

SPORTS WORLD



by Dan Curtis

REBELS SPLIT

After losing to the University of San Francisco on Friday, 113-103, the Rebels came back Saturday, to defeat Santa Clara 81-70, to maintain first place in the West Coast Athletic Conference.

The win Saturday against San Francisco, gave the Rebels a 10-1 Conference record, while Conference runner-up USF moved to 7-2 with a 104-73 win over Nevada, Reno at USF.

UNLV has an advantage with three remaining Conference games, Loyola and Pepperdine at home, with a road trip to Reno. USF, the defending champions must play their last four games on the road. USF, must play at St. Mary's, Seattle, Loyola and Pepperdine.

R. Sobers played an excellent game and scored a season high of 31 points, to move 15th ranked UNLV's record to 18-4 for the season.

Sobers connected on a number of clutch plays, hitting 11 out of 20 shots from the floor and 9 of 10 free throws, to thwart the upset bid of Santa Clara in a game in which the lead changed 18 times.

That was the final game for Santa Clara at San Jose Civic Auditorium, after 38 years and 389 games for the Broncos, who next season will move into their new campus arena.

Saturday's defeat dropped the Bronco's record to 4-6 in the WCAC.

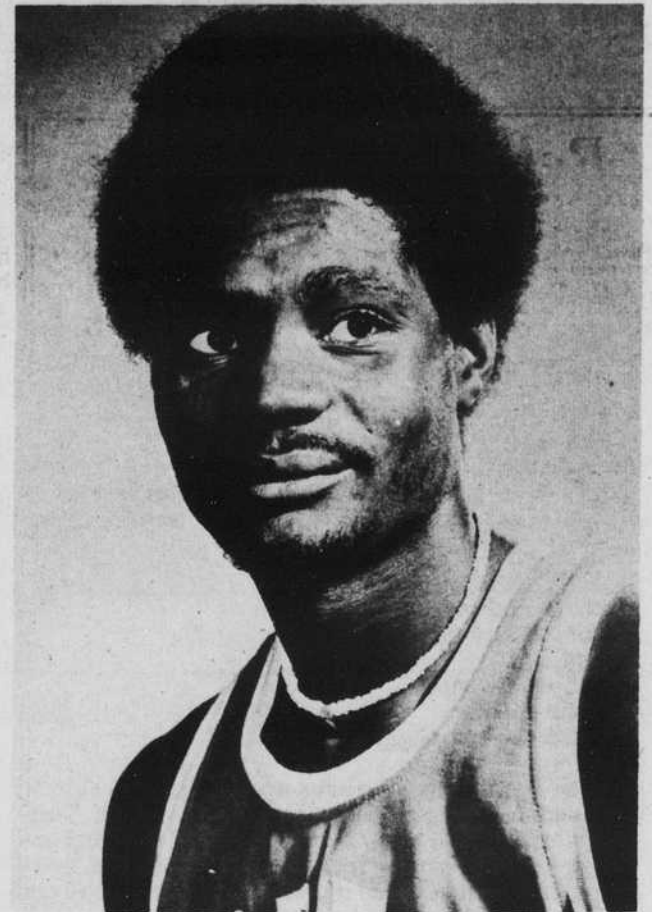
Boyd Batts did it again, coming off the bench to spark the Rebels to another victory. After the Broncos took a four point lead with 6:10 remaining in the game, Batts two steals closed the gap tying the game 68-68.

Batts again came up with two more big plays to put the Rebels ahead to stay. First he canned a five-foot jumper to give UNLV a 70-68 lead with 4:39 remaining, and Santa Clara was never able to come back.

Next, Batts forced a jump ball with the Broncos Glenn Hubbard, who went up for a shot underneath his own basket. The Rebels controlled the tip, and tempers flared. A foul was called on the Broncos when Robert Smith was knocked to the floor shooting a layup. Smith made both shots making the score 72-68, Rebels with 4:17 left to play.

After senior Jerry Belotti fouled out with 3:55 remaining, Glen Gondrezick hit both free throws for a 74-69 lead. With Belotti out of the game this dimmed Santa Clara's chances of an upset and the Rebels went on to win 81-74.

The Rebels return to the Convention Center on Wednesday, to host Loyola. See you at the game.



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