

Runnin' Rebels one step away from New York

■ UNLV-Hawai'i go to overtime in NIT second round

By Michael Melissa
Staff Sports Writer



In his brief career as Runnin' Rebels head coach, Bill Bayno has already had his share of big wins.

Michigan, UC Irvine (last season), Texas Christian University, Jerry Tarkanian's Fresno State team at the Thomas & Mack and Memphis one week ago.

He can now add Hawai'i to that list.

These two teams have already played twice this season, with the Rainbows winning both contests by a combined three points. So it would make sense that these two squads slugged it out once more and had to play an extra five minutes to determine the winner.

"I don't know if its the biggest win of my career," Bayno said after his Rebels defeated Hawai'i, 89-80 in the second round of the National Invitational Tournament. "I'm just happy that our seniors will leave the Thomas & Mack with a win.

"I'm so proud of these kids, and no matter what happens Wednesday night they will look back at this season as a special year," he added.

Now UNLV will have to turn around and play a 17-12 Arkansas team on Wednesday with less than 48 hours to prepare. Bayno did not give his team much time to celebrate the victory over the

Rainbows as they left Las Vegas at 12 a.m. Tuesday.

"We're physically ready," Bayno said. "Mentally we'll have to try to do as much as we can to get ready for Arkansas. We're going to do as much as we can with mental preparation. We'll have to watch some Arkansas film on the plane, maybe get five or six hours of sleep, then watch more film."

The Razorbacks defeated Pittsburgh, 76-71, to advance to the NIT's final eight. The game will more than likely be televised on ESPN, although the time has not been announced.

With the 12,820 in attendance on their feet for the final five minutes of regulation and the entire overtime period, the Rebels pushed their lead up to three, 70-67, on a Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith layup.

But Hawai'i answered back with a short jumper by Eric Ambrozich with 4:46 remaining. Ambrozich tied the game at 70 when he hit the back end of a 1-in-

1 with 3:45 on the clock.

The Rainbows took the lead on a Danny Furlong layup but the Rebels reclaimed the lead on a Tyrone Nesby three-pointer with 2:43 left in regulation, making it a 73-72 game.

Both sides traded one-point leads as the clock ran down. With 1:42 remaining, Smith hit a free throw to make it a 76-74 game. Furlong tied the game at 76-76 with 31.2 seconds left on the clock.

That gave UNLV one last chance for a final shot. With 24.2 seconds remaining in regulation, the Rebels worked for it. Kevin James ran the ball up the court and passed it out to Smith, who was double-teamed. He missed an errant three-pointer and the rebound went to Runnin' Rebel center Keon Clark. He tried to put up a final shot for the win but missed and appeared to have been fouled on the play, though no call was made.

"(Clark) was fouled on that last shot, but you know you're not supposed to call that foul—just like he didn't call that foul on us when we hit Anthony Carter," Bayno said. "They were both great no-calls.

"We tried to run a set play at them (for the final shot) with our shooters as decoys," Bayno continued. "But they threw a good defense at us and (Smith) had to force his shot."

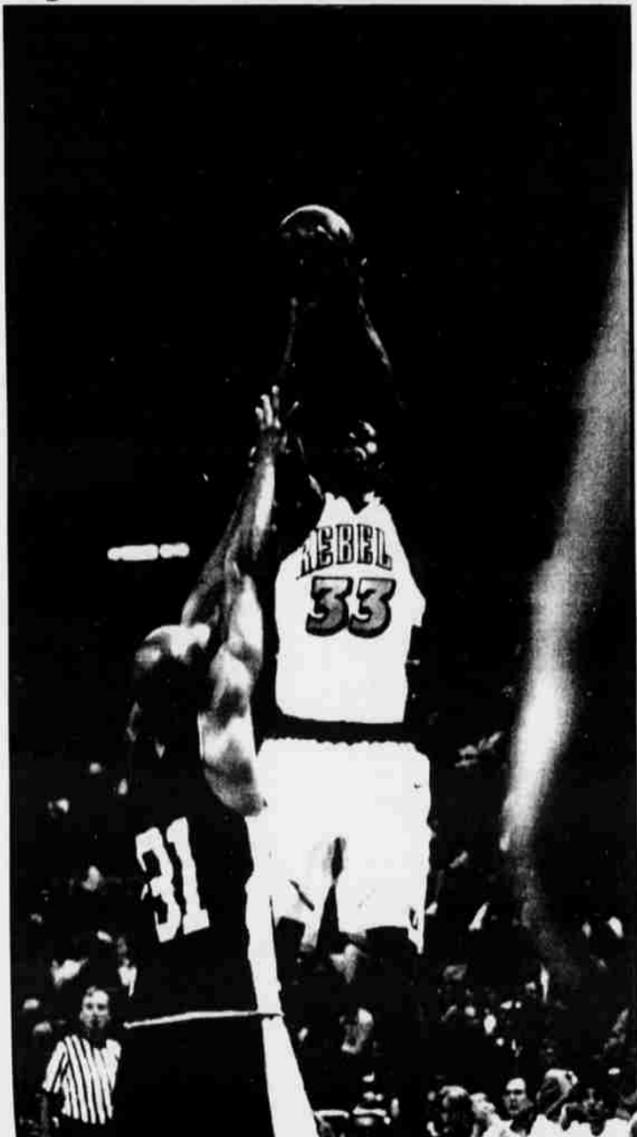


Photo: Gregg Benson/Rebel Yell

Nesby will be a force to be reckoned with against Arkansas.

