

## Commentary

# The Best and Worst of Challenge Cup '94

They never gave a trophy to the Edmonton Oilers, but they should have.

The Oilers were the only team to win both their games in the Las Vegas Thunder's inaugural NHL Challenge Cup at the Thomas & Mack Center last weekend.

The Oilers defeated the Boston Bruins 3-1 Friday and the Thunder 6-4 Saturday to capture a nonexistent Cup. The Chicago Blackhawks defeated Las Vegas 5-4 Thursday and tied the Bruins 3-3 Saturday.

The Thunder, part of the International Hockey League, was the only team to lose both its games. Despite the loss to Chicago and Edmonton, Las Vegas played well, and should be one of the top IHL teams again.

In case you missed all or part of the hockey extravaganza, here's the best and worst from last weekend.

### Best Game

Saturday's Boston-Chicago 3-3 tie had it all. Hard hits, good goaltending, quality goals and a near-fight between Bruins' rookie goaltender Blaine Lacher and Blackhawks center Bernie Nichols.

The only thing missing was a goal with a second left in overtime. But to see Boston's Ray Bourque beat Chicago goaltender Ed Belfour with a slap shot from the slot in the first period, there isn't much to complain about.

### Worst Moments

Two songs played over the public address system earned this. Why "Whoomp! There it is!" is still played after every Thunder goal is beyond me.

I'd rather hear an air raid siren or a foghorn or something else more traditional. I'd even settle for "Viva Las Vegas."

You couldn't escape it when Las Vegas wasn't playing. This sad excuse for music was also played whenever an NHL team scored in the two exhibitions.

Hockey is a rock-and-roll sport. Whoever is responsible for this doesn't realize hockey and hip-hop go as well together as Rosanne and the national anthem.

Also, in this era of political correctness, why is "YMCA" so popular? This other sad excuse for music is about staying overnight at a YMCA, like the homeless do.



JOHN SANTANA

I guess it's okay for people to have a little fun at the expense of the shelter-deprived.

### Best

#### Goaltending Performance

Bill Ranford of the Oilers stopped 35 shots, including 18 in the first period, in their 3-1 win over

Boston.

Ranford had plenty of great saves, including one on a Bourque slap shot from about 35 feet out. And he didn't give in during several Bruin flurries from in close.

No wonder the Oilers, who have missed the playoffs two straight years, gave him a new one year contract rather than lose him to free agency.

### Worst Check

In the first period of Thursday's game, Nichols went for an open ice hip check on puck-carrying Thunder center Radek Bonk.

Bonk made Nichols, entering his 13th NHL season, spin around thanks to a nifty move to avoid the center's ice check.

### Biggest Disappointment

Numerous stars didn't dress for the Challenge Cup games. Chicago's Jeremy Roenick didn't make the trip because his wife was due to deliver their first child. Cam Neely and Al Iafrate also sat out both games for Boston.

Others sat out one of the two games their team played. The Oilers' Shayne Corson and Jason Arnott sat out Friday and Saturday, respectively. Chicago's Dirk Graham and Gary Suter did the same.

Manon Rheaume, the female goaltender who was supposed to start for Las Vegas Saturday, pulled her groin muscle in practice Saturday morning and didn't play.

### Most Confusing

#### Get-Together

The Challenge Cup brought together four of the six Sutter brothers who played in the NHL.

Brent and Rich are forwards for the Blackhawks. Older brother Darryl is Chicago's head coach, while Brian coaches the Bruins.

As for the remaining Sutters, Duane coaches the Blackhawks' IHL affiliate in Indianapolis, while Ron plays for the New York Islanders.

Keep in mind the Blackhawks also have Suter, a defenseman.

—John Santana is a sports writer at The Rebel Yell.

# From the Murky Waters

## Intramurals: Wendy Saxton wins fourth straight Oozeball Championship

BY KEVIN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

The Fourth Annual UNLV Oozeball Tournament was held Saturday under clear skies in four muddy pits at the UNLV Intramurals field.

The event was sponsored by UNLV Intramurals, the Student Alumni Association, KLUC-FM, United Gaming, and Alpha Graphics.

The 64-team tournament began in the early morning hours and finally climaxed with an interesting finals that crowned

Straight Down, last year's winner, as champions of mud volleyball over Down and Dirty.

The victors were boosted by the spirited play of veteran Wendy Saxton, who won her fourth straight Oozeball championship.

"I've been playing volleyball for seven years with organized competition in high school tournaments," she said while resting up for the finals competition. "We enjoy playing together as a team. That helps."

The squad of Lion Heart was led by Danny Kalkantzakos. Their confidence grew with each victory and seemed poised to dethrone the champions.

"If you want it, go get it. That's all," Kalkantzakos said while climbing out of the murky waters after winning six straight matches. "I told these guys we would win it all, so here we go."

They were eliminated by Down

and Dirty after leading 6-0, and lost the match 11-6.

Straight Down sloshed in the mud to seven straight victories and the crown with the team effort of Brad Packer, Tait Rafat, Drake McMillen, Carrie Walters, Donna Gentry and Saxton.

This squad seemed to play at the level of its competitors, building commanding leads before falling into a couple of lapses. Their final competition, Down And Dirty, consisted of Kevin Covell, Ken Kesick, Steve Huesch, Tina Taschler, Kathy Taschler and Jim Metzger.

The original creation of this unusual sport is not known, but the UNLV Oozeball tournament format was created with encouragement from the University of California Santa Barbara, the University of Rhode Island, and Michigan State University alumni offices, who all hold annual tournaments.

## Lady Rebels Third in Aloha State

The UNLV cross country team placed third in last weekend's Hawaii Invitational with a score of 78 points.

The University of Portland won the meet with a score of 29 points.

Sophomore Usila Chepkemboi paced the Lady Rebels with a sixth place finish in 19 minutes, 28.68 seconds.

Senior Julie Crooks finished 14th with a time of 20:19.49 and

sophomore Katie Durham was 15th in 20:21.27.

Other finishers were Sarah Feliz (19th, 21:01.63) and Amy Carling (24th, 21:27.31).

The Lady Rebels will be competing in the Stanford Invitational this weekend before hosting the UNLV Invitational Oct. 8 at Silver Springs Park in Henderson.

—Paul Gutierrez

### Hawaii Invitational Team Results

1. Portland	29
2. Hawaii	61
3. UNLV	78
4. Hawaii Pacific	119
5. St. Mary's	125

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## Utah

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"We shouldn't have let it get as close as it did," said Davis, who later led UNLV on a 94-yard drive on 14 plays, topping it off with a one-yard sneak for the score and a successful two-point conversion pass that gave the Rebels a 20-7 lead.

"It bothers us that we got the ball inside the red zone early and didn't punch it in. It's something we need to work on."

The Rebels' offensive line opened holes for DeJohn Branch and Omar Love, which allowed Davis, 19-of-33, for 192 yards, taking the burden off of his receiving corps.

Gatewood, leading the nation in receiving, played under double coverage and managed just five receptions for 56 yards. Henry Bailey left the game late in the third quarter with a dislocated left finger and only one catch.

"To beat the champions in their own back yard is a big win," UNLV coach Jeff Horton said. "Even though we didn't finish off some of our drives, I'm pleased with the progress we're making on offense. The kids believe in it and we'll get better."

UNLV had not won at Romney Stadium since 1984. Utah State is also the defending Big West and Las Vegas Bowl champion, having beaten Ball State last December.