

## Commentary

### Pieces to the Puzzle

New UNLV basketball coach Bill Bayno has been left with an unenviable task — rebuild the Runnin' Rebels — now, if not sooner.

That's the way things are here in Sin City. Mediocrity is not something to be tolerated — not when UNLV hoops is involved.

Just ask Rollie "It's just a game" Massimino about it.

So when Bayno was hired March 30, with the spring signing period ready to kick off April 12, speed and efficiency was necessary to finding the pieces to the puzzle.

And there were many pieces to be found. Daddy Mass had already left the Rebels' cupboard bare before his swift and welcome departure in October, leaving Tim Grgurich just nine scholarship players for last season — one reason for the squad's 12-16 record.

Now, with the departures of Reggie Manuel, Patrick Savoy and Mike Curtis to graduation, and the enigmatic Kebu Stewart presumed to be no longer wanted by teammates or Bayno, impact players are even more of a commodity.

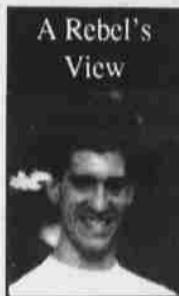
Bayno seems to have found a few. Besides lack of depth, the Rebels glaring weakness last season was the lack of a true point guard. Bayno quickly filled that void by signing Dixie (Utah) College guard Chancellor Davis.

Davis, a 1993 graduate of Cheyenne High School in Las Vegas, averaged 10.5 points, 7.9 assists and 3.1 rebounds for Dixie last season. The 5-foot-8, 170-pound Davis will join former high school teammates Damian Smith and Wes Reed on next year's squad. Davis played with the two Rebels at Chaparral before transferring to Cheyenne.

UNLV also received an official commitment from Westchester (Calif.) High School's Ben Sanders Monday. Sanders (6-4, 185 lbs) averaged 23.5 points, five boards, four steals and three assists last season, and was named Los Angeles City Co-Player of the Year.

Sanders will provide depth at shooting guard behind D. Smith and Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith, and should be a key contributor for the Rebels

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A Rebel's View

SEAN DEFRANK

## Softball Sweeps the Deuce

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
STAFF REPORTER

Somebody turned the bats back on for the UNLV softball team against Long Beach State Wednesday.

After struggling against the Lady 49ers Saturday, scoring five runs in a doubleheader, the Lady Rebels exploded for 11 on their own turf.

With the sweep, the No. 5 Lady Rebels moved their record to 34-12 overall, 17-5 in the Big West.

A pleased coach Shan McDonald expressed her pleasure with the team's performance in a team meeting after the game.

"We played good," McDonald said. "We hit the ball well. The enthusiasm is good, defense was strong, and the pitching was good."

The runs rolled in early for the Lady Rebels in the first game. Right fielder Ronnie Salcido started off by walking, then came home when shortstop Kim Rondina doubled her in. It was Rondina's 19th double of the season, and her seventh hit in eight at bats. She finished the game 3-4 with two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored.

"I've been really selective with pitches lately," Rondina said. "I have been seeing the ball well, and have become more patient at the plate."

The scoring continued in the third inning when center fielder Sara Mallett stepped into a pitch and knocked it out of the park. The two-run shot was her fifth of the year, and scored Rondina who had doubled.

Third baseman Andrea Balandran added some spark to the offense as well, in the fifth, when she pulled a pitch over the left-field wall. It was her fourth of the season. She finished 2-3 with an RBI and a run scored.

Pitcher Amie Stewart went the distance in the 5-0 victory. It was her 19th win of the season. She allowed three hits, struck out



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN  
Sophomore Kim Rondina rounds the bases in celebration of center fielder Sara Mallett's two-run homer Wednesday.

four and walked one in another good outing.

Teresa Branch got the start in the second game. She went 5 2/3 innings, playing through a sore

hip, and struck out three on the way to her 14th win this season.

The Lady Rebels jumped on

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### Lady Rebels Split a Pair

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
STAFF REPORTER

Not only did the UNLV softball team have to play two tough Big West opponents, they also had to play against the wind.

With gusts coming in from leftfield against Long Beach State, the Lady Rebels committed seven errors in the two-game split.

"I was disappointed with the split," coach Shan McDonald

said. "We have more talent than both them. We gave (LBSU) every run. We have been mishandling the balls, and we're trying to take care of that. It's not really a problem, and it is easy to fix."

The Lady Rebels played an extra frame for the 4-1 win in the first half of the doubleheader. Pitcher Amie Stewart went the distance for her 17th win of the season, allow-

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## On His Own Terms

BY CHRIS JONES  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

You may not know his name, but chances are if you've ever attended a UNLV Hustlin' Rebels' game you know his voice.

