

Commentary

Will Work for Free

Like any concerned fan, student or alum, Sidney Green has sat by and witnessed first-hand the rise and fall of the UNLV men's basketball program.

And it hurts him.

That's why he recently said he is very interested in returning to UNLV and helping out the program in a coaching capacity.

"I want to extend myself as much as I can," Green said Tuesday, "helping the university in any way, shape or form."

With the opening on Tim Grgurich's staff, created when Howie Landa left to take an administrative post, Green sees an opportunity to step in and lend a helping hand.

"If Coach Grgurich and the coaching staff feel good about me in that position, I'd be happy to look at it," he said. "I don't want to put Coach Gerg or his coaches on the spot at all, but I see there's a vacant spot there. And I think it would be a wise decision to have someone such as myself there."

It would. It makes all the sense in the world. Almost too much sense in the topsyturvy world of Runnin' Rebel basketball. Consider that Green has come back to serve his alma mater after 10-plus years in the NBA through different ventures as a successful businessman, and it's easy to believe Green when he says he truly cares about UNLV. He recently sponsored a scholarship for minority students in the school's sociology program.

With his businesses, Green is seen as local kid makes good in the eyes of UNLV's academic world.

Until Armon Gilliam was drafted second overall in the 1987 NBA draft and Larry Johnson was selected first in '91, Green was the highest-ever picked Rebel when the Chicago Bulls made him the No. 4 pick in 1983.

Now he wants to give back to the program that propelled him towards "the real world."

And he said he'd put his many business ventures aside and coach for free, if Grgurich would have him. "Hands down," Green said. "This would be the only position I would ever take."

Green said he had been offered several NBA jobs as

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There's No Place Like Home

Basketball: Rebels runnin' toward home stretch

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

It didn't have to click its heels together to do it, but the UNLV men's basketball team found its way home, finishing the bulk of its season-long road odyssey.

The Runnin' Rebels (9-10) return to the Thomas & Mack Center tonight at 7:35 p.m. to take on Utah State. The game is the first of three this weekend against Big West Conference opponents.

On Saturday, UNLV faces Nevada-Reno at 7:35 p.m., while Monday's nationally-televised matchup against New Mexico State tips off at 9:00 p.m.

UNLV head coach Tim Grgurich's status for returning to the bench remains a question mark. Trainer Jerry Koloskie said that decision still continues to be day-to-day.

"We're just trying to continue with the same plan we've had," Koloskie said. "Right now, I'm just going on his feel, and what him and his doctor have been talking about. The biggest thing we're just trying to avoid is any setbacks at this point in time."

Enigmatic center Kebu Stewart's return for tonight's game also remains in doubt. While medically cleared to play, Stewart's status will be based on his mental outlook, according to assistant coach David Rice.

"I think it will be pretty obvious whether or not he's committed to doing the things that are necessary for him to contribute to this team," Rice said. "So far, I have no complaints."

Rice added that the Rebels' success over the remainder of the season rests largely on Stewart.

"He can really be an asset for us down the stretch," Rice said. "But we need him to accept his role."

