

# Sports



## Rebels Defeated By Wyoming Cowpokes

Nightmares usually occur while one is in the bed asleep. That Saturday night a wide-eyed and bushy-tailed sellout crowd of 6,393 experienced not one but two nightmares.

The first - a lopsided score as the University of Wyoming dusted the UNLV Rebels 97-70. The second - an alleged bomb threat that forced Convention Center security to evacuate the rotunda immediately following the game.

As far as nightmares go, the first was by far the most serious, at least for the Rebels, who saw a six game winning streak snapped.

"I thought we should get an NIT bid, but we don't deserve one now," Tarkanian said of the loss that may have cost UNLV a possible berth in the National Invitation Tournament.

The Rebels ended the regular season with a 16-12 record, while 16th ranked Wyoming assured itself of a NCAA post-season bid, and finished the year with a 23-5 record.

Also a characteristic of the current season, the 27 point loss equaled the worst ever for a Jerry Tarkanian coached team. The Rebels lost to Long Beach State, 104-77, earlier this season in the L.A. Times Classic in Anaheim, California.

"We don't deserve anything now," Tarkanian said. "I never dreamed that they could do that to us. We've been playing so well."

"They dismantled us in every way," Tarkanian continued. "They really played well. They're a great team, the best in the Western Athletic Conference."

From the beginning UNLV really wasn't in the contest, but early in the second half the Rebels threatened once.

The apparent rally began and ended when Rebel Michael Johnson hit a layup and was fouled on the play. Johnson dropped in the free throw for a three-point play that pulled UNLV within seven points, 51-44, with 17:02 remaining in the game.

But three successive Rebel turnovers on their next four possessions, and an exhausting trap defense which put UNLV in the position to challenge seemed to have taken its toll.

Wyoming outscored UNLV 14-2 over the next 4:23 to open up a 19 point lead, 65-46, with 11:59 left, and for all intents and purposes the game was over.

"I probably should have had them fall back and pack it in when we got the ball," Tarkanian second-guessed himself. "We got back in the game when we extended the court, but they're too good a team to keep in a spread too long."

Junior Bill Garnett led Wyoming in scoring as he hit 13 of 15 foul shots on the way to a 20 point effort. All WAC guard Charles Bradley added 21 points while Mike Jackson and Chris Engler scored 12 points each.

Wyoming shot 56 percent from the field, and the Cowboys who led the nation in field goal percentage defense, held UNLV to just 44 percent from the field.

Also the Pokes, who are the second best rebounding team in the nation out rebounded UNLV 51-26, with Kenneth Ollie pulling down a team high 11 boards.

A contributing factor to UNLV's downfall was that Sidney Green sat out the final 11:51 of the first half with three personal fouls.

Green then started the second half, and Tarkanian elected to leave him in though Green was ticketed with the fourth foul within the first minute of the second half.

"He was kept out of the game so long," Tarkanian explained, "I thought that if I kept him in there he might get us in the game."

Green, who fouled out with 16:22 in the game, was held scoreless for the first time in his two-year college career.

Larry Anderson paced UNLV with 23 points, hitting on 11 of 19 from the field. Michael Johnson had 17 while Greg Goojian tallied 14.

During the first 20 minutes, the Rebels fell behind and barely got to within 10 points, 47-37, at halftime, as Wyoming, in total control, held a 15 point average.

## Sixers, Bulls get NBA wins

Julius Erving's game-high 32 points and 20 each by Darryl Dawkins and Bobby Jones triggered the Philadelphia 76ers to a 124-108 victory over the Indiana

Pacers Tuesday night in Philadelphia in the first of their best-of-three Eastern Conference playoff series in the National Basketball Association.

The first-round series continues Thursday on the homecourt of the Pacers, who have reached the playoffs for the first time in their five-year NBA history.

A third-game would be played, if needed, in Philadelphia Sunday.

In a playoff opener in New York, the Chicago Bulls grabbed a 1-0 lead with a 90-80 victory over the New York Knicks.

Billy Knight, with 25 points, and Mike Bantom and Johnny Davis, each with 19, topped the Pacers, who never got closer than 10 points after leading midway through the first period.

