

Chambers resigns from post at UNLV

By Ray Brewer
Sports Editor

The plot is thickening in the never ending soap opera of UNLV athletics.

Amid yet another controversy in the UNLV athletic department, associate director David Chambers resigned on Tuesday to pursue career options elsewhere.

Despite several media reports and rampant speculation that focus on UNLV athletic director Charles Cavagnaro using racial slurs in describing African American athletes and members of the softball team, Chambers claims that had nothing to do with his decision.

Recently, questions are flooding the athletic department about the hiring of Regina Miller as the new women's basketball coach, Miller, who is African American, compiled a dismal 60-100 record at Western Illinois before coming to UNLV less than a month ago.

Several supporters of the Lady Rebel basketball program have shown their disapproval of the hiring and media reports linking the decision to Cavagnaro and his ongoing effort to avoid any problems over his alleged comments.

Adding to the saga is Rudy Washington, head of the Black Coaches' Association.

A published report last week



file photo

UNLV Athletic Director Charles Cavagnaro

showed that Washington was hired by the university as a consultant back in February. It is believed that Washington highly influenced the decision to hire Miller.

According to information from

the *Las Vegas Sun*, the contract was dated Feb. 12, 10 days after former head coach LaDonna McClain was fired. Washington was paid \$550 for his services on Feb. 12-16 and \$224.08 for his traveling expenses. In the *Sun's* report,

Cavagnaro denied the rumors that Washington was involved in the search process.

"He was brought here to help with our diversity plan with the NCAA," Cavagnaro claimed in the April 22 edition of the *Sun*.

"We hadn't even formed our search committee yet when he met us."

Miller listed Washington as a reference on her resume and the *Sun* further reported that Washington was seen on campus at least on two more separate occasions.

"Let me reiterate that there were no undue outside pressures whatsoever from anyone to hire Regina Miller," Cavagnaro said. "I'm as comfortable and confident about the hiring of Regina Miller today as I was two weeks ago."

Cavagnaro's next defense will be responding to the rumors of his continued use of racial slurs in depicting UNLV athletes.

A local television station aired an interview late last week with a former athletic department employee who confirmed that he has heard Cavagnaro use racial remarks on more than one occasion.

Cavagnaro reportedly called black athletes "monkeys" and said they "should go back to the jungle."

Cavagnaro has yet to comment on this to any media.

Now that Chambers has stepped down, questions and concerns again revolve around the athletic department.

Cavagnaro: Take your foot out of your mouth

By Eric Gruzen
Staff Sports Writer

In what is continuing to become more and more ridiculous, UNLV athletic director Charles Cavagnaro has thrown the once solid reputation of UNLV athletics into the gutter after published and broadcast reports of his racial slurs have been made public over this past week.

Cavagnaro has allegedly said that the UNLV softball is a "bunch of dikes in spikes." Not something you want to hear from anybody, especially the athletic director.

In addition, he made inappropriate comments in reference to African American athletes.

Cavagnaro clearly stepped over the boundaries and his feet have landed all over the feelings

of the UNLV athletes.

Things for the UNLV athletic program seem to be falling apart, and fast. Associate athletic director David Chambers handed his resignation in Tuesday, but of course cited reasons that were unrelated to the Cavagnaro statements.

Chambers said in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* that, "this had nothing to do with any past, present or future issues at UNLV."

Well, clearly then that is the case.

Sure, Chambers has now a world of opportunities available to him at different schools across the country, but is this resignation just coincidence?

It couldn't be.

A growing controversy at UNLV is the hiring of Regina

Miller as the new women's basketball coach. The thought process behind this hiring is quite simple for Cavagnaro, hire an African-American to keep the dogs off his back.

The evidence is there to support this theory. Miller compiled a less than spectacular 60-100 record at Western Illinois, not exactly a collegiate powerhouse. So it sounds like she is perfect for a job at a nationally recognized university such as UNLV, at least according to Cavagnaro.

Not to mention that Miller used the head of the Black Coaches' Association, Rudy Washington, on her resume. It was discovered this week that Washington was hired by the university to help with diversity.

