

# Runnin' Rebels heart still beating

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Rebels knew it was a do-or-die game.

And they are not ready to die just yet, it seems.

UNLV kept its Big West Conference tournament chances alive by pulling out a victory on the road, in Reno. That's right, a road win for the Rebels.

Against the UNR Wolf Pack, the Rebels move their record to 7-10 in the BWC, and 10-15 overall, with a 64-61 victory. Their tournament chances now lie on Saturday night when the Rebels play Utah State. A combination of a UNLV win in Logan, Utah, and a Long Beach State victory over UC Santa Barbara on Saturday could get the Rebels back

to Reno for the BWC tournament on March 8.

As with most of the Rebel road games this season, the game came down to the final seconds and a Clayton Johnson jump shot to win it.

After Wolf Pack's Dallas Spears stepped out of bounds on a drive to the basket with 31 seconds to go, the Rebels regained possession of the ball. Kevin James dribbled the ball down court to knock some time off the clock, then passed it over to Johnson in the corner with time running out.

Johnson faked a baseline drive then pulled up and shot a 3-pointer that went in, stopping the clock with four seconds to play. UNR

was unable to make a shot, giving the Rebels their first road win of the season.

"At first I just wanted to get into the lane and get fouled," Johnson said. "But it really did not go that way, so I just stepped back and jumped as high as I could and released it, and it went down."

Defense was the key to the Rebels win, but head coach Bill Bayno had something to do with the win as well.

First, with the Rebels down 25-14 early on, Bayno received a technical foul for throwing a tantrum on the court.

Then with a minute to go, and the game knotted at 61-61, Johnson went to the floor with a leg cramp. Bayno went to his side and told Johnson to

stay on the floor for another minute to give the rest of the squad time to rest.

"The biggest key is that we made shots," Bayno said. "We got down early, and we could have hung our heads, we could have given up, we could have quit, but we didn't."

Johnson led the team with 26 points, 18 of which came off of 3-pointers. Sunshine Smith added some more punch with 15 points. Silent for the Rebels was Warren Rosegreen who is still battling the stomach flu, something he was plagued with on Saturday when the Rebels lost to New Mexico State.

"Clayton was in the zone this week," Bayno said. "I am going to get a blueprint of ev-

everything he did the day before the game and the day of the game and make sure he does that Friday and Saturday."

Rosegreen ran for 19 minutes and came away with 3 points and 3 rebounds. Tony Land has also been fighting off the flu for the past few days, but still played for 23 minutes and had five points.

The Rebels got back into the game after the technical foul call on Bayno with a 19-3 run, with most of the work shouldered by Johnson. He had 13 points in the run and the Rebels got the lead back, 33-31. UNR went without a field goal for the final 7:42 of the half, and the Rebels went into the break with the 2-point lead.

## Rebels need win at Utah State for tourney birth

**UNLV will be playing with all the marbles on the table**

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

"This is why we play this game, this is why we coach, to get into these situations and let it all hang out, with all the marbles on the line," UNLV head coach Bill Bayno said to the Athletic Club at their weekly luncheon on Wednesday.

And indeed all the marbles are on the line for the Runnin' Rebels. They are in a must-win situation this weekend when they face off against Utah State in Logan, Utah at the Dee Glenn Smith Spectrum on Saturday.

Not only do the Rebels have to win, they will also be looking for losses from UC Santa Barbara, who is set to play Long Beach State, and at least one loss from San Jose State. The Spartans will be playing UC Irvine on Thursday and Cal State Fullerton on Saturday.

The Rebels will still have a tough task in the Aggies, who are currently fifth in the Big West Conference with a 9-8

record (15-14 overall). UNLV is tied for ninth with New Mexico State at 7-10 in the conference (10-15 overall).

In their first meeting of the season, on Jan. 4 at the Thomas & Mack, UNLV fought back to regain the lead late in the game. Down 56-55 with 2:19 remaining in the game, the Rebels went on an 11-1 run to finish out the game. UNLV came away with the win, 66-57.

Tony Lane led all UNLV scorers with 17 points and nine rebounds. Warren Rosegreen also came away with a game-high 13 rebounds.

