

Commentary

Big Business: UNLV Style

Just as soon as one candidate turns the job down, another name pops out of seemingly nowhere to become the newest leader in the race to succeed Tim Grgurich as coach of the UNLV men's basketball team.

As the Rebel Yell went to press, President Kenny Guinn said the position should be filled by today. The latest front runners: Massachusetts assistant Billy Bayno, Miami of Ohio's Herb Sendek and St. Louis head man Charlie Spoonhour.

Seemingly lost in the mix is former Rebel Sidney Green.



In This Corner

PAUL GUTIERREZ

The players themselves have been left in the dark during this search process.

One player, who requested anonymity, said that the team was told by Guinn and outgoing athletic director Jim Weaver that they would be kept abreast of the situation.

"They've brought in all these coaches and we haven't even met a single one yet," the player said.

The player added that if the team had its way, they would keep Cle Edwards and Dave Rice.

If negotiations fall through again, like they did for Lorenzo Romar, Larry Eustachy and Jerry Green, it would be time to throw in the towel and hire El Sid.

The players respect the former Rebel who spent 10-plus years in the NBA and you can't measure the desire and passion with which Green wants the job.

Sure he has no previous experience, but he does have West Coast recruiting ties and with Rice being retained, the Chaffey connection may be intact.

But if Jerry Tarkanian is offered and takes the Fresno State job, and UNLV hires a guy with no Left Coast connections, the Chaffey pipeline will relocate to Central California.

Avondre Jones, Warren Rosegreen and company will surely become Bulldogs.

The way the administration is dealing with this coaching vacancy only re-

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Lady Rebs Split the Deuce

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV softball team splits its doubleheader with visiting Cal State Fullerton Wednesday, winning the first game, 4-3, and losing the second game, 3-2.

In the opener, the Lady Rebels trailed 2-0 in the fourth inning before their bats came to life. Julie Crandall hit a bases-loaded single that bounced down the third-base line, scoring Kim Rondina and Sara Mallett. The hit opened the gates as UNLV produced four runs in the inning.

Amie Stewart, who improved her record to 13-4 with seven strikeouts against the visitors, managed to pitch herself out of several jams by returning to her fastball. Solid team defensive plays helped as well. Mallett made a sensational over-the-shoulder basket catch in center field at the warning track, which ended the Titans' third inning.

Fullerton's Chris Zbori led the Titans' effort by driving in two runs on three hits while pitcher Brandi Isgar's record fell to 10-3 on the season.

"We're proud of the way we played the first game, but overall, we didn't accomplish our goals for today," UNLV coach Shan McDonald said. "Our hitting is not where we feel we can be happy because we're just a better offensive team than the way we're playing. It's a lull."

The Titans pulled out a 3-2 nightcap win after watching the



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Freshman catcher Julie Crandall looks skyward for a foul pop-up.

Lady Rebels' seventh-inning rally fall short. Lady Rebel second baseman Amy Watkins hit a high bouncer up the middle to place

runners at first and second with one out. Amy Walker's soft pop-

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PHOTO BY STEVE HOBBS

Jim Gemma is the sports information director for swimming, women's basketball and baseball.

Hail to the Chief

Athletics: UNLV grad Jim Gemma laboring for love of sports as SID

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

For newcomers to the UNLV Sports Information Office, Jim Gemma could easily be mistaken for an authority figure.

It's an easy mistake to make. For when Gemma enters the room, a call of "Chief" can be heard from his peers and those in the know.

"Everybody thinks that I'm in charge, or I'm the leader," Gemma said. "That's farthest from the truth."

The truth is that while Gemma's title is one of endearment, it's hardly a compliment.

"I'm a big 'Get Smart' fan," Gemma said. "And the chief of Control, one day he was wearing a plaid shirt and striped tie. So I figured, 'I could do that,' since my man Ed Platt (the character portraying the chief on 'Get Smart') wore it the night before on a 'Nick at Night' episode."

"And I got harassed unmercifully by everybody in the office as I walked in with a red, plaid shirt and striped tie. ...I said, 'Hey, the chief of Control on 'Get Smart' wore it last night.' So,

that's how that stuck, because I don't know how to dress."

Gemma, 34, might not be admired for his choice of attire, but he is highly respected for his work as an assistant sports information director (SID) at UNLV.

"The thing I respect most about Chief is he treats *The Rebel Yell* with just as much respect and dignity as he does the other newspapers," said *Yell* sports editor Paul Gutierrez. "He always makes sure that we're up to speed on the sports he's SID for."

As the SID for the UNLV swimming and diving, baseball and women's basketball teams, Gemma serves as the liaison between the squads and the media. His

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UNLV Controls Courts

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
STAFF REPORTER

UNLV turned up the heat on the rest of the Big West last weekend when both the men's and women's tennis teams pulled out big wins.

The 42nd-ranked Lady Rebels beat Nevada-Reno, 7-2, to start the weekend. It then took the Lady Rebels five hours and 20 minutes, Sunday, to upset No. 29 Oklahoma State, 5-4.

OSU is the highest-ranked team UNLV has beaten since the Intercollegiate Tennis Association expanded its poll last year to include the top 50 teams in college tennis.

"It was a very big win for us," coach Ola Malmqvist said. "Things like that (long matches) help out the team, it becomes a great learning experience for them."

At each spot, the Lady Rebels faced tough opposition. Marianne Vallin won in straight sets, 7-5, 6-4, despite the seesaw battle she was locked into with Kelly Press. The longest clash of the singles set was with Marie Linusson, who lost in three long sets, 0-6, 6-2, 6-7.

"I thought she played a good match," Malmqvist said. "With a little luck she would have won it. It's not that she lost the match. It was more like the other girl won it."

Lisa Annebro took three sets to get the victory, while Ljiljana Kordic won in straight sets at the No. 6 spot. Astrid Copano and Shiera Stuart both fell to the Cowgirls.

Linusson was involved in another marathon match as she teamed up with Kordic for a three set win, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5. Copano/Vallin also won on the doubles side of the court while Annebro/Stuart fell, 3-6, 6-7.

The Lady Rebels started the weekend by beating a tough UNR team. Vallin, now 20-8 on the season, battled back to take the win, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0. Annebro, Copano, Kordic and Linusson also came out with very close victories, while Stuart dropped a tough three-set match, 7-5, 2-6, 4-6.

Stuart redeemed her loss on the doubles court where she and Annebro won in the tiebreaker, 0-6, 6-4, 7-2. Kordic/Linusson were also victorious, while Copano/Vallin lost the third doubles match.

"Compared to last month we have been playing a lot better," Malmqvist said. "We still got a month until the Big West Championship and there is still room for improvement."

Up next for the Lady Rebels is an Arizona tour. They will first face No. 8

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