

Commentary

A Good Time for All

Last weekend's Diamond All-Star Evening and Extra Innings, a benefit for the UNLV baseball team turned out to be a great success.

A crowd of approximately 600 came out to Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall to be entertained by such acts as the ZA JI Incredible Acrobats of China, The Happy Jesters and others.

Matt Williams, star third baseman for the San Francisco Giants and all-time home run leader at UNLV, received the Distinguished Alumni Award, while Rebels' coach Fred Dallimore received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his 22 seasons as UNLV head coach, an award long overdue.

The night also featured appearances by former major league pitcher Jerry Reuss, a regular out at Earl E. Wilson Stadium and best remembered for his no-hitter against the Giants while a member of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and former Runnin' Rebels' star Sidney Green.

Green, who presented Dallimore with his award, has made his presence felt around the UNLV campus since his retirement from an 11-year NBA career. Green reiterated his desire to become an assistant coach for the Runnin' Rebels, and asked everyone to keep pushing for him as a Rebel assistant. We're pushing Sidney, we're pushing.

While Robert Goulet couldn't make the big show, due to surgery on Feb. 21, his absence was overlooked thanks to the inspiring performance put on by Tony Orlando, although Dawn's absence was a slight disappointment.

Orlando led the audience in a sing-along to "You Gotta Have Heart" after whetting the audience's appetite with "Tie A Yellow Ribbon."

After the show, at the Extra Innings party, this reporter



SEAN DEFRANK

couldn't help himself and asked Orlando for his autograph. The gracious Orlando obliged gladly. While we couldn't find a spotlight to give the signature its due, the signed program is nonetheless on display at the sports desk of *The Rebel Yell*.

• • •

Where are the priorities in the UNLV athletic department? While the university felt obligated to give Rollie Massimino \$1.88 million to not coach this year's Runnin' Rebels, the school couldn't even up some cash so acting coach Cle Edwards could move his things out here from St. Louis, his former residence.

While the act is disgraceful enough in itself, the lack of class and courtesy was compounded by the break-in of Edwards' apartment, discovered on Feb. 16.

Edwards was cleaned out by the burglars, who even managed to throw a party in celebration of their easy conquest, as a broken bottle of margarita mix was discovered on the floor.

As a consequence, the Rebels, without much coaching stability already this season, had to conduct practice without Edwards for three days while he took care of business in St. Louis, not arriving back in Las Vegas until Friday.

UNLV should reimburse Edwards for his losses, even if insurance has already taken care of it. The show of good faith may be late, but at least it would be money going to somebody who still actually works here.

Oh well; it could have been worse. At least they didn't get Cle's gold chains.

—Sean DeFrank is a sportswriter at *The Rebel Yell*.

Schizophrenic Rebs Close Regular Season at Home

Basketball: Curtis, Manuel, Savoy to be honored on Senior Day

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV men's basketball team attempts to break its six-game losing streak by returning to the Thomas & Mack Center for its final two conference games.

The Runnin' Rebels (9-15, 5-11 in the Big West) face UC Santa Barbara at 7:35 p.m. tonight and Long Beach State at 7:35 p.m. Saturday.

The Rebels, who have spotted their last few opponents big leads, before attempting comebacks, are at a collective loss to explain the team's schizophrenic play of late.

"It's a great question, believe me," assistant coach Dave Rice said. "If we could put our finger on it, we would have done so a long time ago. We joked after last game (an 84-83 loss to Pacific) and said 'Maybe we ought to come out and play a five-on-five team scrimmage for about 20 minutes before the game starts. Maybe that can get us started.'"

Junior guard Damian Smith, coming off a career-high 30 points, thinks the Rebels may be taking some teams too lightly.

"We get up for real big games—New Mexico (State), Virginia—teams like that we really get up for," Smith said. "We ought to be able to get up for every game—Pacific, (Cal State) Fullerton, or whoever. We've got to be ready to play from the tip, no matter who the opposition is."

With a preliminary-round

game in the conference tournament already assured for UNLV, as well as the probability of the team's first losing season since the 1958-59 season, the two upcoming games could be regarded as meaningless for the Rebels. However, Rice said the games do carry some importance.

"I really don't think they're meaningless for two reasons," Rice said. "I think it's important that we get some kind of momentum going into the Big West Tournament—number one. And then number two, I think it's meaningful in the sense that, even though we will have to definitely play on Thursday (in the tournament), it makes a difference as to whether or not we play (as) the number-seven position, or the number-eight position."

