

# Cavs Shoot Down Rebels

**Basketball: UNLV splits on East Coast trip**

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV men's basketball team may not have defeated No. 16 Virginia Sunday, but if there is such a thing as a moral victory, the Runnin' Rebels can chalk one up in the win column.

"When they came into the Mack, they totally embarrassed us," forward Patrick Savoy said of last year's 59-39 home loss to the Cavaliers. "Everybody going into the gym (Sunday) said, 'We've got to repay them.' Everybody was hyped. So we tried our best to go out and beat them. It wasn't an embarrassment like it was last time."

It was far from that. UNLV concluded a five-game road trip by threatening Virginia, trailing just 63-58 with 3:54 to play. The loss, coming on the heels of Saturday's 83-74 win at William & Mary, dropped the Rebels' overall record to 9-10.

The Rebels played both games without Reggie Manuel, out with an ankle injury, and Kebu Stewart, who didn't make the trip due to knee and attitude problems.

UNLV's starting five of Savoy, Clayton Johnson, Eric Lee, Damian Smith and Sun-

Big West Men's Basketball Standings—As of Feb. 14

|                     | Conference | Overall |
|---------------------|------------|---------|
| Utah State          | 10-3       | 16-5    |
| Long Beach State    | 9-3        | 13-6    |
| New Mexico State    | 8-3        | 17-6    |
| UNR                 | 8-5        | 12-9    |
| Pacific             | 7-5        | 12-8    |
| UC Santa Barbara    | 6-6        | 11-9    |
| UNLV                | 5-6        | 9-10    |
| Cal State Fullerton | 4-8        | 6-15    |
| UC Irvine           | 4-9        | 8-12    |
| San Jose State      | 0-12       | 1-19    |

shine Smith turned in a gutsy effort Sunday, playing 185 of a total 200 combined minutes.

Savoy led the Rebels' charge with 20 points. Johnson tallied 19, while Sunshine had a season-high 15, along with a career-high nine assists.

Lee pulled down 10 boards, but it wasn't enough as the Rebels were outrebounded 41-28.

Virginia (16-6) ultimately won the game from behind the 3-point stripe. Freshman guard Curtis Staples hit a Cavalier-record nine 3-pointers for a career-high 27 points. Sophomore Harold Deane led Virginia with a career-high tying 28 points.

The Cavaliers finished 14-28

behind the 3-point arc. The Rebels were a respectable 11-20, including 5-6 from Johnson, and 4-6 from Savoy.

In Saturday's victory, UNLV jumped out to a 41-22 half-time lead before holding off a late surge by the Tribe.

The Rebels hit 10 of 12 3-pointers, including a combined 6-6 from D. Smith and Johnson.

Savoy once again led the depleted UNLV squad with 22 points. Johnson had 19, and tied his career high with nine boards. D. Smith added 14 points, while Lee and Mike Curtis had career highs with 12 and 11, respectively.

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(8.3 ppg, 3.9 apg).

On Saturday, the Rebels try to avenge their 84-73 loss on Jan. 19 at UNR. In that game, seven

Wolf Pack players scored in double figures.

UNR (8-5 in conference entering Thursday's game at New Mexico State) is led by guards Brian Green (14.1 ppg) and Eathan O'Bryant (11.6 ppg, 7.3 apg).

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well as a spot on Rollie Massimino's staff last year. But he turned that down "for numerous major reasons."

Was it the politics of the time?

"I didn't want to be thrown into that position," Green said. "But with Coach Gerg, and that vacant spot, I would very much highly consider it. It's incredible. When I was playing for the Rebels and during my tenure in the NBA, Gerg always told me that I'd be the head coach someplace and he'd be my assistant. I always told him 'that's just like a father telling his son 'I'll be your son and you be my father.' Gerg pretty much honed my skills in basketball and shaped me the way I am today."

"My love and respect that I have for Coach Gerg and his wife, Kathy, is with passion."

Another strong point for Green is the fact that he can bring himself to the players' level and relate with them. In a sport where most of the student-athletes are from the inner-cities, Green can relate because he is from an inner-city, Brooklyn. In fact, he grew up in virtually the same neighborhood as current Rebel problem-child Kebu Stewart.

And he can be a quality recruiter as well, bringing in "the top-quality student-athletes to represent the school, the program and the city of Las Vegas," Green said.

Sound good. It should.

But there seems to be a stumbling block in his way.

