

# Corner

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surrounding coach," said junior guard Damian Smith. "It's been hectic lately. But our main focus is just playing basketball, whoever the coach may be."

Despite the distractions, junior guard/forward Clayton Johnson said the team has persevered.

"I think the players kept a pretty good frame of mind," he said. "And everybody stuck together. That was the main thing."

All but one player, senior Reggie Manuel, was a Massimino recruit. So it's easy to see why the players are sad to see Daddy Mass leave.

"I wish he could have stayed," Savoy said. "It's my last year. I wish he could have stayed."

Smith had similar sentiments. "It was rough the way he left," Smith said. "That's what disturbed me the most, the way they ran him out of town without feelings towards him."

Massimino said his players had been among his biggest supporters during his turbulent last week here.

"People, like the players that we have had the past two years, have been just outstanding," Massimino said Friday night. "Those are the young men that obviously deserve the most for what they're going to get."

"I have talked with them at length," Massimino said of his former players. "And the two main things I told these young men, 'I want you to stay at UNLV and I want you to get your degree.' That's all I care about. And of course, winning. Try to play as hard as you can and win as many games as you possibly can."

The events of the past two weeks seem like ones that happened in the not too distant past - you know the tale, bitter coach fighting his ouster by the university administration, players caught in the middle and a divided community.

The story is the same. Only the names and faces have changed.

Only at UNLV.

—Paul Gutierrez  
is sports editor  
at The Rebel Yell.

# Golf

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Morales' final round included seven consecutive birdies from the ninth to the 15th holes.

"I think we play a lot of harder courses here in the U.S.," Morales said. "It's a course we could've played low, but fatigue got to us. We adjusted after the second round. Working out and being in shape helped us with the time change."

Morales' final round score pulled him into a tie for eighth at 217 after he shot 76 and 75 the first two rounds.

"I think I hit the ball better in the final round and I got my composure back," Morales said. "I was a little down on myself because I wasn't hitting as good as I expected to hit."

Ruiz likewise had a big jump in the final standings with his final round, tying for fifth with a 1-under-par 215.

UNLV senior Chase Whitaker shot 219 after a final round 72. Junior college transfer Chad Campbell shot 225 for the Rebels.

The Rebels' next competition is the Jerry Pate Intercollegiate in Birmingham, Ala., Monday and Tuesday. In addition to UNLV, Stanford, No. 8 Georgia Tech, and second-ranked Oklahoma State will compete.

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