

## Commentary

Notes, notes  
and nothin'  
but notes

Hey didn't you used to be Moses Scurry?

I just realized something (shaddup!) about the Runnin' Rebels this season. A Rebel lead in a basketball game is about as safe as

anyone of us are on the Las Vegas roadways...

Off the  
BenchMICHAEL  
MELISSA

The Bench spy network was out on the prowl Monday night (yes, your tuition dollars goes towards their funding, too) and saw the future heavyweight champ, Mike Tyson sitting behind the Rebel bench. Now you know the question is begging to be asked—What did he watch more, the Rebels or the Rebel Girls?

Also at Monday night's game was future Rebel center, Keon Clark. He was probably there to get an idea of how he wants to stand when the Rebels retire his jersey in 10 years...

Speaking of turnovers, the Rebels turned the ball over one, two, three times the whole game. I've seen chefs at the Palace Station buffet turn eggs over more times than just three times...

Went to 'ol Earl E. Wilson stadium, where the dust from the Lied Athletic complex clogs the eyes and the smell of the beer being poured by the 335 club fills the nostrils. Ohhhhhhh, the sights and smells of Rebel baseball...

After watching Hustlin' Reb Ted Wilkes crank a shot over the right field wall from the right side of the plate, couldn't help but think (shaddup!), "How many of those windows in the Lied Complex will not be there next year?" And wouldn't you know it, one leads to coach Jeff Horton's office. He might want to grab that helmet Quincy Sanders throws, er, uhm, wears...

Speaking of hockey trades (you know you want to hear about them) did ya hear the latest trade rumors from Lost Angeles? The "Great One," Wayne Gretzky is being traded to the Disney Ice Capades for Goofy and three characters to be named later (the Bench spy network believes them to be Huey, Dewey and Louie)...

The most frightening, hair-raising phrase in the English language, or the Las Vegas language for that matter: The Los Angeles Kings traded...

—Michael Melissa is the Sports Editor at the Rebel Yell

## One win down...three to go

Runnin' Rebels  
turn ball over just  
three times in  
BWC winBY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

If a smile was worth a win, then UNLV basketball coach Bill Bayno's smile at the end of the UC Irvine win was probably worth three.

With their backs against the wall, the Rebels put forth probably their best game of the season, beating the Big West front-runners 63-60 in front of a season-low 4,653 at the Thomas & Mack Center Monday night.

"It was a great win tonight because our backs are to the wall," a jovial Bayno said after the game. "It was a first place team that's really talented and we defended the heck out of them."

And defend them they did, forcing the UCI Anteaters to cough the ball over 18 times in the game. The Rebels, on the other hand, have been averaging 17 turnovers a game, but gave the ball over just three times Monday night.

What? Just three times? Were these the Rebels or the Los Angeles Lakers at the T&M?

"Forget the the turnovers we had," UCI coach Rod Bak-

er said. "How about the fact that we can't get them to turn the ball over more than three times? We could have been playing the Lakers in the first half and got them to turn the ball over at least once."

The Rebels were able to hold the top scoring team in the BWC to just 27 points in the first half, going into the break up 37-27. At times, the Rebels found themselves up by as much as 14, and had a 19-5 run early in the first half.

The Anteaters shot 40 percent in the first half while the Rebels hit the bucket at a 50 percent mark.

The second half started with the Anteaters jumping back into the game, going on a 20-7 run that span over the first 10 minutes of the half. The Rebels fell behind by as much as six during that stretch, 52-46, at one point.

But the team that never says die came out when the game appeared to be lost.

With 8:51 remaining and the Rebels down by three, 52-49, James launched a jumper from the corner and hit it, getting the Rebels within one, and shifting the momentum back to the Rebels' side.

James, who had probably his best game of the season, then intercepted an Anteater pass and tossed it over to Sunshine Smith who took the easy dunk and gave the Rebels a 53-52 lead.

