

Rebels three-minute rally falls short

UNLV basketball still winless on the road

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

Just another five seconds. That's all UNLV needed, just another five seconds.

With the final seconds flashing away on the clock, Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith had no one to go to. He was left at the top of the three-point line with the ball in hand as the final buzzer went off in the Rebels 68-66 loss to New Mexico State University on Satur-

day.

But it could have been worse for the 6-10 Rebels (3-5 in Big West play). With 3:37 remaining in the game, the Rebels mounted a 15-point rally to climb back into a game that appeared to be lost.

The Rebels edged their way up in a matter of two minutes, to 66-55, before Clayton Johnson hit his first three-pointer of the evening. Draining that three stirred up the Rebel offense for the first time in the game.

Johnson nailed two more threes in the next minute-and-a-half, and Smith dished in a three from the left corner to help UNLV's cause.

But it all came down to free throws when the game came

down to the wire, with the Rebels hitting just 7-19 for the game. However, on the Aggies side of the court, they were watching free throws fall by the wayside as well. In the span of 70 seconds, NMSU missed 5 of 6 and were 20-33 for the game.

This has been something the Aggies have been getting used to this season. They have seen a few leads dwindle this season, hence their 6-10 overall record and 3-5 in the Big West.

The Rebel's game was off most of the night, with missed layups and turnovers aplenty. They went eight minutes and four seconds without scoring in the first half, and then two scoreless spurts in the second half of 3:27 and 2:08.

The Aggies were up by 15 late in the second half, 53-38.

The Rebels fell behind at the end of the first half, 30-17, but never quit when they fell behind even more in the second half, something Coach Bill Bayno has preached about to his team over and over again this season.

They have come back from deep holes against a few other teams this year, such as UCLA, Utah State, Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine. So being behind at the half or late in the game has seemed to fuel the Rebels intensity in many of the games this season.

The most consistent player on the Scarlet and Gray squad has been forward Warren Ro-

segreen, who had another double-double Saturday night, with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Johnson dumped in a career high 27 points, nine of which came in the final minute on three-pointers.

Lane continued his progress this season, putting in 13 while Smith had 11 in the Rebel's two-point loss.

It was the Rebels sixth straight road loss of the season, and they have dropped five straight to NMSU, dating back to the Massimino days of 1992-93.

The Rebels faced University of Nevada, Reno, Monday night. However, scores were not available as press time.

Coach Bolla just looking for another win

UNLV Lady Rebels drop fourth straight, Bolla misses 300...again

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Lady Rebel Coach Jim Bolla is not worried about win 300, he would be satisfied with any win his depleted squad can get.

UNLV lost its fourth straight and Bolla missed his chance at 300 when the New Mexico State Roadrunners came to the South Gym Saturday night for a 73-49 win.

The Lady Rebels (3-13, 2-7 in the Big West Conference) played a short-handed game with three starters out. Center Summer Peterson has missed 12 games this season with bronchitis, forward LeAnn Kazmer was out with a sinus infection and guard Elana Adams, who leads the Lady Rebels in scoring, is academically ineligible to play this season.

To add insult to injury, starting guards Loriessa Randle and Desiree Weimann and backup forward Angie Dye all played the game with flu symptoms.

Reserve center Nakia Jones has been suspended indefinitely by Bolla for violating team rules.

Even Bolla himself missed two days of work this week when he underwent unspecified physical tests Thursday and Friday.

The Lady Rebels roster is starting to resemble a scene from the movie "Outbreak."

At game time UNLV only had seven players in uniform and they were no match for the big and physical Roadrunners.

"When you don't have the people there to play, it's hard to get stuff done," Bolla said. "You have to deal with it."

NMSU boasts the conference's best player in forward Anita Maxwell. The two-time BWC Player of the Year shot 8-of-12 from the field for 17 points and added nine rebounds.

"Maxwell is a great player,"



PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Loriessa Randle looks upcourt for an open Lady Rebel.

Bolla said. "They are going to run their stuff for her."

UNLV faltered early, shooting only 29 percent from the floor in the first half and committing 20 turnovers in the game.

"They execute their offense and we go helter skelter," Bolla said.

Despite being short-hand-

ed, Bolla thought the team was well-prepared for the Roadrunners.

"The coaches watched six games on these people," Bolla said. "We had everything down that they did. It seems like when it comes time to play we forget what they are doing. It's like we never went over the scouting reports."

Talking smack in the clubhouse

On a national sports radio show hosted by Jim Rome, sports fans call in to "talk smack" (criticize) the figures in the sporting world.

The one rule of the show is that "scoreboard" has the final say on whose "smack" is accurate or better than the other person's.

Scoreboard refers to the stats of all games played, most importantly the final score.

Borrowing Rome's format for my column, I've decided to "talk smack" on the UNLV basketball team, with the scoreboard's support.

The first category, "Sets the standard for poor foul shooting," was the way Ken

Korach, UNLV's radio play-by-play announcer, described the Rebels awful foul shooting on his post-game report after Saturday's 68-66 defeat by New Mexico State University.

"Young kids don't work in the gym enough on the art of free-throwing," concluded Korach.

Let's talk about some old school smack. The Rebels have thrown so many bricks at the iron this year from the charity stripe that they could have built me a new house.

In the Rebels last three defeats, they have lost by a total of 10 points. And in those three games, they have shot a horrific 55.3 percent from the line, not to mention junior cen-

ter Tony Lane who shot a not so perfect 3-10 from the line in Saturday's two-point defeat by NMSU.

What about the UCLA game when as a team the Rebels shot 10-21 from the line in the second half, while losing by seven to the Bruins.

Also, looking at the yearly game stats, you can see a high number in the turnover column. The Rebels had 20 against NMSU, and 259 for the season. That calculates to approximately 16 turnovers per game.

This is where the Rebels need improvement, free throws and turnovers.

The final comparison for this team is the emergence of

the Rice brothers. Current assistant, and back-up towel waver to Bryan Emerzian on the championship team, David Rice was credited with being a smart player, good student, a third-string replacement to Stacey Augmon. This year, his brother, Grant Rice, has the same qualities and potential, but is a regular in the guard rotation.

On the good side, Coach Bayno could be the hardest-working head coach in college basketball. On the other side, Coach Bayno could end up working himself into the hospital.

Ray Brewer is a sports writer for the Rebel Yell

The Clubhouse

RAY BREWER