

Commentary

Rebel basketball running again

I've been waiting patiently all summer and fall semester for something to happen in the basketball program.

Some juicy scandal, a player not showing, anything.

And what do I get — nothing. Not one thing is happening in basketball. They are all just readying themselves for the upcoming season.

How boring. What happens to the days where the season started and ended with controversy. The NCAA investigations are gone, there is stability in the coaching staff along with community support, and all the players are showing up wanting to play.

But if you are hard up for some piece of dirt from the UNLV basketball program, I have one bit. It seems that a player, Norris Bell, became homesick and flew back to Hempstead, N.Y.

Bell is a freshman forward, and would have been the heir to Clayton Johnson's forward spot. Head Coach Bill Bayno was planning on Bell redshirting this season, though.

He had been injury-prone the last couple of years, and also got hurt a few weeks ago in practice. All of which may have led to Bell's fleeing the Rebels.

Other than that, nothing else has been going on. I would have to say that for long-time Rebel players this should be a welcome change.

Players like Johnson, Wes Reed and Damian Smith have been through the wheel of coaches at UNLV, playing under four different coaches in the last two years. It all started with Rollie Massimino, followed by last season's debacle with Tim Grgurich, Howie Landa and Cle Edwards all sharing time as the Rebel skipper last season.

In the case of Smith, he was recruited by Jerry Tarkanian, played under the above mentioned crew of coaches, and also battled through a score of scandals involving players.

There was talk about J.R. "Isaiah" Rider not

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Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

Swingin' Rebels sign threesome

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The talent-rich UNLV golf team received on Wednesday national letters of intent from three top high school prospects: Jeremy Anderson of Mary, Fla.; Jeff McGraw of Fullerton, Calif.; and Scott Lander of Kingdom, Ariz.

The big-dog of this threesome is Anderson, a three-time Rolex All-American and the Florida state junior champion in 1994 and 1995.

Other accomplishments under his belt include being a medalist at the 1995 U.S. Junior Championships and taking third place individually at the World Junior Championships.

At the World Junior Championships, Anderson and current Rebel Ted Oh helped the U.S. squad win the championship.

Anderson chose UNLV over golf powerhouses Georgia Tech and Oklahoma State.

"I'm excited we were able to get such a solid player from Florida," said coach Dwaine Knight. "We had to go out and beat all the Eastern powers to bring him in."

Golf heads to South Carolina for tourney

UNLV golf to play in Golfworld Invitational

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The Swingin' Rebels will travel to Hilton Head, S. C. this weekend to participate in the Golfworld Invitational.

The squad was ranked third in the nation in the most recent Golfworld polls. Oklahoma State was No. 1, followed by the University of Texas.

UNLV will be without the services of Gilberto Morales this weekend, who is compet-

ing in the Simon Bolivar World Cup, held in his home country, Venezuela.

"We've played with a different line-up every week. Shuffled people in and out. It's healthy to get a look at everyone at this point in the season," said coach Dwaine Knight.

The five starting players for UNLV include team pacer Chris Riley, freshman Ted Oh, junior Mike Vance, senior Chad Campbell, and a player to be determined later.

The Rebels will face the 11th ranked Stanford Cardinals, led by U.S. Amateur Champion Tiger Woods. "Tiger elevates the team to play against him at his level," said Knight on the showdown with Woods.

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The other two recruits are very talented and will add great depth to the squad.

Lander, ranked No. 17 in the country as a junior, is the second coveted recruit to sign in the early signing period. A two-time Arizona state high school champion, Lander is also a 1995 second-team Rolex All-American. He is a four-time Most Valuable Player for

Kingmon High, and the medalist in the 1995 Oklahoma Junior Classic.

The final Rebel recruit is McGraw, who was a two-time all Southern California golfer and the medalist of the Sunset League Championship last season. He is a three-time All-Orange County selection and has finished in the top 10 four times on the American Junior

Golf Association Tour.

He chose UNLV over UCLA and San Jose State University.

With team leaders Chris Riley and Chad Campbell being seniors, the Rebels needed to re-load for next season.

"It was a solid class," said Knight.

Rebels' rushing attack does talking

Football: Tony Burton finds his niche as a Rebel running back

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Junior UNLV running back Tony Burton is quiet on and off the field. Instead of talking trash, he lets his actions speak for themselves in the form of his dominating rushing attack.

Just when the Rebels are turning around their season, it is no coincidence that Burton is emerging as the feature back.