Scott Robbs has handled the public address duties for UNLV baseball since the opening of Earl E. Wilson Stadium in the spring of 1994. And while the job here in Las Vegas may be a long way from working the airwaves of a certain major university near his home in Honolulu, Hawaii, at this time the 28-year-old Robbs wouldn't have it any other way.

Robbs first gained exposure to college sports by spending time as a young child at work with his father Don in their native Hawaii. While the name Don Robbs might not ring a bell with many in the mainland United States, most Hawaiians would instantly recognize it as that of the radio voice of many sports at the University of Hawaii.

The elder Robbs has amassed many credentials in the Aloha State, including becoming the first college baseball broadcaster to cover

over 1,000 games on-air in his 18 years of working with the team, which doesn't always make things easy for his son.

"My whole life, I've been surrounded by college athletics," Robbs said. "I'm an aficionado of all college sports. I can remember going to games as a three-year-old and eating lunch with (ABC Sports announcer) Al Michaels. I've literally grown up around sports, and my dad is very well known throughout the state."

But to grow up completely, Scott said he found it necessary to step out of his father's shadow.

"My father has done it all in Hawaii, and if I wanted to I could use his connections to get myself ahead," Robbs said. "But I don't think it would be the best thing for me to do, and I don't want to be known for riding coattails, so I left to try to make a name on my own."

To do so, he took an unusual path. Robbs joined the Army in 1985 and soon after found himself in an area as different as one could possibly find from the palm tree and beach-laden Hawaii: the Czechoslovakian/West Germany border.

Being along a Communist border during the Cold War for a

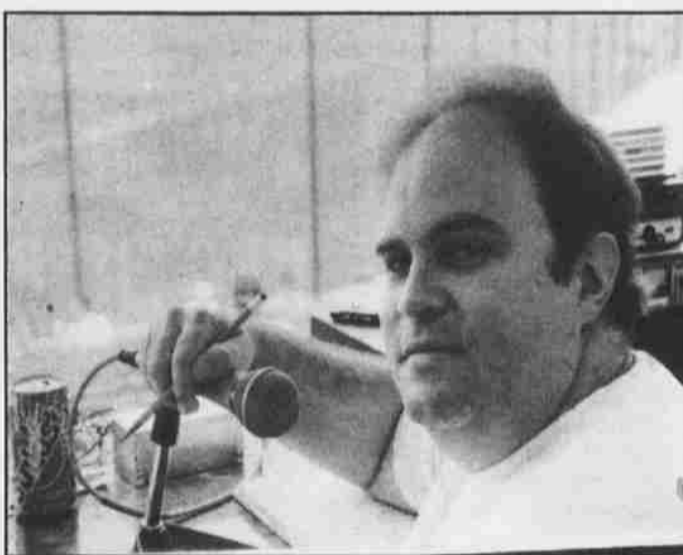


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN  
Scott Robbs is in the midst of his second season as the UNLV baseball public address announcer.

period of two years did not produce any exciting stories however. Robbs is thankful that the only memorable parts of his stint in Europe as a communication specialist were dealing with a few defecting soldiers who made their way into his patrol area.

"I don't want any great war stories to remember," Robbs said. "I'm glad nothing ever happened while I was there."

Robbs left the Army in 1988 and made his way back to Honolulu. He found work at radio station KGU and handled a variety of duties including play-by-play of

### Clash with the Titans

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS  
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV baseball team was only three outs away from rattling the nation's top-ranked team before disaster struck, sending the Rebels on their way to being swept for the first time this season, 8-7, 9-4 and 18-4, at Wilson Field.

Thursday's opening game was suspended in the middle of the sixth inning, due to winds that were over 50 mph, with the Hustlin' Rebels trailing 6-4. The following day UNLV took a 7-6 lead into the ninth before watching the Titans battle back to win 8-7 on an RBI groundout and run-scoring single. The loss went to Erik Oliver (3-2).

"If we win the first game, it changes the complexity of the series," Rebel coach Fred Dallimore said. "Instead, we let them put some heat on us because we showed up with no confidence and that carried into Saturday's game."

"Pitching is directly related to defense, which I explained to our guys. Our pitchers have to have confidence in the team's defense so they don't think they have to strike out everybody."

What also got under the coach's collar was the six errors and the 10 unearned runs from the Rebels in the series, which the Titans (35-6, 10-2 in the Big West) certainly didn't need, especially in Saturday's 18-4 rout.

In Friday's 9-4 loss, third

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women's basketball, volleyball and softball at U of H, as well as producing and hosting a morning drive-time talk show.

And while many would be satisfied handling the broadcast duties of three of the most popular sports in that area, Robbs still felt as though he wasn't trying hard enough to establish himself on his own.

"It was like I had never left," Robbs said. "I still felt that I would never be able to

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