

by Dan Curtis

REBEL RECORDS

With the NCAA playoffs waiting ahead, the UNLV Rebel basketball team learned today that coach Jerry Tarkanian is the Coach-of-the-Year in the West Coast Athletic Conference and senior team captain Ricky Sobers is the MVP of the WCAC for 1975.

UNLV will play Pacific Coast Athletic Association representative San Diego State Saturday, at Arizona State University in the first round of the Western Regional Tournament.

Setting eight WCAC records along the way, Tarkanian coached the Rebels to a 13-1 WCAC record and a 22-4 overall regular season total. Sobers, who finished in the top ten in five individual categories, was also a unanimous pick of the ALL-WCAC first team selected by the eight league coaches.

Frank Oleynick of Seattle was also a unanimous pick on the first team and the two were joined by Marion Redmond, of USF, Pete Padget of UNR, Marcos Leite of Pepperdine and Luther Philyaw of Loyola Marymount on the first team.

Seven players received honors on the ALL-WCAC second team, including Rebels Eddie Owens and Glen Gondrezick. Others on the second team were Brad Dean of Loyola, Maurice Harper from Saint Mary's, Tony Styles of USF, Dick Skophammer of Pepperdine and Jerry Bellotti of Santa Clara.

The freshman of the year for the WCAC is Pepperdine's Ollie Matson, Jr.

In individual statistics, Owens and Sobers were seventh and eighth in scoring with 18.6 and 18.0 averages respectively. Lewis Brown was second in the WCAC in rebounding (12.0 per game) and Jackie Robinson was ninth (9.6).

From the field, Robert Smith was second (.585) Robinson was eighth (.527), Sobers was 10th (.515) and Gondrezick was 13th (.503). From the foul line Gondrezick was fourth (.857), Sobers was fifth (.842), Smith was seventh (.821) and Owens was 10th (.792). Sobers established WCAC records as he lead the league in assists with 88, 6.3 per game, including a record-setting 15 in one game.

In the team WCAC statistics, UNLV was first in scoring (94.6), first in field goal percentage (.495), and first in scoring margin (14.0). The Rebels were second in team rebounding (46.4), second in rebounding margin (3.6), third in free throw percentage (.763) and fifth in defense (80.6).

The UNLV scoring average was a league record, as was the 1325 points the Rebels put on the scoreboard in the 14 league games. The Rebels 126 points against UNR was a WCAC record as was the field goals made in the one half against UNR (30) and the field goals made in the entire game against Pepperdine (54). 553 field goals made in one league season by UNLV also ties another record.

Now, the Rebels send their talent into the NCAA playoffs, having earned their spot by winning the West Coast Conference championship.

It will be only the third game the Rebels have played this year on a neutral court, splitting a pair of games in Houston's Bluebonnet Classic in the beginning of January.

San Diego State was 14-12 overall and 6-4 in the PCAA. Three Aztecs average in double figures, led by center Will Connelly who scores 17.5 per game. Steve Copp contributes 13.7 and Bob Kovach chips in another 12.3 per game.

The Rebels and Aztecs have met on the hardwoods four times prior to this meeting, each owning two victories, and this will be the first time they have met on a neutral court.

The Aztecs have played some very good ball games against prominent teams, and the Rebels should be playing a most-inspired team. They lost to Arizona by only two points, 81-79, to Purdue by only four, 91-87, and to Marquette by only four, 58-54.

Portland, Oregon, will be the next stop on the championship trail for the winning team, playing on March 20 and 22 in the Western Regionals semis and finals.

SPORTS

IS ALI DOUBLE HEADER SPOT QUARRYS LAST CHANCE



WEPNER ASKS A BREAK -- World's Heavyweight Champion Muhammad Ali ignores Chuck Wepner's plea to "give a white guy a break" and raps on during a Cleveland press conference. Nick Miletti the millionaire Cleveland sportsman looks on in amusement.

Jerry Quarry has accused Muhammad Ali and other name black fighters of "ducking" him, this despite the fact the Ali, Joe Frazier and Ron Lyle have all readily fought him.

The Regular Runnin' Rebel five is expected to start against San Diego State. Sobers and Gondrezick at the guards, Robinson and Owens at the forwards and Brown at center. The dynamic dou of Smith and Boyd Batts will be ready to give help off the bench.

UNLV is fourth nationally in scoring (92.1) and 10th in free throw shooting (.740).

Quarry has now been added to the Muhammad Ali double attraction bill. He will fight Ken "the jaw-breaker" Norton in a heavyweight elimination bout March 24.

The Quarry-Norton fight will be held at Madison Square Garden. It will precede the big world's championship fight between Ali and Chuck Wepner.

Quarry comes into the fight after demolishing George "Scrap Iron" Johnson in Honolulu two weeks ago. Norton smashed Reco Brooks in one round in Oklahoma City last week.

Both fighters want a shot at Ali's crown, but a loss puts the loser at the end of the line.


Many veteran fight observers consider this fight to be Quarry's last big hurrah in the big arena. He has risen from his savage kayo at the hands of Joe Frazier. Now, once again he is one victory away from top contention.

Some in the black community have always labeled Quarry a "white hope," despite the fact that Quarry has defeated several class black fighters. These people point out, however, that a black fighter would not get good bouts after having the kinds of losses that Quarry has sustained.

One shoeshine parlor patron in Cleveland's Hough area may well have summed up the feelings of many brothers and sisters throughout the country when announcement of the Quarry-Norton fight was blasted over the local soul station.

The brother screamed, "Hot dog, this is it. After Norton beats Quarry we'll be rid of that crybaby white hope for good."

Another brother chimed in, "Yeah, and wouldn't it be cool if we could have a double doubleheader and Frazier could fight Bugner and Foremen could fight Bobick. We could eliminate all the white hopes in one night."




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