In the last two games Burton has run for over 100 yards. He ran for 137 yards on 15 attempts in the Rebel's 55-32 Oct. 28 loss to the UNR Wolf Pack. Burton also helped the Rebels break a 6-game losing streak against the North Texas Eagles by running for 177 yards on 29 attempts. He had three long touchdown runs in both games.

Burton adds the aspect of speed to the Rebel's three-man running back combination. Burton is the fast and elusive back while teammates DeJohn Branch and Shannon Wilson provide a more straight-ahead power attack. The three make up the third-best rushing attack in the Big West Conference, averaging 192.2 yards per game.

"Burton adds the dimension of speed to the team,"

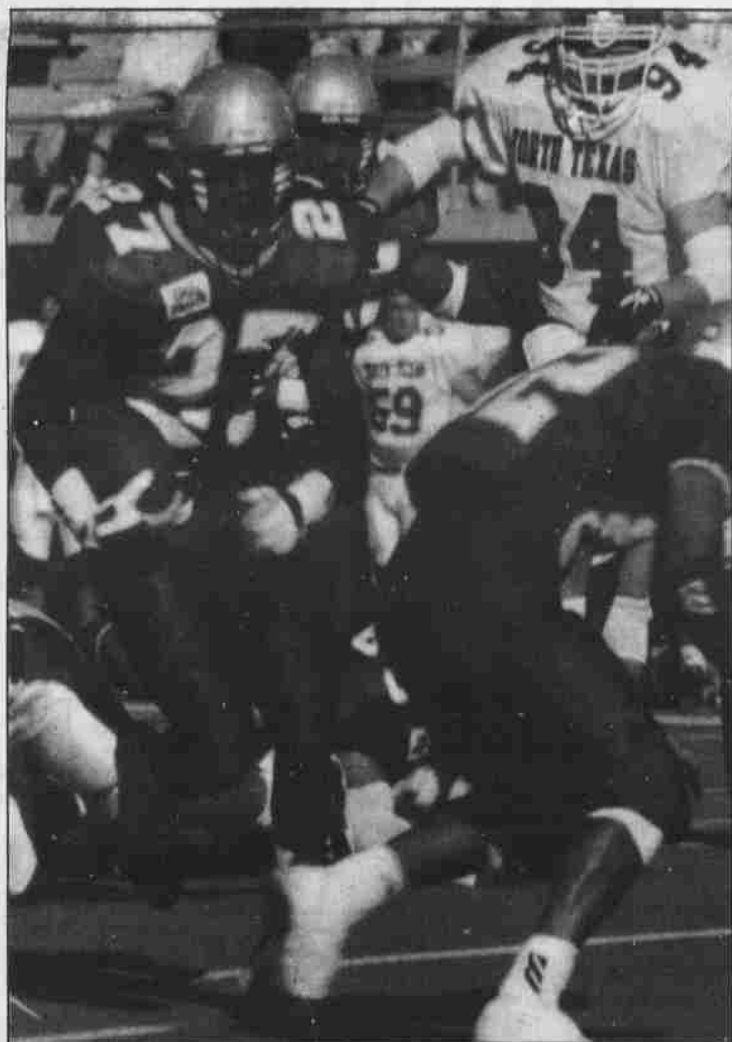


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

No. 27, Tony Burton, gains yardage against North Texas.

Head Coach Jeff Horton said. "He showed his speed on his long runs. He catches the ball well out of the backfield. He is a big reason for our recent success."

"He is a very elusive runner," Horton continued, "he never looks like he is running too fast, but no one can catch him. He has a knack for making people miss."

Burton attributes his success to the increased level of play by his offensive team-

mates.

"Our offensive line has been controlling the line of scrimmage," Burton said. "Everybody is coming together down the stretch. The receivers have been catching the ball well and JB (Jared Brown) has not been throwing interceptions."

"When I do good, the offensive line deserves a lot of credit. I can not do it all on my own. They did an awesome job (against North Texas)."

With an overcrowded back-

Rebels host Aggies Saturday

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels will try to win their second game in as many weeks when they host the Utah State Aggies Saturday at Sam Boyd Stadium at 1:05 p.m. in a Big West Conference showdown.

UNLV is coming off of two consecutive weeks of impressive performances in the road loss to the UNR Wolf Pack and the home win against the North Texas Eagles. The Rebel's offense is starting to click and the defense is gaining some much-needed experience.

The Rebels, 2-7, are

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field, Burton must compete for playing time with Branch and Wilson. Despite the competitive relationship, Burton maintains that the three men compliment each other.

"When I am in there, DJ (Branch) tells me what I could have done better. If I start, I'll tell Shannon (Wilson) what kind of defense they are playing. We are

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