"I think for our confidence it would be nice to come out and, not only beat Santa Barbara, but to beat Long Beach, because right now Long Beach is leading the conference, and a win like that would be a great confidence booster for us heading into the

Big West Tournament." It would also be a nice way for seniors Mike Curtis, Reggie Manuel and Patrick Savoy to end their collegiate careers at Saturday's Senior Night festivities.

Manuel, coming off a weekend that saw him score six points in two games, will be needed if UNLV is to make any noise.

"I think it's just a matter of him just deciding that he's got a minimum of three games left in his career, and hopefully seven or eight," Rice said. "When he's played well, we've done a better job of getting him involved early in the game. ... I think that's one of the things we're going to have to do is get Reggie involved."

UCSB enters tonight's game with a record of 13-11, 8-8 in conference. Senior center Doug Muse leads the Gauchos with a 13.3 ppg average.

LBSU comes into Thursday with a record of 17-7, and a first-place record of 13-3 in conference play. Senior center Joe McNaull leads the 49ers, averaging 12.2 ppg, and 7.0 rpg.

SPECIAL UNLV STUDENT PROGRAM

NEED MONEY TO TIDE YOU OVER UNTIL YOU GET PAID

We will buy your post dated check

\$100.00 to \$300.00 (Maximum 2 week period)

Call for Phone Approval 734-1410

Be sure to mention you are a UNLV student

MON-SAT 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Basketball

continued from 11 starting its rally.

The Rebels finally cut the lead to one, 74-73, off a Kebu Stewart offensive rebound, but could never break through to seize the lead.

Damian Smith, who scored a career-high 30 points, led the Rebels' charge with 24 points in the second half. Smith was 10-15 from the field, including 7-10 from 3-point range.

"I'm trying to do something," Smith said. "I'm trying to get us back to winning. Whatever it takes, whatever I can do now-days."

Stewart, who sat out the first 10 minutes of the game after he and Sunshine missed the team bus to the shoot-around earlier in the day, scored 18 points, 15 in the second half, and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Clayton Johnson, a native of Stockton, Calif., who originally committed to UOP out of high school, contributed 12 points in his homecoming.

Reggie Manuel, who has seemingly vanished from the Rebels' offensive scheme, managed just four points on the heels of a two-point performance at SJSU.

Manuel refused to comment

Wednesday, but interim coach Cle Edwards thought he might know why Manuel continues to struggle.

"Normally when a player gets to his senior year, his position is already etched in stone," Edwards said. "Well, Reggie has to do a lot of different things. Reggie has to be a point guard; Reggie has to be a two-guard; Reggie has to be a team leader. Sometimes he has to play inside. So it's really hard for him to concentrate and focus on one position."

SATURDAY: It was more of the same as the Rebels fell behind early to the Spartans, then clawed their way back, before falling short 86-75.

UNLV trailed by 20 points, 53-33, with 17:52 remaining before starting its comeback.

Using an 18-1 run, the Rebels pulled to within two points, 62-60, with 7:59 left. UNLV pulled to within one, 75-74, with 1:45 left after Stewart hit one of two free throws.

Once again though, UNLV couldn't get over the hump to grasp the lead, getting outscored down the stretch 11-1.

Brad Quinet led the Spartans with 24 points. Jahi Bacon and Darren Greene added 14 apiece.

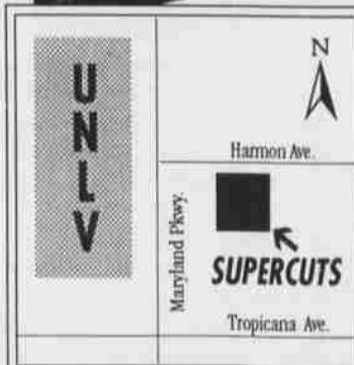
Stewart paced the Rebels with 19 points. Patrick Savoy added 18 points and eight boards.

SUPERCUTS®



\$5.00
SUPERCUT™ HAIRCUT WITH COUPON

Reg. \$8.95



University Garden
(Behind The Warehouse)
4632 S. Maryland Pkwy.
736-2917

SUPERCUTS®

\$5.00 SUPERCUT™ HAIRCUT WITH COUPON
Reg. \$8.95
Limit One Coupon Per Customer • Not Valid With Any Other Offer
Expires 3/31/95

University Garden
(Behind The Warehouse)
4632 South Maryland Pkwy.
736-2917