When Green agreed to have his jersey No. 21 retired last season under Massimino, former president Robert Maxson and lame duck athletic director Jim Weaver, the act alienated several prominent boosters. And reportedly, Jerry Tarkanian himself.

"Those are small-minded peo-

ple," Green said. "They are small-minded for even looking at me like that. I have been nothing but loyal to the school, to the city, since I came here, since they recruited me to come here. I have nothing but honor and respect for Coach Tarkanian, his family and for the city of Las Vegas. And for people to judge me because I had my uniform retired for my family to witness, you have to question their judgments. I know where my loyalty is and where my heart is."

"Maybe that's why they don't want to touch me right now."

Green said he set a timetable for having the ceremony. He said UNLV officials wanted to do it when he graduated but he declined, saying he would do it when he retired from the NBA. The timing coincided with Massimino's being head coach. And Green appearing in television commercials with Massimino didn't help matters much either.

"I was told that I praised Massimino and Maxson and Weaver," Green said. "The only time I can remember praising them was thanking them for giving me that moment with my family. I thought that was the right thing to do."

"Unfortunately, I did it maybe at the wrong time. But I wish Coach Tark was there to enjoy the moment with me."

If a falling out with a petty former coach over a ceremony keeps a qualified and willing alum from helping get a program back on its feet, it makes you wonder who's really running the ship. In fact, rumor has it that Green was originally to be on Gerg's staff before someone, somewhere put a halt to it.

But Green said the program has to look to the future and remember, and not forget, the past.

"There's nothing but promising things ahead for the program and for Gerg," Green said. "I'd pretty much like to be part of

that anchor to help bring things back to were they were before."

Small-minded people aside.

—Paul Gutierrez is  
sports editor  
at The Rebel Yell.

# UNLV Sweeps Lady Gauchos

**Softball: No. 5 Lady Rebels beat UCSB 4-2, 12-0**

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
STAFF REPORTER

The Lady Rebel softball team started the season as a highly-touted team.

On Saturday they showed why as the No. 5 team in the nation took apart UC Santa Barbara, winning both ends of a doubleheader, 4-2 and 12-0.

"I was really pleased," coach Shan McDonald said. "It was the first time out (for the season) and they played very well. Our pitching was strong, it was a good job on the offensive side and defensively. It was a very good outing."

After giving up two early runs in the first game, Lady Rebel pitcher Amie Stewart settled down and went the distance, giving up three hits, with five strikeouts and no walks.

With the Lady Rebels already putting three runs across in their half of the first, UC Santa Barbara answered back with a two-run homer by pitcher Stacy Atwood. That was as close as the Lady Gauchos were going to get in both games. UNLV added one more run in the sixth to put the game away.

Stewart also helped her own cause at the plate, going 3-4 with a double and one run scored.

In her first collegiate game, freshman catcher Julie Crandall turned in a fine performance. Crandall went 2-4 with an RBI in the first game.

"As a freshman she has taken a strong leadership role with the team," McDonald said. "She called two very good games and

really helped out the team."

The mercy rule ended the second half of the doubleheader, when the game was called in the sixth inning. The Lady Rebels were up 12-0 at the time and under the mercy rule, a game is called when a team is ahead by 10 runs or more after the fifth inning.

The offensive barrage started in the fifth, with Lady Rebels already up 1-0. They came up with six in the inning, and kept the pressure on in the sixth when five more scored.

Stewart went five innings in the win, allowing two hits, striking out one and walking one. Cyndi Hewitt was brought in the sixth inning to relieve Stewart where she gave up one hit and walked one.

Crandall had another big game as she went 2-4, driving in four runs. Junior center fielder Sara Mallett also came up big, going 3-3 with three runs scored. Cyndi Parus added some pop at the plate, going 2-2 with two RBIs. Third baseman Andrea Balandran hit her first collegiate home run and finished the game by going 1-4 with four RBIs. Stewart also added some power when she hit a shot out of the park, her first on the season.

The 2-0 Lady Rebels will be traveling to Tempe, Ariz., this weekend to play in their first tournament of the season, the Arizona State Coca-Cola Classic.

"It's always interesting going into these tournaments early in the season," McDonald said. "There is going to be a variety of competition at this tournament. In the second game we play the No. 1 ranked team (Arizona) in the nation."

The Lady Rebels host Tulsa at noon Wednesday in their home at Rebel Diamond.

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