

Commentary

It's a 40 minute game

It has taken only four games for the Rebels to develop a pattern to their season this year:

The second-half surge. Just when you think the Runnin' Rebels were through for the game, they come stormin' back to take the lead, or at least get close in the second half. They start the

game looking like a moping dog, but once that second half gets underway, the real Rebels take the floor.

The prime example of this was the Loyola Marymount game Saturday night. Never mind that the Rebels were just a three-pointer away from sending this game into overtime, losing 70-67, they did not start their game until there were five minutes left.

Hey guys, it's a 40-minute game, not 20 or even five minutes.

The Rebels shot just 31 percent from the floor in the first half while the Lions were hitting at 46 percent. The score was 34-25 at the half and it was the first time this season the Rebs were down at the break.

They also needed to climb onto the back of Clayton Johnson to get things rolling in the second half of the LMU game. Johnson had 20 points in the second half, in contrast to the three points he put away in the first half. And while Johnson felt he had to win this game the rest of the Rebels seemed like they just could not find the on switch for even the second half.

The Cal State Northridge game at the Thomas & Mack played along the same lines, at least by the way the first half went. The Rebels struggled to a two-point lead heading into the half, 38-36.

Maybe it was the defense, or Chancellor Davis calling the plays at the point, or it could have been coach Bill Bayno's halftime speech (he claimed there was a vein popping out of his head during the talk) that sparked the Rebels to run up and down the court with reckless abandon against the hapless Matadors of Northridge.

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Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

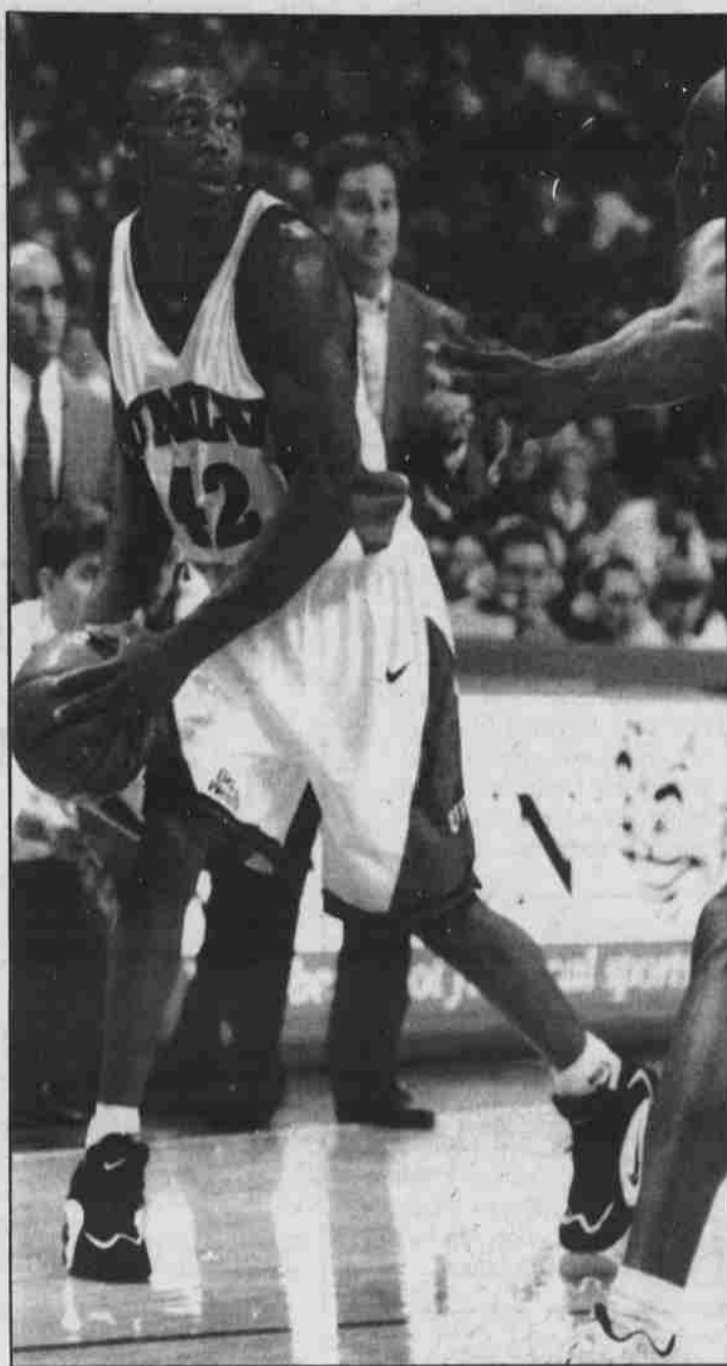


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Warren Rosegreen, No. 42, looks to pass the ball against Cal State Northridge. He scored 16 in the loss to Loyola Marymount.

Rebels come up short

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

It has been apparent throughout the preseason that Clayton Johnson wanted to be the captain of this UNLV team. He wanted to be the one to carry the team when times got tough.

Well, times got tough Saturday night when the Rebels lost to Loyola Marymount, 70-67 at Gersten Pavillion on the Loyola Marymount campus.

The Rebels, now 1-1 in the season, mounted a last-minute scoring charge in the final five minutes of the game, with Johnson as the primary engineer. He scored 20 of his 23 points in the last 13 minutes of the game.

