

**Commentary**

## The Forgotten Ones

Only at UNLV. Where else in the nation could the events of the past two weeks happen and it be seen as business as usual? Things like forcing out a determined basketball coach, practice beginning without a coach and players being left in the dark.



PAUL GUTIERREZ

Only at UNLV. While programs at other schools across the nation were celebrating Midnight Madness and the official start of college basketball season this past Friday night on ESPN, UNLV was busy runnin' Rollie Massimino out of town and holding a press conference to announce it to the free world.

It was a far different scene from a scant two seasons ago, when Massimino, in his inaugural campaign as Rebel coach, held his own brand of Midnight Madness at the Thomas & Mack Center on Halloween (practice began Nov. 1 then). Celebrities, ranging from Tommy Lasorda and the late Jimmy Valvano to the Phoenix Suns' Gorilla, made appearances at what Massimino called "a total team effort," adding that he felt "very sure about this becoming an exciting annual event."

It didn't. Alleged schedule conflicts with the Las Vegas Thunder of the International Hockey League nixed the event a year ago, and UNLV's version of Midnight Madness was the conference announcing Massimino as the former coach this year.

Caught in the middle of this mess for what's seems forever have been the players, the student-athletes. Some would say the players were slighted in the entire process.

"Honestly, that's how I feel about it," said senior forward Patrick Savoy. "Nobody said anything about the players. Or what's going to happen to the players or nothing like that. All they were worried about was getting coach out of here without worrying about what's going to happen to us or how our season's going to turn out."

The timing of recent events has left Rebel players in a state of confusion. "It's been real rough with all the controversy

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# Players Want Gerg

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The players have spoken. According to Channel 8 News, President Kenny Guinn's decision to not hire former UNLV assistant Tim Grgurich as the new men's head basketball coach was met with disgust by Rebel players.

"Everybody always talks about how they care about us, but obviously it seems they don't care too much about us," said junior guard/forward Clayton Johnson. "Everybody else in the country is practicing except us. We don't even have a coach. And we have a coach who wants to take the job, but now they act like they don't want to give it to him. So therefore, I feel that right now we're the only ones getting screwed out of this whole situation."

Guinn's announcement came after the sudden resignation of Director of Athletics Jim Weaver. Guinn said that UNLV would instead, hire an interim head



Tim Grgurich

coach and look for a permanent replacement after the 1994-95 season.

According to senior guard Reggie Manuel, the last remaining member of Jerry Tarkanian's

tenure as head coach, the players are going to Guinn to demand that Grgurich be hired.

"Yes, we did that today," Manuel said. "And if that's what it takes, we'll do that (Thursday) morning to let him know that's who we feel comfortable with. And we want Tim Gerg to be our coach."

Junior guard Lawrence Thomas expressed his frustration over the entire situation.

"It's a shame," Thomas said. "They should be more professional with what they're doing. We, as a team, are ready to start practicing and get ready for the upcoming season, and we still have no coach."

Junior center Kebu Stewart, the 1993-94 Big West Conference Most Outstanding Player, said the team's consensus choice was Grgurich.

"I think he is the best person who fits this job right now," Stewart said. "And that's where our hearts are at this moment."

## Basketball Ticket Sales Continue to Surge

BY JOHN SANTANA  
STAFF WRITER

Sales of season tickets for UNLV basketball have not slowed down since former coach Rollie Massimino accepted a buyout offer Friday.

Andy Bischel, of athletic development, said that calls for scholarship season tickets are still coming in to the athletic development office at "a steady flow."

"We can't get off the phone to enter the requests," Bischel said Tuesday. "I have a stack of them on my desk."

At Friday's news confer-

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# Riley, Rebels Get First Win of Season

Golf: UNLV wins U.S.-Japan Intercollegiate

BY JOHN SANTANA  
STAFF WRITER

Although Japan may lead the world in technology, it definitely did not lead the U.S. on the golf course last Thursday.

Three UNLV golfers had below-par final rounds, leading the third-ranked Rebels to a win in the U.S.-Japan Intercollegiate in Tanaguramachi, Japan.

The three below-par final rounds helped UNLV shoot a 14-under-par 274 to overcome second round leader Stanford. The Cardinal, the defending NCAA champions and top-ranked team in the *Golf Week* poll, had a five-stroke lead, but finished third after shooting a 5-over-par 293 as a team.

"It was a great last round," UNLV coach Dwaine Knight said. "It was one of the best rounds we've played as a team, but the

last round tends to be our best round."

UNLV's win marked the first time since 1989 that Nihon University failed to win the tournament. Nihon, Japan's 1994 student champion, finished second. The win was the Rebels' first in three tournaments this year.