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UNLV women's tennis team remains unbeaten at home

Staff Report

UNLV's No. 23-ranked women's tennis team improved their home record to a perfect 7-0 this past week, winning three more matches at the Fertitta Tennis Complex and bringing their record to 7-2.

"I think that we're doing very well," Head Coach Olga Malmqvist said. "I thought before the season we had potential (to be great)."

The Rebels won five of six singles matches Sunday and took two of three doubles points in defeating Oregon, 7-2.

UNLV was led by 13th-ranked Marianne Vallin, who improved to 25-7 on the season with a straight set, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Oregon's Andrea Petrovic in No. 1 singles.

Vallin, a senior, has a career singles mark of 116-38 at UNLV and is 12-3 this year in No. 1 doubles play with her partner, Gee Gee Garvin.

"She is our leader," Malmqvist said of Vallin. "She just creates a lot of energy. When she fights hard, she brings the whole team with her."

In No. 3 singles, Garvin (12-4 on the season) defeated Oregon's Au Napier, 7-6, 6-1, while Veronica Goude added a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Oregon's Allison Sosnow in No. 4 singles.

Lisa Annebro picked up a 7-5,



Garvin

6-0 win in No. 5 singles, while Marie Linusson cruised to a 6-0, 6-2 victory in the No. 6 singles spot.

"The nice thing about our team is that every single one of our players has contributed," Malmqvist said. "Even when we play bad, we play tough enough to pull out the victory."

The Rebels topped Oklahoma State, 5-1, on Friday as Vallin rallied back from a large deficit for another win in No. 1 singles.

After losing the first set and being down 4-2 in the second, Vallin came back to win 10 of the next 11 games to beat the Cowboys' Martina Hautova, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Goude, who is 16-7 this year, won her No. 4 singles match 6-0, 4-6, 7-5. Garvin, Linusson and Annebro all tallied wins in the victory.

Women's Tennis Scoreboard

UNLV 5, North Carolina State 2

Singles

- 1—Marianne Vallin (UNLV) def. Blair Sutton (NCSU) 6-0, 6-0
- 2—Nena Bonacic (NCSU) def. Natalie Frawley (UNLV) 7-6, 6-4
- 3—Gee Gee Garvin (UNLV) def. Marissa Gildermeister (NCSU), 6-2, 6-4
- 4—Veronica Goude (UNLV) def. Laura Cowman (NCSU) 6-0, 6-0
- 5—Lisa Annebro (UNLV) def. Francie Barragan (NCSU) 7-5, 7-5
- 6—Marie Linusson (UNLV) def. Elizabeth Perry (NCSU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

- 1—Sutton/Bonacic (NCSU) def. Vallin/Garvin (UNLV) 8-3
- 2—Cancelled
- 3—Cancelled

March 14

UNLV 5, Oklahoma State 1

Doubles play was cancelled. The Rebels kicked off the weekend Thursday, defeated North Carolina State, 5-2.

Annebro (14-3 on the season) won in No. 5 singles, 7-5, 7-5,



Singles

- 1—Marianne Vallin (UNLV) def. Martina Hautova (OSU) 2-6, 6-4, 6-1
- 2—Kym Hazzard (OSU) def. Natalie Frawley (UNLV) 6-1, 6-1
- 3—Gee Gee Garvin (UNLV) def. Britte Lombard (OSU) 6-1, 6-1.
- 4—Veronica Goude (UNLV) def. Marketa Chemlova (OSU) 6-0, 4-6, 7-5
- 5—Lisa Annebro (UNLV) def. Kameran Bender (OSU) 6-4, 6-0
- 6—Marie Linusson (UNLV) def. Monika Wirthova (OSU) 6-4, 6-7, 6-1

Doubles

Cancelled

March 16

UNLV 7, Oregon 2

Singles

- 1—Marianne Vallin (UNLV) def. Andrea Petrovic (O) 7-5, 6-3
- 2—Alina Wygonowska (O) def. Natalie Frawley (UNLV) 6-1, 6-3
- 3—Gee Gee Garvin (UNLV) def. Au Napier (O) 7-6, 6-1
- 4—Veronica Goude (UNLV) def. Allison Sosnow (O) 6-1, 6-3
- 5—Lisa Annebro (UNLV) def. Shanelle Kaneshiro (O) 7-5, 6-0
- 6—Marie Linusson (UNLV) def. Caryn Coyle (O) 6-0, 6-2

Doubles

- 1—Vallin/Garvin (UNLV) def. Kaneshiro/Sosnow (O) 8-4
- 2—Napier/Petrovic (O) def. Frawley/Goude (UNLV) 8-5
- 3—Annebro/Linusson (UNLV) def. Coyle/Wygonowska (O) 8-2

while Linusson (13-5 on the season) was victorious in No. 6 singles, 6-0, 6-0.

Vallin won her No. 1 singles match over Blair Sutton, 6-0, 6-0.

"We are in a position now that

if we finish off strong we can make it straight to the NAAs," Malmqvist said. "We need to stay healthy. That is my main concern right now."