It all adds up for Cavagnaro. He hires a black coach thanks to influence from Washington and the fact he made the racial comments. Cavagnaro keeps his job and everyone is happy.

Wrong. The girls on the basketball team are the victims. Again, a bad decision made by the athletic department harms the athletes.

Will it ever end?

It started with the Jerry Tarkanian and Rollie Massimino debacles, and continued with the Jon Denton and Keon Clark controversies, and now with this, the UNLV athletic program will suffer even further. Problems are becoming all too familiar with UNLV, and it isn't like the guys in charge aren't asking for it.

Cavagnaro wants to quiet his critics, and he wants to do it

quick. He stands to lose a lot if the university decides to take any kind of action and fire him, if these statements are proven true. He currently earns \$131,337 per year, plus benefits. He also drives a Lincoln, that is provided to him through his position.

Back in the late 1980s the Los Angeles Dodgers fired their General Manager, Al Campanis, the day after he made racial remarks on *Nightline*. What Cavagnaro has said, time and again, is much worse, and he holds the most powerful position when it comes to UNLV athletics.

It isn't just a few isolated incidents, Cavagnaro's statements have a wide range from lesbians to African-Americans. Of course these are all alleged.

Hustlin' Rebels look to rebound from sweep by Rice

By Adam Hill
Staff Sports Writer

The Hustlin' Rebel baseball team looks to rebound from a sweep at the hands of the nation's 13-th ranked Owls of Rice in Houston, TX last weekend.

The three losses extended the Rebels (28-20 overall, 11-13 WAC) longest losing streak of the season to four.

UNLV is currently involved in the bitter fight for the final qualifying spot in the WAC postseason tournament. If the season ended today, Rice, Fresno State, and Grand Canyon would make it as a result of winning their division.

San Diego State and TCU would also be in as the first two

wild cards. The real fight begins for the last spot. UNLV leads the way with BYU also at 11-13 in the conference. San Jose St. (10-13), Hawaii (10-13), and New Mexico (9-15) are also right in the thick of things.

UNLV will host TCU this weekend in a pivotal series for the Rebels. The Horned Frogs took two out of three when the two teams met earlier this year in Fort Worth, Texas. TCU won the first game 10-7, and the second 5-1. The Rebels finally broke through and took the last game 9-2. UNLV does the lead the all-time series, however, 6-5.

Because it's such a big series, the team will be sponsor-

ing several promotional events at Wilson Stadium this weekend.

Friday night's 7:05 p.m. game will be UNLV Faculty & Staff night, where those people will get flyers for free admission. As always, students will get in free with ID, and on this night, will get a free Pepsi.

Saturday's game will be Papa John's Pizza Day. Fans at Wilson will get free samples of pizza courtesy of Papa John's. It will also be Play Ball Lucky Baseball Card Day.

Fans will have the chance to win great prizes like Wet & Wild passes, free dinners, and Las Vegas Stars tickets. Game time is 1:05 p.m.

Sunday features an evening

game and what promises to be a beautiful night at the ballpark. It is also youth day, whereas, all youngsters dressed in their baseball uniforms will get in free. There will also be an autograph session with members of the Las Vegas Stars on hand to sign for the kids.

The first 500 fans will also get a logo baseball, courtesy of the Official All-Star Cafe. All fans will get a Play Ball Lucky Baseball Card.

All weekend long, you can register to win a trip to the WAC postseason baseball championship tournament at Tony Gwynn Stadium in San Diego, May 13-16.

In addition to all these great

prizes and activities, fans will see some great, playoff intensity, college baseball.

After this key homestand, the Rebels will host Arizona State Tuesday at 5:05 p.m. in a non-conference battle.

Then, it's back to the road for a trip to Albuquerque where the Rebels will finish their season with a three game set against WAC foe New Mexico.

The series will take on monstrous proportions if the two teams are still fighting for the last spot when the series begins.

Hopefully, by then, the Rebels will have distanced themselves from the pack, and established themselves as a favorite to get the spot.