

Commentary

Let's get on with the bickering

Hey, didn't you use to be Randall Cunningham?

Mmmmm, the smell of hot dogs, peanuts and beer. The crack of the bat, the sound of the ball smacking the catcher's mitt and the

all-too-familiar cries are coming back for another

Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

baseball season. You know those cries, the owners and players bickering with each other. Oh yes, baseball is back...

The Bench spy network (your tuition dollars goes toward our funding) was able to obtain the Dodgers payroll sheet and noticed that last season's NL ROY (that's National League Rookie of the Year in baseballspeak) has been given a pay raise. That's right kiddies, Nomomania put butts in the seats of the house that Pasta built, so Freddie Claire and Tommy Lasorda gave the boy a little raise. It was just a \$4.3 million raise for their newest attraction, but maybe it will be 4.3 million reasons to keep the sophomore jinx away too...

Speaking of attractions, it seemed like the last half of the season, those big, mean National League hitters started to get Hideo's number (and it's a good bet it wasn't a 1-900 number they got) when his sub-2.00 ERA began to rise like Lasorda's waist line...

We here at the Bench were just pondering (shaddup!) something, like how many games over 100 is the Tribe going to win? And we all still remember the days when numbers over 100 were associated with how many losses Chief Wahoo's boys would get...

What kind of ownership does the Baltimore Orioles have when they make a guy work 2,153 straight games? Talk about slave drivers...

The question begs to be asked. Who is going to win more games? The New York Mutts (whoops, that's supposed to be Mets) or the Chicago Bulls?

Straight from the Bench sports ticker your tuition dollars help buy: Tennessee Volunteers 49, UNLV Rebels 0, midway through the third quarter. A Rebel drive was thwarted just before halftime when Quincy Sanders was inserted as quarterback. He took the snap and threw a 45-yard pass to Carlos Baker, but it was called back when the officials realized it was his helmet he threw instead of

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Finally, Bolla gets win 300

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After months of criticism and a miserable season, highlighted by a 4-21 record, Lady Rebels head basketball coach Jim Bolla finally his 300th win.

The historic victory came on Saturday when UNLV defeated San Jose State, 80-73.

At the beginning of Bolla's 14th year at UNLV, the question wasn't *will* Bolla get victory No. 300, but rather *when* would he get the milestone victory?

This year saw the basketball program take a turn for the worst, with Bolla resigning and the squad only dressing seven players for a majority of the season.

Now with win 300 under his belt, the retiring Bolla has accepted a job in administration at UNLV.

Bolla is departing from coaching as the 16th winningest coach in Division I-A basketball, including 11 20-win seasons and nine post-season appearances.

Nearly 400 fans were on hand to say farewell to Bolla, who was bombarded with a retirement cake by his loyal supporters.

The Lady Rebels played sloppy, turning over the ball 28 times, but still performed well enough to win.



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Lady Rebel Loreissa Randle takes the dribble up court, and searches for an opening against San Jose State. Randle had 18 points in what became coach Jim Bolla's 300th victory Saturday night.

They hit the glass, with Angie Dye grabbing 13 boards, leading the Lady Rebels as they out-rebounded the Spartans, 54-32.

Senior LeAnn Kazmer paced the Rebels with inspired defense and scored 23 points.

Point guard Loriessa Ran-

dle finished with 18 points, nine rebounds, and six assists.

Two consecutive baskets by Kazmer at the 11-minute mark propelled the Lady Rebels comfortably ahead of the Spartans, 56-50. From there, the excited Lady Rebels held off the "never say die"

Spartans to give Bolla and UNLV the win.

Despite a year of much turmoil, the women's basketball program ended its season and coach Bolla's career on a high note.

The next step will be to find Bolla's replacement.

Runnin' Rebels tournament chances all fouled out

In their final Big West game, UNLV gets hurt by foul trouble

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

The last time UNLV failed to make the Big West Conference tournament was the 1991-92 season, when Jerry Tarkanian was head coach, and they were 18-0 in the BWC.

But that was because the NCAA suspended UNLV from tournament play.

The Rebels missed a tournament bid Saturday night, falling to Utah State, 82-69 in Logan, Utah at the Dee Glenn Smith Spectrum.

It was a must-win game for the Rebels, who finished the season 7-11 in the BWC and 10-16 overall. Only the top six teams in the conference go to the tournament. Previously all 10 went. It was also the final basketball game for UNLV as a member of the BWC. They will be entering the Western Athletic Conference next season.

Foul trouble plagued the Rebels midway through the first half, when Warren Rosegreen grabbed his third foul. Then Clayton Johnson grabbed fouls three and four with 4:48 left in the first half.

With UNLV up and 4:04 remaining in the half, Johnson fouled Jon Wickizer on a jump shot. Then Johnson playfully patted the official, Terry Tackett, on the rear. Johnson walked toward the Rebel bench and Tackett slapped him with a technical foul.

Johnson fouled out of the game in the final minute. Wes Reed also fouled out of the game.

Rebel center, Tony Lane also played in foul trouble, collecting his fourth foul at the 15:06 mark. Rosegreen received his fourth with 11:53 remaining. Despite the foul hinderance, both finished the game.

One Rebel who did not see action in Logan was center Eddie Corbett, who was benched for disciplinary reasons, Bayno explained.

"We could have used him," Bayno said. "I hope Ed learned from all this. It wasn't anything major that he did. He just has to understand rules are rules."

Bayno declined to comment on the specifics of Corbett's disciplinary action.

And still, with the foul trouble, UNLV was able to keep pace with the Aggies well into the second half.

Down 38-34 at the half, the Rebels fell behind by as many as nine, but were able to battle back and take the lead, 48-47, with 13:14 to go. With 7:51 remaining the Rebels were down by two, 60-58, and were running a lineup that featured Lane, Kevin James, Wes Reed, Grant Rice and Ben Sanders. Of that crew, only Lane has

more than 2.5 points per game (10.5).

"Our guys played hard, but we did not make shots in the second half," Bayno explained. "When we played UNR, Sunshine and Clayton made shots. We struggled (with shooting) despite the foul trouble and we still played close. They have a lot of heart and a lot of character."

The Aggies then went on an 11-0 run, blowing the game open, 71-58 with 5:20 left in the game. The Rebels, true to character, battled back, however, and pulled within six at one point.

But that was all she wrote for the Runnin' Rebels as Utah State pulled away in the final two minutes.

Despite finding themselves in foul trouble most of the game, both Johnson and Lane had strong games. Lane led the Rebels with 22 points, five rebounds and a blocked shot. Johnson had 15 points, nine of which came from behind the 3-point line. Sunshine Smith also had 15 points in the game.



Coach Bayno contemplates future of the Reb's.

Wickizer was the Aggie that beat up on the Rebels all night. He came away with 22 points, taking advantage of the Rebel foul troubles. The Aggies also faced foul trouble throughout the battle, with Eric Franson fouling out with 3:55 remaining, and two other USU players with four.

"I don't really comment on officiating," an evasive Bayno said. "It was a physical game and tough to officiate."

In all, UNLV was called for 26 personal fouls and USU had 17.

The Rebels shot 43 percent

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