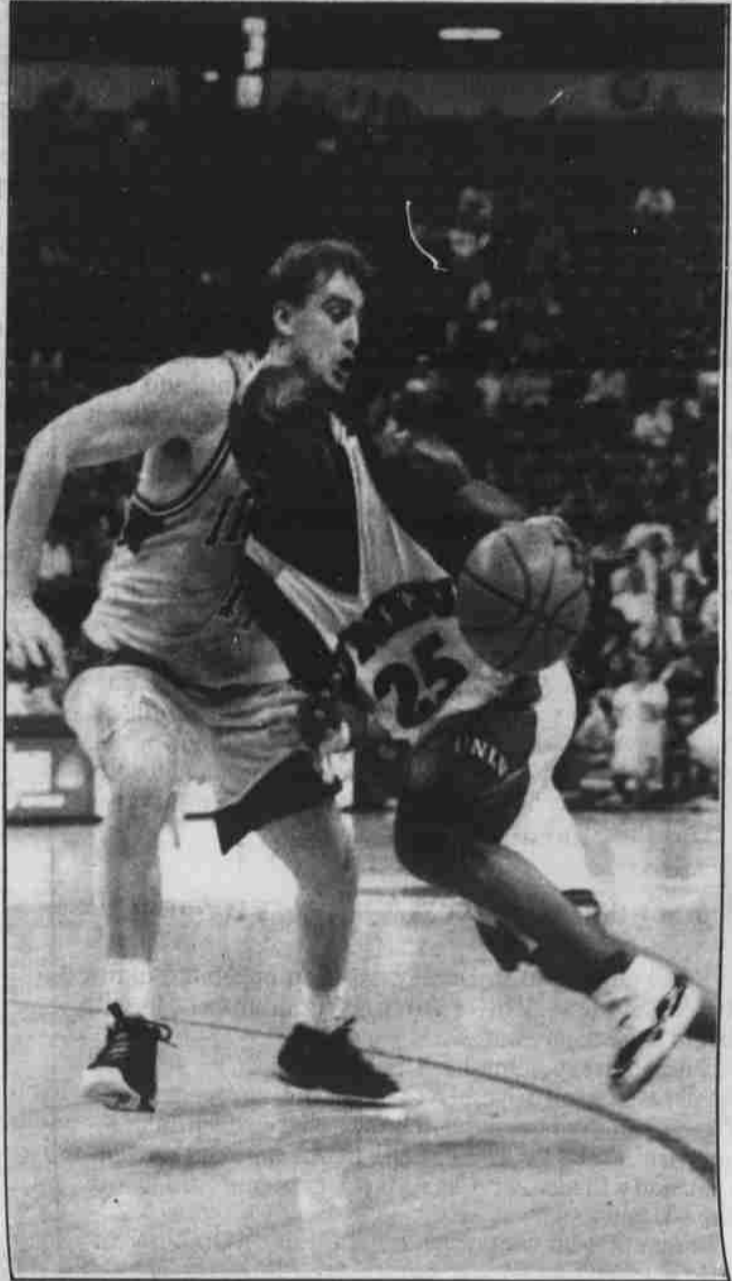


PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Jemaine "Sunshine" Smith blows past a UC Irvine defender in Monday's win. The Runnin' Rebels will be in action against New Mexico State Saturday night.

See Rebound, pg. 10

## Hankins posting impressive numbers

Third baseman  
not bothered by  
potential  
'sophomore  
jinx'BY MARCUS HOSKIN  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

In only one year, sophomore third baseman Ryan Hankins has become one of the catalysts for the Hustlin' Rebels line-up.

As a freshman last year Hankins batted .383, a record for UNLV freshmen, with 18 doubles, 12 home runs and 49 RBIs. Those numbers garnered him 1995 freshman All-American honors by both Collegiate Baseball and Baseball America and first team All-Big West Conference.

This year, the expectations are high for Hankins not to have the proverbial "sophomore jinx," but Hankins has set lofty goals for himself, and doesn't let superstition affect his play.

"I try not to let that bother me," Hankins said. "My goal this year



Ryan Hankins

is to hit .400 and I think it is reachable."

Hankins came off the blocks slowly this season, mainly due to a strained hamstring muscle he incurred in the opening series at UCLA. Hankins went 2-for-4 in the season opener, but went on a 0-for-10 mini-slump that plummeted his batting average to .142.

Since then Hankins has been on a tear. A 15-for-28 clip over the last seven games, capped off by a stellar 5-for-5 three-RBIs performance on Monday, rocketed his average to a team-leading .405 and helped the Rebels win their fifth consecutive game.

"(Monday) was a big night

for me," Hankins said. "I'm starting to get my stroke back. (The injury) hurt me big time."

Head coach Fred Dallimore had nothing but good things to say about Hankins' hitting abilities.

"The thing about Hankins is he's got great bat control," Dallimore explained. "If the ball's away his hands are back, if they throw him inside he's so quick he can turn on it."

"He uses all parts of the yard, and takes what they give you. He's just got that unique ability as a hitter."

Baseball is a team effort. Hankins said he thinks UNLV will be ranked in the top 25 in the very near future and should contend for the BWC title.

"Our goal is to win the Big West Conference and get to (NCAA) regionals," Hankins said. "Once we get Nate (Yeskie) back, we'll be in good shape."

The Hustlin' Rebels have their work cut out for them, however, because the BWC is one of the toughest baseball conferences in the nation. Defending National Champs Cal State Fullerton, currently ranked No.2 by Baseball America, and 20th-ranked Long Beach State should provide the biggest test for UNLV.

Hustlin' Rebs  
win fifth  
straightBY MARCUS HOSKIN  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Weather was the biggest factor Tuesday in the Hustlin' Rebels two-game series with BYU.

Winds gusts of 25 miles-per-hour, and a strong pitching performance by Fred Koehne helped UNLV to a 9-4 blasting of the Cougars on Monday for their fifth consecutive win and improve their record to 9-3 for the year.

Two things that will beat you on a windy day are base-on balls and defensive mistakes," Dallimore explained. "We didn't make any defensive mistakes and we turned a couple of double plays."

Koehne (2-0), who had only one career start before Monday's contest, held the winds and the Cou-

See Ball, pg. 10