Stewart refused to comment

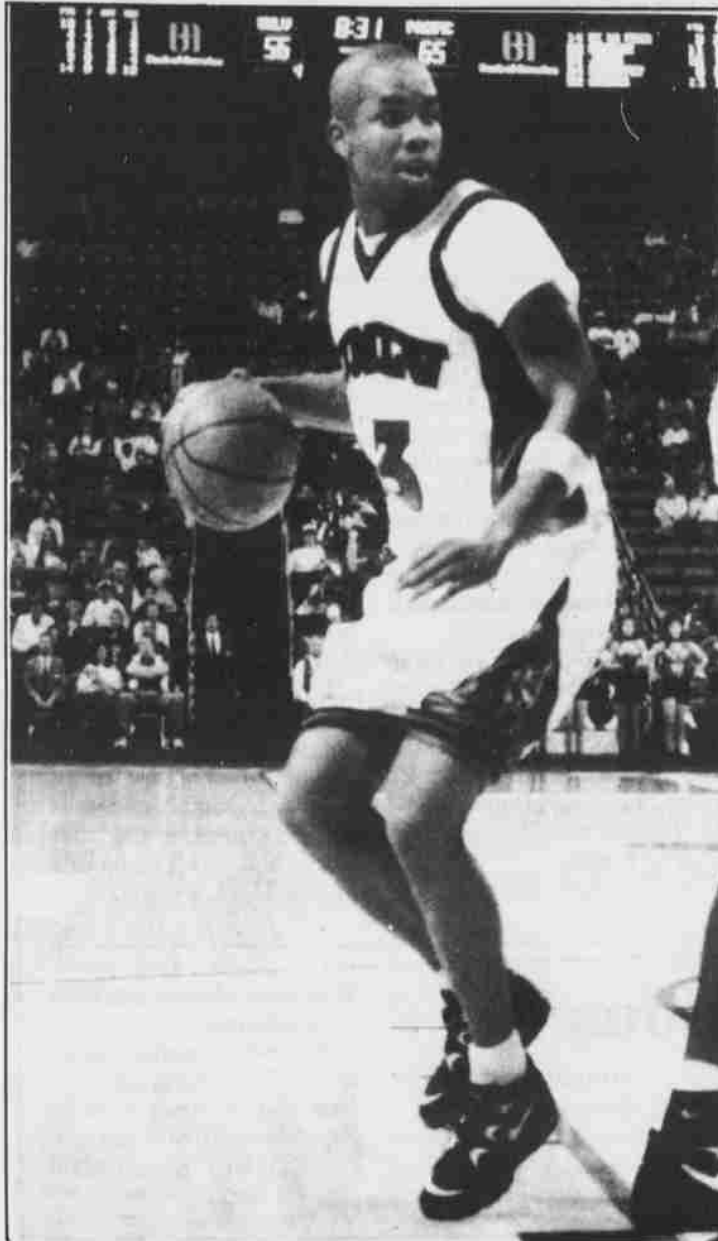


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Senior Reggie Manuel says he'll play tonight against Utah State.

on his status Wednesday. On Tuesday, when asked how his knees were, Stewart replied, "I don't know. Ask the coaches."

Senior Reggie Manuel is listed as probable for tonight's game, but won't start. Koloskie said the staff would see how Manuel's ankle responded at Wednesday's practice.

"With any type of lower-leg injury, it's always the cutting and the planting and the pushing off that we're concerned about," Koloskie said. "So, if he can do those things (Wednesday)...that would be a

good sign."

UNLV tries to sweep the Aggies tonight, after defeating them 69-63 in Logan, Utah on Jan. 21.

Utah State enters the game in first place with a 10-3 conference record. They are led by junior center Eric Franson (19.5 ppg, 10.8 rpg), the leading candidate for Big West Player of the Year.

Other probable starters include forwards Silas Mills (12.1 ppg) and Jon Wickizer (5.5 ppg), and guards Corwin Woodard (14.5 ppg) and Roddie Anderson

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NMSU Runs Lady Rebs Into the Ground

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS
STAFF REPORTER

The Lady Rebels' ship has run aground in the Big West Conference.

UNLV's women's basketball team was beaten on the boards and ultimately lost to visiting New Mexico State, 60-57, last Saturday.

"We shot 52 percent from the field but they killed us on the boards," said UNLV coach Jim Bolla, whose team fell to 6-6 in conference, 7-12 overall. "It's as though everyone is standing around waiting for someone else to carry the load. We need everyone to step up their game if we are going to be ready for the tournament."

The Roadrunners, 9-3, 14-6, were led by junior All-American candidate Anita Maxwell's 23 points and 10 rebounds. She is ranked third in the nation in scoring with 26.5 ppg.