Johnson nailed a three-pointer with 1:50 remaining, getting the Rebels within four, 68-64. With 1:30 to go, Johnson missed a three pointer then fouled LMU's Kenny Hotopp, when he ran into Hotopp.

The ball was dished off to Johnson once again as he put away another three pointer to pull the Runnin' Rebels to within two, 69-67.

With 17.3 seconds left on the clock, the inbound pass went to Eric Lee inside but he missed a two-foot bank shot. UNLV fouled once more, and LMU Lion Mike O'Quinn made one of two foul shots.

Junior Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith made his way down court and put up a three-point-

er as the buzzer sounded, but it missed its mark.

The Rebels have shown a weakness against zone defenses in the early going this season, and against the Lions they were true to form. They were confounded by the Lions' zone defense, so much so that they did not score a field goal over a 10 minute span. It was enough for time for the Lions to take a 28-15 lead.

LMU went on a 19-5 run midway through the first half after the Rebels had leads of 8-2 and 13-9 early on. The Lions led by as much as 15 points at one point and led by nine at the half, 34-25.

Saturday also saw the return of senior guard Damian Smith. Smith had missed both exhibition games, along with the season opener against Cal State Northridge, due to arthroscopic knee surgery he had on Nov. 4. He was 0-4 from the field and looked tight in the 10 minutes he played.

Junior Warren Rosegreen finished up as the Rebels second leading scorer with 16 points and seven rebounds, while Lee led UNLV with eight boards and four points.

The Rebels shot just 31 percent from the field in the first half, but were able to raise it to 43 percent for the game with their second-half charge.

The Lions moved their record to 3-1 on the year and beat UNLV for only the fifth time in 23 games.

UNLV golf erase a 14 shot deficit to win home tournament

Oh, what a comeback!

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

In the biggest comeback in UNLV golf history, freshman Ted Oh led the Swingin' Rebels to overcome a 14-point deficit and capture the IGT/UNLV Rebel Classic, held Wednesday at the Desert Inn Country Club.

Oh, who was the medalist for the tournament, helped engineer the comeback as the

No. 2-ranked Rebels beat Texas Christian University and 13 other schools in the tournament.

"It was just a matter of time before (Oh) put it all together," coach Dwaine Knight said. "He is going to be a great player for us."

After all the golfers had hung up their clubs for the tournament, the Rebels and the Horned Frogs of TCU were knotted at 873 on the team leaderboard.

The Swingin' Rebels won the tie-breaker since their fifth golfer, Mike Ruiz, shot a 72 for the day, and TCU's fifth golfer, Doug Roecker, shot a 77.

Other Rebel heroics included true freshman Charley Hoffman's 84-foot putt for a birdie on the 18th hole. Hoffman made his presence felt in his first tournament on the Rebels top squad shooting a 222 for the tournament and a 69 on the final day.

"It was the first time a crowd made a difference in a golf tournament," Knight said. "We had a great crowd on the 18th hole for the putt and the cheer was like something for a basketball game. It got TCU all shook up."

In a field of 75 golfers, Oh shot a five-under par 71 on the final day of play to edge out

Fresno State's Michael Miller and UCLA's Jon Bettencourt by one shot with a 214 three-day total.

On the final hole of the tournament, Oh sunk a four-foot birdie to capture his first collegiate championship.

In the three-day competition UNLV started out sluggish and flat, falling behind first day leader TCU by 13 shots.

"I felt we played better after the first round," Knight said. "It was like playing a different course because they speeded the greens up."

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Commentary

Regardless of season, Horton still a winner

In a city that is perhaps the epitome of winning and losing, we find ourselves no more skilled at assessing true winners and losers as a result of the wealth of our experience.

Often we travel to the abyss of discontent, never hesitant with the vacuum of aspersion we often draw those in our wake into. We blame. We ruin. We speak too quickly. And in our haste to label those winners and losers, we sometimes use the most convenient of criteria. Too bad convenient and important aren't synonymous.

Make no mistake about it, Jeff Horton is a winner. Yes, I do know his record this year and conversely also am aware of his accomplishments last year. I'm also aware that we have a football coach who is more than a man

Guest Column
KURT DIVICH

schooled in gridiron combat. Jeff Horton is an active and positive member of the UNLV community.

Gone are the days of a gladdening Jim Strong who pushed the country-gentleman meal ticket too far for everyone. Here we have a real, compassionate man with a genuine interest in his program, his players, and the success of the university.

The cynics point to his season. They need not point, it's clear how things went. It's also clear to a more discriminating eye that Coach Horton could've gone for a quick fix and raided the junior colleges for more seasoned players. That would have won us a few more games. But Horton, possessing a vision that should be but isn't always the sidearm of a coach, knew that the quick fix could be

fatal. Horton knew that he had to grow kids up his way, giving them experience right now before they journey to the brutal Western Athletic Conference next year. Horton traded a few wins now for a fighting chance later on.

But more important than anything Jeff Horton can or ever will do on a football field, Horton does everyday. He is an active and positive influence.

Jeff Horton has given time, effort, and money, smack in the heart of his most demanding time of year, to assist in everything from pep rallies to charity. He has personally assisted in the raising of funds for the TKE-Randy Brewer Scholarship fund as well as given generously from his own pocket,

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