

## Commentary

### Perception and Reality

Rollie Massimino likes to talk about perception and reality.

It was a point he made painfully clear when he addressed a sports journalism class on campus in late 1992.

He talked about being truthful, fair and honest. About being young

reporters in a world where telling the truth was more important than getting the scoop. He never talked about being hypocritical.

He was, after all, preparing to begin his first season as successor to Jerry Tarkanian, college basketball's all-time winningest coach percentage-wise, and the task ahead was immense.

Too immense, some would say. Nobody was going to replace Tark, who was and still is seen by many in the community as a demigod. Massimino should have come in and played the man-of-the-people role to a hilt and been gracious to the public. His personality ranged from endearing to repulsive. The image of Massimino being the savior of Runnin' Rebel basketball was picked up across the nation, though Massimino shied away from it.

But former President Robert Maxson wanted Massimino so badly for his image that he did something wrong and unethical to get him - the secret supplemental contract.

That's not to say Massimino didn't have his moments.

Anyone who was around for the Rebels' thrashing of Georgetown in a sold out Thomas & Mack Center in January of 1993 will tell you that Massimino's tenure as coach here peaked with that game.

It was UNLV's first national television appearance since the 1991 Final Four loss to Duke, and the Rebels made the most of it. J.R. Rider became a household name and the phrase "Jerry who?" was uttered more than once.

That all came crashing down less than three months later with the Rider academic controversy and Massimino's handling of it.

"I had a problem with Coach Mass for a very short time," Rider, the No. 5 overall pick in the 1993 NBA draft said, after being accused of academic fraud. "When all the controversy happened,

Please see Corner—21



In This Corner

PAUL GUTIERREZ

## Cardiac Kids

### Football: Defensive stand allows offense to drive for game-winner

BY KEVIN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

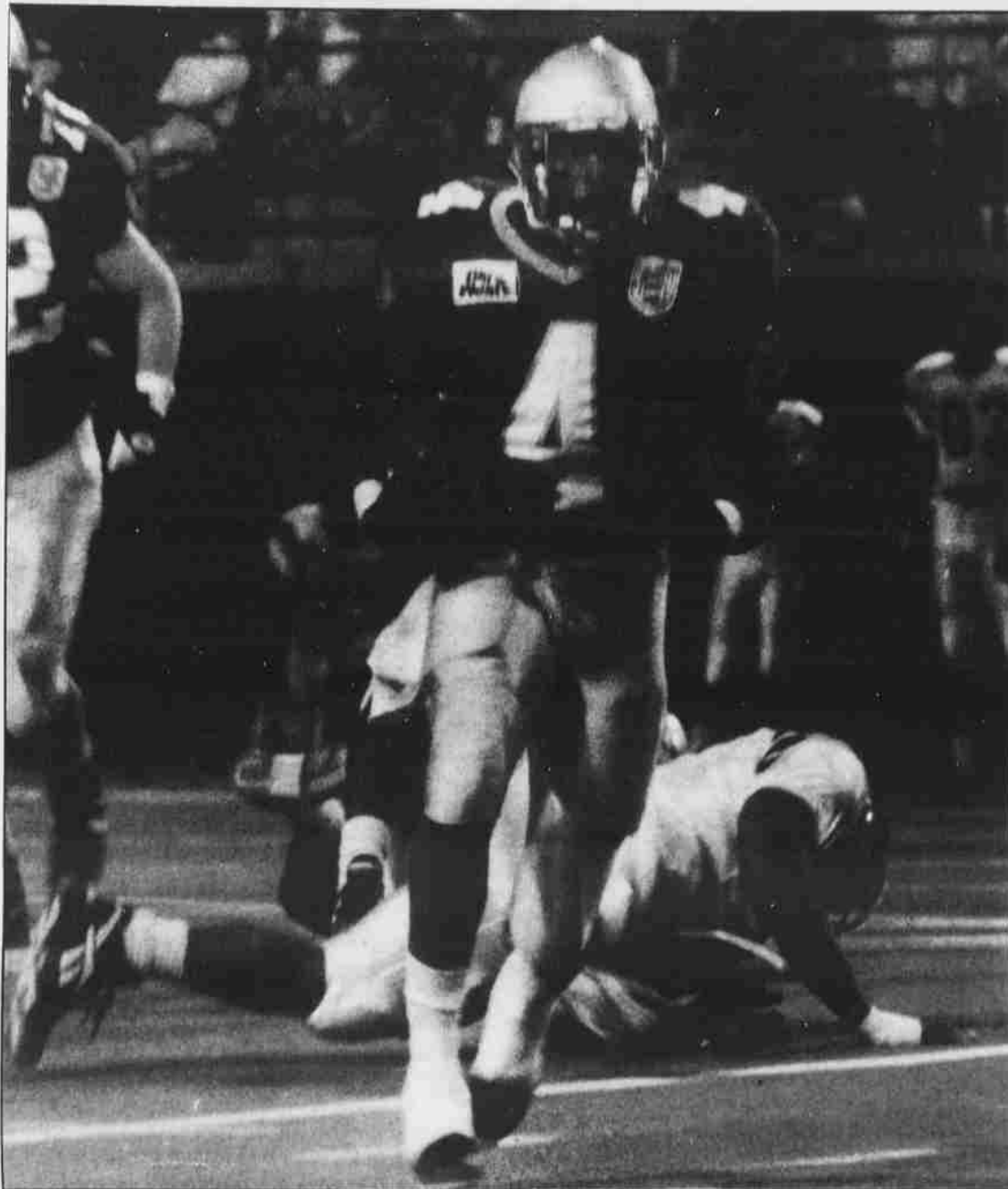
Trailing 20-17 late in the fourth quarter to visiting Louisiana Tech, the Rebels made their third straight game-saving defensive stand to help pull out a 24-20 victory Saturday.