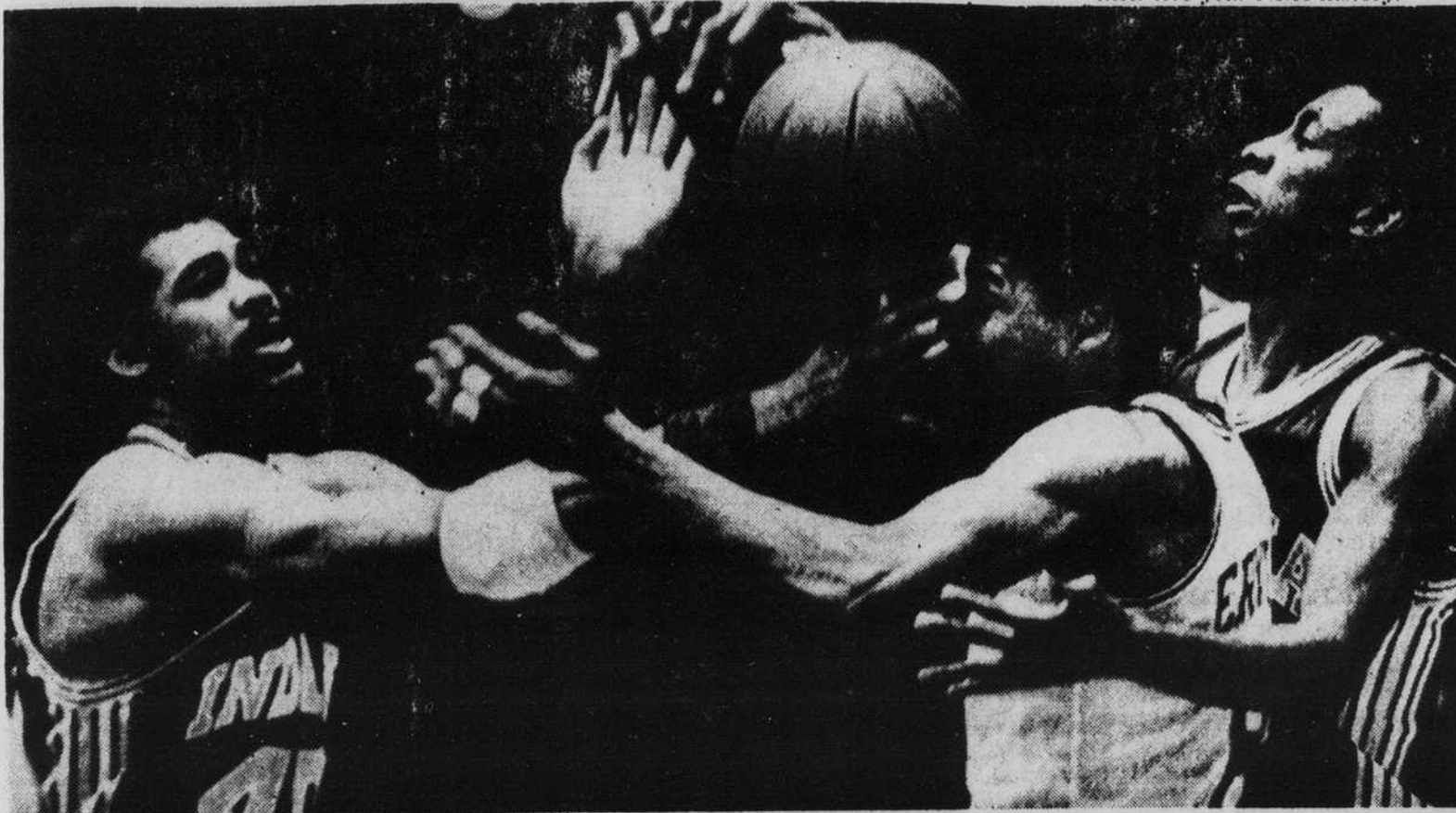
The 76ers broke open the game after trailing 27-22 with 3:13 left in the first period, and then outscored Indiana 16-6 to lead 38-33 at the end of a quarter.

Erving scored 11 points in the first quarter, added seven in the second, collected only three in the third, and finished with 11 in the final period.

The 76ers finished in a tie for the Atlantic Division crown with the Boston Celtics but were forced into the mini-series under a league tie-breaking procedure.

Philadelphia continued its surge into the second period, collecting 22 points to the Pacers' four in the first five minutes, forging a 54-37 advantage.

Indiana settled down somewhat but still trailed at halftime, 67-49.



**ARMED** — Philadelphia 76ers' Julius Erving is surrounded by the long arms of Indiana Pacers' James Edwards (left) and Louis Orr (right) Tuesday night in the first game of the opening round of the NBA playoffs in Philadelphia. Erving lost control of the rebound and the Pacers got the ball. The Sixers won the contest 124-108 while in another playoff opener the Chicago Bulls stopped the New York Knicks in a defensive struggle, 90-80.