

# Lady Rebels Show Promise in Tourney Split

## Basketball: Tracy Titus named to all-tourney team

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
STAFF WRITER

Despite displaying both its youth and potential, the UNLV women's basketball team lost Saturday night to Arkansas 88-75.

It still allowed them to finish as a runner-up in the 16th Annual UNLV/7-Up Desert Classic at the South Gym.

The Lady Rebels advanced to the championship game with a 60-59 win over Texas-Arlington Friday night.

UNLV fell behind early Satur-

day when Arkansas ripped off an 11-0 run to make it 11-2. UNLV was never able to get closer than eight as it ended the first half down 48-24.

"I just didn't have them ready," Coach Jim Bolla said. "They didn't really understand what I wanted them to do."

In the second half, UNLV made one short-lived run to trim Arkansas' lead to 55-38 with 16 minutes remaining. But after that, the two teams played evenly.

"I was very satisfied with the second half performance," Bolla said. "We ran the ball, we shot the ball, we played good (defense). We were diving on the floor for loose balls. You can't ask for better than that."

Arkansas' height advantage led to the Lady Rebels being out-rebounded, 43-34. Lady Razor-

back Kimberly Wilson, a sophomore guard, was named tournament MVP.

Wilson scored 20 points, 17 in the first half, to follow her 32-point outburst in Arkansas' 76-75 victory over Pittsburgh Friday night.

"They were big," Bolla said of Arkansas. "When you're starting a 6-foot guard, you've got good size."

In the second half, UNLV overcame Arkansas' height with full-court pressure and great inside play from Tracy Titus, the Big West Player of the Week.

"We have to use our strengths," Bolla said. "Our strengths are going to be quickness, pressure defense, pushing the ball up the floor offensively and not allowing easy shots."

Titus definitely made sure no easy shots were allowed. The senior center blocked 11 shots in the tournament, including a career-high eight in Friday's win. She also scored 38 points and pulled down 22 boards over the two games to make the All-Tournament team.

The rest of the All-Tournament team was made up of Arkansas' Stephanie Bloomer, UTA's Eddie Pierson and Pitt's Jenine Joyce and Stephanie Petho.

Friday's win over UTA came when Gwynn Hobbs hit a 15-foot jump shot with 2.3 seconds left in the game.

"She's our most experienced player and she's been in that situation a bunch of times before," Bolla said. "All we needed to do was run the play and we

had probably three or four different options to score. She chose the right option and made a great shot."

In the first half against UTA, Hobbs was held scoreless as the Lady Rebels shot 31 percent. UNLV shot 54 percent in the second half as Bolla reminded his team to up the tempo.

"We need to run," Bolla said. "We're the Runnin' Rebels. We're not the Walkin' Rebels. And that's what I told them at half-time."

The Lady Rebels travel this weekend to West Lafayette, Ind., to compete in the Boilermaker Classic. UNLV will play Toledo Saturday before playing either No. 13 Purdue or Florida A&M Sunday.

## Lady Rebs Run at NCAA Regionals

The UNLV cross country team finished 11th out of 19 teams in the NCAA Regionals at Arizona recently.

Stanford won the team title with 55 points and qualified four runners to the NCAA Nationals.

UNLV, which finished with 319 points, was led by senior Julie

Crooks. Crooks finished the 5,000-meter course in 18 minutes, 47.5 seconds, 32nd overall. Usila Chepkemboi finished in 19 minutes flat, 45th place. Other UNLV finishers include Katie Durham (19:44, 73rd), Sarah Feliz (20:08, 89th) and Amy Carling (20:46, 106th).

Oregon's Milena Glusac won the individual title in 17:26, six seconds off the course record.

Host Arizona finished second with 73 points and was followed by Oregon (99 pts.), Washington (107) and UCLA (117)

UNLV will begin the outdoor season in January.

## Rebel Riders Ranked Number One

The UNLV rodeo team climbed to No. 1 in the nation after its victory two weekends ago at the University of Arizona Rodeo in Tucson, Ariz.

The Rebel Riders won the two-day event with a total of 565 points, while Central Arizona College finished a distant second with 265 points. The win was unlv's fifth straight of the season, and gave the Rebels an average winning margin of 200 points.

Once again, UNLV was led by

senior Zane Davis. Davis, the top-ranked cowboy in the nation, won his fifth straight all-around title. He also grabbed the bareback and saddle-bronc competitions as he accounted for 260 of UNLV's points.

Not to be overlooked was the effort of junior Beau Gillespie. Gillespie, who is ranked second in the nation, claimed the bull-riding event as he finished 10 points behind Davis for the all-around title.

The Rebels also received help

from their team ropers as freshman Shelby Branin won the first go-round while David Edgmon captured second overall in team roping.

The Lady Rebel Riders finished fifth overall. Senior Lyndee Theobald, ranked fourth nationally in the all-around, finished third in both the goat-tying and breakaway competitions in Tucson.

—Sean DeFrank

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