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# SPORTS BOARD

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SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING



Tarkanian Starts 8th Year At Helm

## UNLV REBELS READY FOR CAGE WARS

UNLV's Jerry Tarkanian, the nation's all-time winningest college basketball coach, has a way of getting the most out of his players, a way of getting the job done, and a way of winning. Despite again having one of the youngest teams in all of major college basketball, the 1980-81 UNLV Runnin' Rebels should again be contenders for national rankings and a spot in the NCAA post-season playoffs.

This season, coach Tarkanian looks at a pre-season roster which has, among the projected regulars, four juniors and two sophomores, and for added strength he has a pair of junior college transfers who will both be juniors, and a redshirt from last season who will be a sophomore this winter. But the three new players have yet to play a game for the Runnin' Rebels. Missing are any seniors among the top nine players for the upcoming season. Again, UNLV will have one of the youngest teams in America.

Last year, with one senior, two sophomores, and two freshmen in the normal starting lineup, the young Rebels compiled a 23-9 record, advancing to the final four of the 1980 National Invitation Tournament. At one point, UNLV won 12 straight games, finished with a 16-4 home record in the "cosey" 6,380-seat Las Vegas Con-

vention Center which has become known as Tark's Shark Tank, a surprising 7-3 road record, and an 0-2 record on neutral courts. Seven of the UNLV losses last season were

Returning for UNLV this winter are the top five scorers from last season and the top four rebounders, and they are all a year older and, hopefully, a year better. Leading the group of

11.1 rpg. His scoring average was second highest among all freshmen in the nation as was his rebounding average. Green averaged 32 minutes per game and .727 from the line.

Reliable junior Richard Box, a 6-6 forward, will also be back this winter. Last year he averaged 10.8 ppg and 7.1 rpg.

Burly junior Michael Johnson, 6-8, 240, who came on strong in the later part of last year,

will be back after getting 10.5 ppg and 7.2 rpg last year. Johnson had 31 points against Illinois.

Tiny but speedy junior guard Michael Loyd will also return after getting 4.3 ppg and 5.0 assists per game last season.



1980-81 RUNNIN' REBEL LETTERMEN — The seven lettermen for the 1980-81 UNLV team with head basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian are (kneeling left to right) Michael (Spiderman) Burns, Eric Gaines and Larry Anderson. Standing (l to r) Mike (Big Fella) Johnson, Richard (The Professor) Box, coach Tarkanian, Sidney (El Sid) Green and Ed Pawlak.

by a total of just 21 points, and four of the losses were vitually at the buzzer.

Tarkanian completed his 12th season as a major college coach last season and his seventh at UNLV and he has a lot of talent to look forward to this season. His overall record is now 288-61 and at UNLV his current total is 166-41, including a home court record of 115-11.

returning regulars is 6-9 sophomore forward Sidney Green, who led UNLV in scoring and rebounding as a freshman as well as in free throw percentage and minutes played. The promising star who was selected honorable mention All-American by AP and first team on the freshman All-American team by Basketball Weekly magazine, averaged 15.6 ppg and

Junior 6-7 forward-guard Michael "Spiderman" Burns was second on the team in scoring and rebounding last year, averaging 14.2 ppg and 7.3 rpg. He also led UNLV in steals with 35.

Returning at guard will be sophomore 6-6 shooter Larry Anderson. Anderson had a fine first collegiate season as he averaged 11.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg while making .493 per cent of his FGs.

### Stinson Struggles To Win

Salt Lake City's Jeff Shelburg shelled vicious over-hand looping right hand shots to Philadelphia heavyweight Marvin Stinson's head throughout most of their fight last Thursday night at Caesars Palace but Stinson continuously regrouped to finally win by unanimous decision over the 10-round route.

The 6-2 Stinson was in trouble three times in the fight, the worst half-way through the bout when the 5-10 Shelburg blasted him with an overhand right he had been looking to connect with since the opening bell.

Stinson hit the floor looking much like a partially paralyzed animal bringing the crowd on its feet and screaming. He spent most of the eight-count sprawled in the middle of the ring trying to coordinate his feet so he could stand erect and continue the bout he was easily winning.

Stinson's manager-trainer Eddie Futch following the win said, "I've never seen Marvin

seriously hurt before. Marvin made the mistake of dropping his left against a guy with an overhand right. That's fatal. I got him circling around the right and he didn't get hit with it



Stinson

again until the last round."

Stinson found that he had to stay off the ropes and out of the corners against the 225-pound Shelburg.

The 27 year old Stinson, a \$1,000 a week sparring partner for World Boxing Council champion Larry Holmes, is now 13-0-3, Shelburg drops to 22-3.

Both fighters earned \$2,500 for the bout.