



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Head coach Bill Bayno points the way to the future in the Rebels' first exhibition game of the season.

## Basketball goes with a fresh look

**Rebels start new season with a new coach**

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

If you looked over at the Rebel bench Thursday night and saw some young guy in a suit yelling, pointing and jumping up and down, you would not have thought he was the new UNLV Head Coach.

But he is. Bill Bayno was hired on March 30, and has captured the imagination of Rebel fans once again. But Bayno has been honest about this team's outlook for the season and it is not looking to good.

"We have a lot of weaknesses," Bayno said. "Our defense isn't where I want it to be and our everyday intensity level isn't always there. Somedays it is better than others, it hasn't been consistent."

In UNLV's 37-year basketball history, there have only been nine coaches. The 33-year-old Bayno will be the 10th Rebel coach.

He comes to UNLV from the University of Massachusetts, where he was associate coach from 1988-95. Under coach John Calipari, Bayno helped bring UMass into national basketball prominence by leading them to four straight NCAA tournaments. Last season, the Minutemen were ranked in the top 10 throughout the year and finished with a 29-5 record.

Bayno believes that UMass' rise to the top is similar in the way UNLV will have to climb back into the NCAA rankings, through recruiting and building a strong foundation.

Coming to UNLV and being named head coach was only a dream to Bayno before March 30 when UNLV announced he was the next head man for the Rebels.

"Today, I begin living a dream," Bayno said in a press conference on March 30. "This is what I've worked all my life for and it's an enormous opportunity to run one of the top programs in the history of college basketball."

Bayno started his coaching career after graduating from Sacred Heart University in 1985 as a graduate assistant coach for Seton Hall during 1985-1986. He also coached as an assistant at both the University of Kansas (the JV program) and Baptist College in Charleston, SC, before heading up to UMass.

At each stay as coach, Bayno's recruiting abilities were praised. He has been credited with bringing the Minuteman into the national spotlight, as well as establishing a strong JV Kansas squad and a Baptist College team that went 17-12 under Bayno's tutelage.

"Coach Bayno has done a great job getting us ready," senior forward Clayton Johnson said. "I have a lot

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## Rebels are Runnin' again

**Basketball: A new look and hopes of contention**

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

UNLV basketball coach Bill Bayno has been telling everyone close to UNLV not to expect too much from this Rebel team.

And for the most part he has pulled it off.

The Big West Conference ran its preseason polls on Nov. 8, and the Rebels were ranked sixth in both the Men's Media Poll and the Men's Coaches Poll. UNLV is ranked behind teams like Utah State at No. 1, Long Beach State at No. 2 and UNR at No. 3, teams which the Rebels dominated in past seasons.

In their first action of the season, the Rebels beat Marathon in an exhibition game on Thursday at the Thomas & Mack Center 79-76.

The Rebels began the second half leading 43-35. But that lead quickly fell as Marathon charged back and pulled within one or two points for most of the half, and then captured the lead with 6:52 remaining, 64-63.

Junior forward, Warren Resegreen, gave the lead back to the Rebels when he sunk a free throw with 4:53 to go, however, that did not stick as Marathon regained the lead

on two free throws. Marathon led by as much as four, with 2:18 to go, 74-70, then the Rebel defense kicked in and meshed with the offense. They finished the game with a 9-2 run, starting it at about the minute mark.

With 19 seconds to play, senior forward Clayton Johnson nailed a twenty-foot jumper to put the Rebels ahead for good, 77-76. Marathon tried to get the lead back, but missed the shot and Johnson grabbed the rebound. He was fouled at half court and made both free throws to give the Rebels the three-point win.

Bayno explained after the game that at first he wasn't too worried about winning the game. "Then we gave them the lead in the second half. And that is when I wanted to win this game," Bayno said.

There has been a question of a lack of intensity hovering over the Rebel camp this preseason, and it still remains unanswered to Bayno. In the Marathon game it seemed like a few times they were flat and were lacking some extra juice.

"Our biggest weakness is the intensity level," Bayno said. "We died in the second half and lost our intensity, the guys gave into fatigue."

Overall, though, Bayno said that he was surprised by his squad's performance and was pleased by the way Johnson emerged as the team leader.

"He (Johnson) was the one in the huddle who was talking defense," Bayno said. "I was talking offense, and he was

talking defense."

The Rebels have been sliding more and more into mediocrity since the departure of Tarkanian in 1992 and last year had their first losing season in 21 years, going 12-16 under the trio of coaches last year. With the uncertainty of the coaching staff last season, it has been a nice change for the players as well as the university to see some stability within the staff.

"Coach Bayno has done a great job getting us ready," Johnson said. "He reminds me of how coach (Tim) Grgurich was when he came in."

Bayno was hired on Mar. 30, four weeks after the Rebels failed to make the NCAA or the NIT tournament for the second straight season. As the 10th coach in Rebel basketball's 37-year history, Bayno grabs the reins of a program that has been the center of controversy in past seasons. But that has not scared him off.

"I don't plan on going anywhere," Bayno said. "But that is up to the people upstairs."

For seven years, Bayno was the associate head coach under John Calipari at the University of Massachusetts and is a graduate of Sacred Heart University in 1985. He has also coached at the Baptist College in Charleston, SC (1987-88), University of Kansas (1986-87) and Seton Hall (1985-86).

Bayno has a tough road to

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## Lady Rebels get broken in exhibition

BY JEREMY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Rebels opened their 1995-96 campaign with a 90-58 exhibition loss to the Breakers from Perth, Australia at the Thomas & Mack Center Thursday.

The Breakers are a professional team that is used to playing together and the newly-acquainted Lady Rebels were no match for the pros.

After scoring only 22 points in the first half, UNLV surged in the second with 36 points.

Forward LeAnn Kazmer and guard Desiree Weimann were the leading scorers for the Lady Rebels with 16 points each. Kazmer was 6-11 from the field and Weimann was 6-13. Kazmer and post Liz Wolfe added eight boards apiece.

Compton College transfer Elana Adams had 15 points in her first game as a Lady Rebel. She shot 6-15 from the field including 3-10 from three-point range.

The Breakers had four players in double figures led by reserve guard Lisa Maclean. She finished with a game-high 21 points that was achieved with long-range shooting. She was 5-7 from downtown and 8-10 shooting overall. Guard Brooke Hiddlestone had 14 points, forward Melissa McClure had 12 points and guard Gina Stevens added 11.

"For playing a professional team, we did pretty good," Kazmer said. "We are young



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

No. 23, Elana Adams dishes the ball off in the Lady Rebel loss to Perth, Australia. Adams had 15 points in the game.

and inexperienced. We definitely found out what we needed to work on."

The Lady Rebels will officially open up their season Nov. 24 when they face off in

tournament action against the Rice Owls in the 1995 Dial Soap Classic at the University of Arkansas. Arkansas and Florida A&M will be in the tournament.