural basketball, and the Las Vegas Thunder.

Maybe staying home isn't such a bad idea, after all.



Byron Klemaske

## Byron blows 'em away

By PAUL GUTIERREZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a matter of pride. Byron Klemaske was, after all, throwing against his hometown school. And he wanted to show his coach that he belonged in the starting rotation.

The senior right-hander made his point clear Sunday by throwing a three-hitter and striking out a career-high 14 batters in leading the UNLV baseball team to a rubber match 4-1 victory over San Diego State at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

"I was surprised in the ninth inning," said Klemaske, who went to San Diego's Mt. Carmel High. "My arm felt just as strong as in the first inning. I just wanted to show that I could be in the starting rotation. I hope I made an impression."

Klemaske gave up just one in the final seven innings and the run given up was unearned.

The Rebels unleashed on Aztec pitching Sunday with 12 hits. Stacy Kleiner, Hank Crosby, Justin Halper, Brian Anthony and Travis McClendon had two base hits apiece with Crosby,

Halper, Nick Kuster and Teddy Foster picking up RBI's.

San Diego State drew first blood with a solo run in the first but the hosts answered with two in the home half of the first. The Rebels scored single runs in the fifth and eighth innings.

UNLV stranded 13 runners on base and SDSU left six.

### Friday

#### Rebels 17, Aztecs 10

The Rebels outlasted SDSU the Aztecs en route to their first victory of the season.

John Coats tied the game in the fourth inning with a two-run home run at 6-all before adding seven more runs in the fifth.

Coats and Kleiner had three hits apiece. Freshman pitcher Nate Yeskie was credited with the win.

### Saturday

#### Aztecs 7, Rebels 0

UNLV stranded eight runners in the six-hit shutout loss to SDSU.

Brian Anthony and Travis McClendon both went 2-for-3 to lead the Rebels.

The Nos. 7, 8, and 9 batters for SDSU collected 10 of the visitors' hits.

## Lady Rebels ravage Reno



Hyun-Ho Han/Rebel Yell

Tracy Titus and Iris Dinnerman fight for a rebound Thursday.

## UNLV destroys 'Pack by 33 points, remains BWC's top gun.

By CHRIS JONES  
STAFF WRITER

Going into last Thursday's game against Nevada, the UNLV women's basketball team had never lost to the Wolf Pack Women. The Lady Rebels were a perfect 10-0 against their in-state rivals from the north.

Make that 11-0.

Playing their first home game

in close to three weeks, the Lady Rebels rolled to an 83-50 victory over the 'Pack in front of a crowd of 431 in the South Gym.

UNLV head coach Jim Bolla saw his team move to 16-3 overall, 11-1 in Big West Conference action. UNLV jumped out to an early 8-0 lead on a jump shot by Cherie Hogg and two three-pointers by point guard Gwynn Hobbs.

After gaining the early lead, UNLV turned up the pressure with a full court trapping defense. The Lady Rebels forced 14 turnovers and snagged 10 steals in the half.

UNLV shot 59 percent from the floor in the first half. The steals

see Lady pg. 6

## Rebel Revelations

—compiled by sports staff

### Men's tennis splits weekend trip

Roger Pettersson, ranked No. 13 in the nation, gave the UNLV men's tennis team its lone victory against No. 2 Stanford Friday as the Rebels fell, 6-1.

But they bounced back Saturday to defeat California, 5-2. Pettersson, Doug Geiwald, Matt Rivera and Luke Smith won singles matches. Doubles teams of Pettersson-Geiwald and Rivera-Tim Blenkinson also won for UNLV.

The Rebels host the UNLV Invitational this weekend.

### Women's tennis sweeps homestand

The UNLV women's tennis team began the 1994 campaign with a shutout of UC Irvine Friday.

All six Rebel singles players won in straight sets with No. 1 Marianne Vallin winning, 6-0, 6-1. Also winning were Shiera Stuart, Suzi Agassi, Rebecca Markosian, Rachel Clark and Ljiljana Kordic.

The Lady Rebels then defeated Nevada Saturday, 6-3, with Vallin, Stuart, Clark and Kordic winning singles matches. Vallin-Clark and Stuart-Janelle Barr won doubles matches.

And on Sunday, UNLV stayed undefeated with a 5-1 win against Wichita State.

The Lady Rebels are at Stanford today and host Idaho State Feb. 25.

### Fletcher sets mark in Nebraska

Jean Fletcher highlighted the Husker Invitational for the UNLV indoor track team by setting a school record in winning the 800-meters in 2:08.18. The time broke her own record. Fletcher had already provisionally qualified for the NCAA Indoor Nationals but teammate Latricia Dendy also

provisionally qualified in 2:10.22.

The Sprintin' Lady Rebels compete in the Miller Lite Invitational Saturday in Flagstaff, Ariz.

### Rider wins NBA dunk contest

Former Runnin' Rebel turned prophet Isaiah (J.R.) Rider backed up his draft day prediction by winning the slam dunk contest Saturday as part of the NBA's All-Star weekend. The Minnesota Timberwolves' guard advanced to the three-man finals against Seattle Supersonic Shawn Kemp and Denver Nugget Robert Pack. Rider called his winning dunk, which he brought under his leg and reverse jammed it, "The East Bay Funk."

### Fourth annual Jam Session slated

The fourth annual Jam Session will be held Saturday in the Thomas & Mack Center from noon to 2:30 p.m.

Finalists of the slam dunk contest will show their stuff during halftime of the UNLV-UC Irvine game that night.

Slam Dunk contestants will have a choice of a 9- or 10-foot hoop and will be judged on athletic ability, creativity and style.

The 3-point shooting contest will again be held with one change - participants now will have 35 seconds to compete.

An entry fee of \$10 benefits the American Heart Association. Each entrant will receive a free t-shirt. First place finishers will receive \$100 gift certificates while second and third place winners will each receive \$50 gift certificates.

Jam Session is sponsored by Sprint First Source Phone Book and KVBC-Channel 3.

Registration is at 11:30 a.m. on the day of the event and participants must be 18 years and over. For more information, call 895-0822.