The Homecoming win, before 10,358 fans at Sam Boyd Stadium, keeps UNLV paced with arch rival Nevada, both tied for first place at 3-0 in the Big West Conference race.

With their narrow lead, the Bulldogs called on their big full-back Jason Cooper, who finished with 197 yards on 44 carries, to put the Rebels away with 3:33 left in the game. But UNLV's defensive unit allowed the work-horse zero yards in three efforts and forced Tech to punt.

"Our guys believe in the no-dogs-down theory," UNLV coach Jeff Horton said. "They came back and made some big plays when we needed to. I knew I could bank on our defense to stop them."

Please see Louisiana—20



Omar Love gained 93 yards on 16 carries Saturday night.

PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

## Rebs Face Golden Hurricane

BY KEVIN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER



The Throwin' Rebels invade the state of Oklahoma Saturday for the first time ever

to play a non-conference game against Tulsa at Skelly Stadium. The Golden Hurricane, 1-4



Please see Tulsa—21

## Crooks Leads Lady Rebels at Invitational

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Julie Crooks

The Lady Rebels cross country team, led by Julie Crooks, finished fourth in the UNLV Invitational at Silver Springs Park in Henderson Saturday.

Crooks finished third in the race, completing the five-kilometer course in 18 minutes, 52 seconds.

Coach Karen Dennis was pleased with the team's performance, considering that UNLV's leading runner, junior Usila Chepkemboi, had to sit out the race due to a foot injury.

"I thought our team ran well," Dennis said. "We ran tough. We just aren't a full squad right now. When you miss your front-runner like we missed Chep today, it makes a big difference. I think it would have made a total difference in the results had she not been injured and been

Please see Crooks—19



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD

Ubusuku Abukusumo beats an Irvine player Sunday.

## Another Week, Another Split

### Soccer: UNLV blanked by UCLA, beats UCI

BY STEVE SEELIG  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"We can't buy a goal." That's how UNLV soccer coach Barry Barto described the Rebels' season, and its erratic offense, which tied a school record in be-

ing shut out for the sixth time this season.

Even worse than watching summer re-runs, the Rebels split the weekend again, losing to UCLA 3-0 Friday, and defeating UC Irvine Sunday, 3-1.

Ironically, the Anteaters handed the Bruins their only loss of the season.

The Rebels were dealt a big loss when midfielder P.J. Roberts went down in the game against UCLA.

Please see Soccer—18