

***** S P O R T S *****

Rebels

The newest star of Broadway is returning to Las Vegas, the site where it all began. They haven't named a candy bar after him, yet, but Glen Gondrezick is still happy and honored to return to his alma mater to be a guest speaker at the May 1 UNLV Runnin' Rebel basketball awards banquet.

It was just a year ago when Gondo and company led the Runnin' Rebels to the final four in the NCAA tournament in Atlanta, Georgia, and the 6-6 forward has spent this past season lighting up Broadway as a surprising rookie of the New York Knicks in the NBA.

"It's been a real learning year for me" said the popular and hard-working Gondrezick, "and it will be great to get a chance to return to Las Vegas and say hello to everybody." The Runnin' Rebel awards banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Moyer Student Union on the UNLV campus and tickets are on sale at the UNLV athletic ticket office.

Hard work has been the key to Gondo's success. After seeing limited action at UNLV as a freshman in 1973-74, he burst onto the Convention Center floor as a three-year UNLV starter and ended with a career scoring average of 11.4 ppg and 7.2 rebounds per game, good enough to earn him a second round draft spot by the Knicks.

The way Gondo puts it, "I believe when most people are forced to struggle, they quit; I work harder because I have this need to accomplish. That's how I feel about life."

His aggressive style of play has quickly earned him the respect of the New York City fans, known to be among the hardest and most fickle in the sports world. Here's the way the New York Times put it last November. Describing how Gondo put the finishing touches on the Knicks' first road victory of the recent season, a 95-92 rookie figures to be on the bench, Gondrezick staged his one-man show. At Madison Square Garden, where he has become a crowd favorite, they would have been chanting, "Gondo," "Gondo" as the rookie saved a bad pass, forced a bad shot, stole a pass, hit on a 15-foot jump shot to tie the game at 91-91, and, scored two free throws in the final 13 seconds to give the Knicks their fourth triumph of the season."

In February, the New York Daily News decided to report that "Gondo's Kamikaze Routine Brings Down the House." The story, by Rich Chere, said in part, "There is a rumble in the Garden and immediately a few players on the Knicks' bench scan the seats, expecting to see a fight. That always causes a rumble."

"But there is no fight this time. The reason for the rumble is that Glen Gondrezick has reported to the scorer's table and is waiting to enter the game. At the Garden, that always causes a rumble, too."

"No one, with the exception of Earl Monroe,

is cheered as loudly and as often as Gondrezick by Knick fans. The kind of applause Gondo draws every time he takes to the floor is usually reserved for veteran stars such as Monroe or John Havlicek of the Celtics."

Now Gondo, who got what many consider a very lucrative contract to play for the Knicks and even has an endorsement contract with Nike shoes, will return to Las Vegas to help his former coach, Jerry Tarkanian, honor the 1977-78 UNLV squad, which finished with a 20-8 record.

No. 25, from Boulder, Colorado, will be at center court once again for the Runnin' Rebels. Tipoff time for the banquet is 7:30 p.m.

Let's see. How does "Gondo Bar" sound. Or, how about . . .

Baseball

Success in sports can be measured in different ways, but one ingredient of a true winner is to thrive -- not just survive -- under pressure.

That is the situation that UNLV's Hustlin' Rebel baseball team found itself in going into last weekend's four-game series with third-ranked Florida State University. Needing to at least split the four games with the Seminolés, the Hustlin' Rebels did one better -- they swept Florida State four straight, by scores of 16-4, 3-1, 9-6 and 13-6!

Still, there is no let-up on the pressure as the Hustlin' Rebels, now with a record of 33-15, try to pick up the school's first-ever NCAA baseball playoff berth. UNLV this weekend will host the University of Hawaii, with highly-touted sophomore whip Derek Tatsuno, in a three-game series. The first contest will be played Friday at 3 p.m., while the final two games will be in the form of a noon doubleheader on Saturday.

The Hustlin' Rebels gave Florida State an early taste of things that were to come by rapping out a school-trying 23 hits in Thursday's 16-4 victory. The Seminoles, by the time the series was over, had fallen victim to UNLV's hottest streak of the season.

In extending their win streak to seven games, the Hustlin' Rebels batted .395 against Florida State, scoring 41 runs on 61 hits.

"Self-imposed pressure can be beneficial if it is regulated properly," said UNLV head coach Fred Dallimore. "In our case, we knew we had to win, so we did. We combined solid hitting with solid pitching and solid defense. I just don't see any way we can fold the rest of the way."

Senior lefthander Herb Pryor boosted his win-loss record to 11-3, one of the top three marks in the country, as a result of Friday's 3-1 win over Florida State. He also lowered his earned-run average to 2.03.

Junior righthander Dan Fischer upped his record to 7-5 and lowered his ERA to 3.10 over the series -- he was credited with the win in both the opening and closing games of the four-game set. Another junior righty, Mark Jamison, won his fifth game in seven decisions over the weekend, and also lowered his ERA to 3.16. The Hustlin' Rebels' other regular starter, junior righthander Kirk Jones, still has a 6-2 record. His ERA is 4.16.

Only percentage points separate first baseman Mike Guerra from second baseman Vance McHenry for the team-lead amongst regulars in batting average. Guerra, who has eight home runs and 37 runs-batted-in to lead the team in both categories, is hitting .3636 clip.

Ten of 16 Hustlin' Rebels are currently batting over .300. The team batting average is .316, up from .304 before the Florida State

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