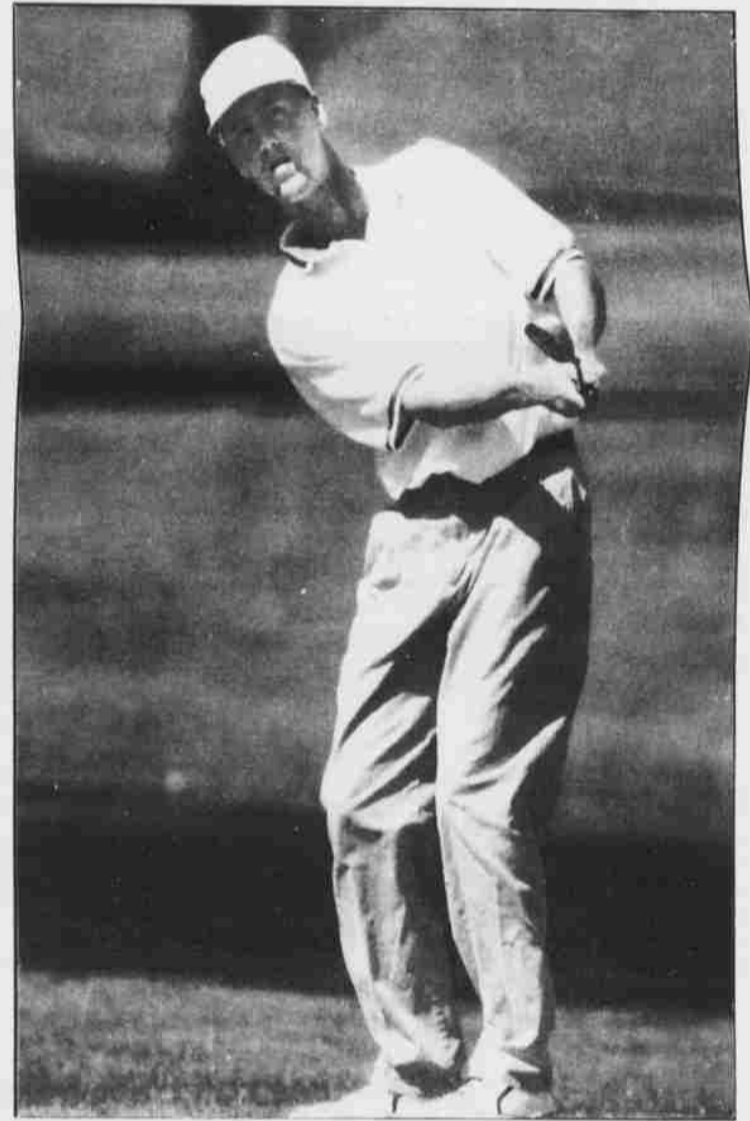
Rebel All-America candidate Chris Riley led UNLV with a final round 3-under-par 69 in winning medalist honors. He finished with a three-round score of 5-under-par 211, two strokes ahead of Jason Walters of Georgia Tech.

Riley, a junior, entered the final round trailing Walters by two strokes, but Walters shot 73 on the final day.

Riley played some of his best golf of the season at the 7,050-yard Tanagura Country Club, shooting 70 and an even-par 72 in the first two rounds.

Riley's final round 69 was only the third best UNLV score from the final round. Sophomore Gilberto Morales had the best score Thursday with a 6-under-par 66. Sophomore Mike Ruiz shot 67 Thursday.

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Chris Riley won individual medalist honors in Japan.

# Tulsa Intercepts Rebel Winning Streak

Football: Fourth quarter woes finally catch up to UNLV

BY KEVIN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

What else can you say? Five fourth quarter interceptions from the Throwin' Rebels rolled Tulsa to a 44-22 non-conference win Saturday, snapping UNLV's three game winning streak before 16,875 fans at Skeely Stadium.

File this loss with the second game of the season against Central Michigan, where the big play

became the enemy.

"We aren't that good of a team where we can put ourselves in the hole like that," Rebel coach Jeff Horton said of his team that is still tied for first place at 3-0 in the Big West Conference with Nevada. "That's what happens sooner or later when you play from behind. I said early in the season that we're not that good a team where we can give up big plays and still expect to win."

The big plays started rolling in after a 19-yard Nick Garritano field goal closed the Golden Hurricane lead to 14-13 with 43 seconds remaining before halftime.

The ensuing kickoff resulted in Tulsa's Jason Jacoby returning for 100 yards and the score.

But the Rebels drove 29 yards

in five plays in just 29 seconds, setting up a career-long tying 52-yard field goal by Garritano. The score pulled UNLV within five, 21-16.

The Rebels had trouble containing Tulsa's elusive 5-8 tailback Solomon White (27 carries for 265 yards), as he raced for a 93-yard touchdown early in the third quarter, giving Tulsa a 28-16 lead.

Although Tulsa outgained UNLV (452 to 274 yards) in total offense the Rebels had plenty of opportunities to take the lead.

"I thought for sure a couple times we had took the momentum from them, but Tulsa kept answering our scores and got that momentum back," Horton said. The Rebels responded to

White's touchdown with Kofi Banks returning the kickoff 51 yards. UNLV then drove 41 yards on eight plays, with Henry Bailey going in to score on a 1-yard touchdown run, slicing Tulsa's lead to 28-22 early in the third quarter.

Rodney Mazion, who returned an interception 32 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter, recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter. He returned it to the Hurricane 23. Disaster followed with quarterback Jared Brown's pass being intercepted by Tulsa's Mike Haenszel at the 3.

"That was a big play for Tulsa," Horton said. "We make a big play to get the lead and then we

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