

Tennis

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of Alicia Meraz and Claudia Gutierrez, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4. UNM's Angela Skrbic and Sanggeetha Vijayakumar downed the team of Ljiljana Kordic and Jeannette Fylpaa, 6-1, 6-3. UNLV's Lisa Annebro and Marie Linusson defeated UNM's Aimee Hites and Jane Legge, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

In singles action, Vallin improved her record to 9-3 by defeating Skrbic 6-1, 7-6. Annebro fell to Meraz in the No. 2 spot, 6-3, 6-3. Aleniuse earned her team a point in the No. 3 spot by beating Hites in straight sets, 7-6, 6-2. Linusson earned a point in the No. 4 spot by downing Nat Klavora, 6-1, 1-6, 7-6. UNM earned points for the No. 5 and No. 6 spots as Gutierrez and Legge beat Fylpaa and Kordic, respectively.

Clubhouse

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simino, and he took the program to an all-time low. His first year saw UNLV go 21-8, and be eliminated from the National Invitational Tournament in the first round.

The Rebels lost eight games in 1992, the total number of games they lost in the three previous years.

Massimino's final year, 1994, saw the Rebels go 15-13 and fail to qualify for either the NIT or NCAA Tournament.

The 1993-94 season was the first time the team lost 10 or more games since the 1981-82 season, when Sidney Green led the Rebels and went 20-10.

This is when the madness truly began:

At the start of last season, Massimino resigned under pressure from local fans who were upset and bitter about the previous dismal season.

His departure from the school hurt the reputation of the university and his secret contract is still hurting UNLV financially.

When the wreckage ended, the team was left with no

coaching staff at the start of fall practice except for their trainer, Jerry Koloskie.

Then, Tim Grgurich was hired to bring back the tradition to Rebel basketball.

But all he brought back was half of the ticket sales lost from the Massimino reign.

He only coached seven games, going 2-5, before working himself to the point of exhaustion, putting a halt on his career as Rebel coach.

Then Howie Landa took over the team, only to resign a few games later, and left the coaching duties to Cle Edwards.

At the beginning of the decade, the Rebels were celebrating a national championship, and five years later they were finishing under .500 for the season. Their record for the 1995-96 season is 12-16 and 7-11 in BWC.

This was the first time since the 1958-59 season that UNLV had a losing season. The 1958-59 squad, coached by Chub Drakulich, lost to Dixie Junior College four times, and their season highlight was beating Nellis Air Force Base by five.

But back to the 90s. Grgurich stopped coaching for health reasons toward the end

of the 1995 season, and the Rebs were coachless again.

Grgurich is back in coaching as an assistant with the Seattle SuperSonics of the NBA, however. This makes me question how severe his illness was, and if the university just used him to boost ticket sales.

Anyway this season Bill Bayno was brought in to give it a shot.

The season went just as bad as last season, with several injuries, a shortage of players, and no true team leader.

The Rebels finished 10-16, which gave them two consecutive losing seasons.

The once-powerful dynasty has officially been destroyed.

Their cumulative record in the decade, 153-61, is still strong, but not strong enough for the Rebels to be crowned college champions of the decade.

The good news of this nightmare is that UNLV has one of the top recruiting classes in the country, ranked in the top five by the experts.

Maybe the dynasty can be saved, or honestly reconstructed.

—Ray Brewer is a sports writer for The Rebel Yell



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