As with the first game the Rebels will have to stop the Aggies' two big men to gain control of the game. Eric Franson, who is averaging 17 points and nine rebounds per game has been the main inside force for the Aggies. Also causing trouble in the BWC is forward Silas Mills, who is averaging 17 points and eight rebounds per game.

"They've probably got the best one-two inside punch in the conference in Franson and Mills," Bayno explained. "We have to step up and control those guys and

not let them get off any shots. We're going to try and limit their shots and make other guys on the floor beat us."

As Bayno has stressed all season, defense will be the key for the Rebels. It was the main factor in the road-win over UNR on Monday (64-61), and will be once again against Utah State.

By the numbers, though, the Rebels have given up about a point more to the opposition than the Aggies this season. The Rebels are giving up about 68 points per game while Utah State is allowing 67 a game.

The big difference is how much each team is scoring. UNLV has been averaging 67 points per game while the Aggies are hitting the bucket three more times a game at 70 points per game.

For the first time in two games, however, the Rebels will be with a healthy team. Rosegreen and Lane have both been limited in playing time as they are trying to fight off the flu. Also, Chancellor Davis should be back playing more minutes, coming off an ankle injury that has hindered him the last game.

Tip-off for the game will be at 6 p.m. and will be televised on KUPN Cable 2.



PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Clayton Johnson and the Runnin' Rebels hope to dribble past Utah State Saturday night for another BWC win.

## Lady Rebels battle weather and competition to win tournament

BY RAY BREWER  
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In harsh weather conditions, the fifth-ranked UNLV softball team won all five of their games to win the UNLV softball tournament held last weekend at Freedom Park.

The Rebels were crowned co-champions along with Colorado State because their championship game was rained out Sunday afternoon.

The first game saw UNLV score the game's only two runs in the final inning to secure a 2-0 victory over the University of Toledo Rockets.

Heather Siegal got the rally started when she opened the seventh inning with a triple. She later scored on a Andrea Long single to left field.

Teresa Branch, who walked

earlier in the inning, scored the second run on a Kim Rodina sacrifice fly to right field.

That was all the offense hurler Tanya Edwards needed, as she struck out four while only yielding two hits.

In the second game, the Rebels exploded for 10 runs in the sixth inning to defeat Colorado State.

The scoring drive was lead by sophomore All-American Julie Crandall who hit a grand slam with no outs in the inning.

The Rebels proceeded to bat around their line-up en route to scoring another six runs to close out the game.

Heather Markowitz finished the rally with a two run single, ending the game

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## Swimming and diving teams finish second

BY MARCUS HOSKIN  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The UNLV men's and women's swimming and diving teams were both the runner-up at the Big West Conference Championships held in Long Beach, Calif., Thursday through Saturday.

The men tried to pull off a major upset of 17-time defending champs UC Santa Barbara, but it was not to be as the Gauchos topped the Rebels 856-765.

After the first day of competition, things looked good for the Rebels as they notched a 39-point advantage over the Gauchos.

Mike Mintenko finished tops in the 500-yard freestyle and Peter Scalise,

who was named swimming's BWC co-athlete off the year, won the 200 individual medley. The men's 400 medley relay also scored a first-place finish.

After day two, UCSB climbed back into the lead 525-506.

Kam Sengthavy was victorious with his BWC and UNLV record-setting performance in the 100 backstroke with a time of 49.11. Calvin Weis won the 100 butterfly and Mintenko finished first in the 200 freestyle.

On the final day, UCSB took a 51-point edge over the Rebels because UNLV has no men's divers, and continued their dominance by winning their 18th consecutive BWC championship by 91 points.

Head coach Jim Reitz didn't

go home empty-handed, however. Reitz was named the BWC men's coach of the year.

After the first day of competition, the women's squad trailed eventual champs Nevada Reno, 226-160.

At the completion of day two, UNR increased their lead over the Rebels, 579-446.

In the end the Wolf Pack was just too strong for UNLV, beating the Rebels 923-691.

Jen Crowder picked up victories in both the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke. Sheri Theisen swam fastest in the 1650 freestyle and Nicole Mendrinis was the best in the 200 butterfly. UNLV's 200 medley relay team finished first as well.