"I wasn't happy about my shooting tonight," Maxwell said of her seven for 19 shooting from the floor and nine of 12 from the foul line. "But when we needed someone to take the load, my teammates responded. Tonight, I struggled so it was great to see everyone step up."

The Lady Rebels climbed from a nine-point first-half deficit to trail 58-57 with 29 seconds left in the game on two Tracy Titus free throws. However, NMSU's Judy Bell answered by adding two free throws with only four seconds remaining.

Although the Lady

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Rebels Pluck Nationally-Ranked Jayhawks

Baseball: UNLV takes two from KU

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV baseball team continued its early-season success by taking two of three games from No. 22 Kansas last weekend at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

The Hustlin' Rebels (6-3) won Friday 13-7, lost Saturday 16-7 and took the rubber game of the series by a score of 13-7.

"The guys were excited about the opportunity to beat a ranked ballclub," UNLV coach Fred Dallimore said. "Kansas has a good team. They've got great balance."

Nate Yeskie turned in another fine pitching performance Friday, picking up the win to run his record to 2-0. Yeskie pitched 8 1/3 innings, allowing four earned runs on eight hits, while striking out a career-high tying 11 and walking none.

Yeskie, a sophomore, hasn't walked a batter in his last 18 1/3 innings. He has struck out a

team-leading 23 batters in 22 1/3 innings, also a team high.

Ryan Plughoff and Ryan Hankins paced the

offense with two hits and four RBIs apiece. Plughoff hit his first home run of the season, one of two on the day by the Rebels. Scott Vincent supplied the other, scoring one of his three runs on the day in the process.

The Rebels knocked out 11 hits on the day, eight coming off Kansas starter Jamie Splittorff. Splittorff, the son of former Kansas City Royals' pitcher Paul Splittorff, dropped to 0-1 in the Jayhawks' first series of the year. Splittorff, a junior, was 10-1 last season, with his only defeat coming at the hands of UNLV.

On Saturday, the Rebels played arguably their worst game of the young season, committing six errors in the 16-7 loss.

"We made enough errors for a season," Dallimore said. "We

"The guys were excited about the opportunity to beat a ranked ballclub. Kansas has a good team. They've got great balance."

—Fred Dallimore

blew every possible play that you can blow (Saturday)."

UNLV had its chances to get in the game early, but the

team stranded 12 runners. The Rebels' biggest threat was in the third inning, down 7-2, but Ted Wilkes grounded to third with the bases loaded to end the inning.

"We had numerous opportunities to get ourselves back into the game," Dallimore said. "A couple of base hits here and there and it becomes a four-or-five run game, and we're right back in it."

Denny DeMartini (1-2) took the loss for the Rebels. DeMartini, coming off an eight-inning shutout effort against New Mexico, allowed eight earned runs on eight hits in seven innings. He walked four and struck out five.

The bullpen didn't fair any better. Bill Scheffels, Fred Koehne and Arin Wesnitzer combined to allow seven runs, four

earned, in two innings.

"We didn't pitch. We didn't play. We didn't show up (Saturday). And as a consequence, we got a loss," Dallimore said.

Kansas banged out 13 hits, including five for extra bases. Brent Wilhelm (two hits, three RBIs), Joe DeMarco (two hits, three runs scored) and Dan Rude (three runs scored, two hits—including a home run) led the Jayhawks' attack.

Kansas also stole six bases, taking advantage of freshman catcher Bobby McNeil. McNeil, who committed two throwing errors, was filling in for an injured Travis McClendon.

The Rebels' offense was spurred by McNeil, Wilkes, Hank Crosby and Stacy Kleiner, all with two hits apiece.

On Sunday, the Rebels rebounded to hammer Kansas pitching for 15 hits, including four home runs, in cruising to a 13-7 win.

"If you go up there and swing for them (home runs), you're not going to get them," Dallimore said. "A little bit of breeze blow-

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