

## Commentary

### Runnin' On Empty

A tough one to figure, this Rebel basketball team.

Just two days after coming out completely flat and playing like dogs in getting thoroughly thumped

at home by rival UNR, the Rebels played perhaps their most inspired game

of the year Monday night.

It was hard not to root for this rag-tag group as UNLV fought on in front of a national television audience on ESPN against New Mexico State.

Never mind the fact that the Rebels went 0-3 on their biggest homestand of the year. The way junior guard Damian Smith sees it, the tough times the Rebels have endured have only made them stronger.

"This team has a lot of heart," he said. "We've been through a lot together. And we stuck together. I mean, it would be easy for us to give up and roll over right now. But this team has a lot of character and I think we're showing it to everybody right now."

Interim coach Cle Edwards agreed.

"Just as soon as everyone wants to count them out," Edwards said, "they turn around and show they have some character."

Smith showed just how much he had with a career-high 28 points against the Aggies Monday night. But he wasn't in a cheerful mood.

"I'm in pain right now," Smith said after the Rebels blew a four-point lead in the last two minutes of both regulation and overtime. "That career-high with the points is good and all but they don't mean anything unless we get the win."

So what's the answer? Why do the Rebels look like dogs one night and then like champs the next?

"We've got to be ready to play every night," Smith said. "Everybody that plays us is going to be ready. It's just something we've got to learn. When we put on our uniform that says 'UNLV' guys are shooting at us. They're going to play the best games of their lives against us. We've got to learn to be ready for that."

Then why aren't they ready day-in and day-out?

"We have our moments," Smith said. "Like tonight—we were ready. Sometimes you're a little tired, fatigue set in on us—we're only

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### In This Corner



PAUL GUTIERREZ



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Senior Reggie Manuel epitomizes the Rebels' frustration. UNLV is now 9-13 overall, 5-9 in conference.

## Swept!

### Basketball: Rebels go 0-3 on latest homestand

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV men's basketball team established a new low over the weekend by dropping three games, the first time the Runnin' Rebels have ever lost three straight in the Thomas & Mack Center.

The Rebels fell 76-72 to Utah State Feb. 16, 73-57 to Nevada-Reno Saturday and 97-95 in overtime to New Mexico State Monday.

The losses dropped the Rebels to 9-13 overall, 5-9 in the Big West, putting UNLV in danger of clinching its first losing year since the 1958-59 season, the team's inaugural campaign.

"Every game from this point is a must win," interim coach Cle Edwards said. "Now it's just like the tournament."

Monday's nationally televised game, the Rebels' sixth consecutive loss to the Aggies, was UNLV's eighth loss in its last nine ESPN Big Monday contests.

"Since we've played so many road games, when we play at home, it's almost like a road game," Edwards said. "Road games are home games; home games are away games."

NMSU guard Troy Brewer drove the left baseline to hit a layup with virtually no time left to give the Aggies the victory.

"We kept backing up too far, and let him get down where he could drive to the basket," Edwards said. "We just had a little lapse defensively."

The Rebels shot 52 percent

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## Fraser Running on Road to Success

### Track & Field: Three-time All-American eyeing Olympics

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS  
STAFF REPORTER

Future NHL Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky once chided an old schoolmate for implying how easy life has been for the superstar. Gretzky felt offended that the faded memory couldn't recall all those lonely Friday nights he wouldn't attend the dances so that he could practice his craft.

There are no short cuts on the road to success.

Judy Fraser knows this all too well.

The three-time Lady Rebel track & field All-American has her eyes on the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year.

"When I'm jogging around campus," said a humbled Fraser, "I think of how difficult the challenges are for some students. It's hard for me to accept that I can go to school for free just because I can run. It

just doesn't seem right."

Fraser recently ran a season-best 55.28 in the 400-meter event at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships in Reno, giving her provisional qualification for the NCAA Indoor Nationals.

"When I was a kid, I had little coordination even though I was the tallest on the volleyball team," she said. "But I wanted to be part of something so in the 12th grade I joined the track club. I wasn't great but good enough. No one knew who I was one day and the next moment I placed third in the Nationals."

Said Lady Rebel head coach Karen Dennis: "Judy knows what she wants out of life and also what it takes to accomplish her goals. You don't have to chase her down to get her to practice hard or her other responsibilities. What more could anyone ask? She is a terrific role-model for anyone. I wish her the best."

Born in Unionville, Ontario, Canada, the junior has always kept a focused eye and credits

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her parents, the Reverend Delton and Sister Gladys Fraser for providing her with strong religious values in their small church.

"I've taught Sunday School since the age of 12," said the elementary education major who is a member of Mountain Top Faith Church here in Las Vegas. "What I have to learn to realize is that I can compete with the elite. Because sometimes in a race I'll think to myself that this person, or that person, is better than me and I have no business beating them. And if I'm not careful I'll psyche myself out."

The entry through the gates of the Olympic games in Atlanta is

narrow but Fraser's work ethic could result in her name being entered in the Olympiad Book of Life.

"I feel as though this is the best shape I've ever been in," she said. "I'm a lot faster and stronger."