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It's Official.. Rebs Move to No. 1

by Joe Hawk

UNLV, which has scurried, scrambled and scratched to win its first five games of the college basketball season, Monday ascended to the No. 1 position of the Associated Press Top 20 poll, replacing North Carolina which dropped to fifth.

The Rebels moved up from last week's No. 2 ranking with 39 firstplace votes and 1,236 points from the nationwide panel of 65 sports writers and sportscasters. UNLV's only game last week was an 80-77 victory at Memphis State, which snapped the Tigers' 39-game homecourt winning streak.

"I don't know if we're the best team in the country, but I know we've beaten five of the best teams in the country," UNLV coach Jerry

Tarkanian said after being told of the ranking. "I don't think any team has played the caliber of teams we have in our first five games.

In the preseason NIT, the Rebels, preseason-ranked at fifth, beat Arizona, Oklahoma, Temple and Western Kentucky. All but Temple have been ranked this season.

Tarkanian praised his players but also felt there were other reasons for the perfect record.

"We've won so many close games," Tarkanian said. "We have great kids. I tell people all the time we have the best kids in the country on this team.

"We've been lucky too. You can say all you want about character but the ball has to bounce your way sometimes. We hit the clutch free throws, the clutch

baskets."

UNLV came back from large deficits in winning four its five games, including 21 points in the first half against Western Kentucky. The Rebels won 96-95 in double overtime.

The last time UNLV was ranked No. 1 was in February 1983. However, that lasted just two weeks as the Rebels, then 24-0, lost road games at Cal State-Fullerton and West Virginia.

UNLV's next game will be Saturday, 7:30 p.m., at Nevada-Reno, 2-2.

"I'm worried about complacency," Tarkanian said. "It would be easy now to say, 'OK, we've worked our tails off, we've accomplished something, we're where we want to be.' We have to guard against that."

All Star Give Funds to Fight White S. Africa

by NNPA News Service

World boxing promoter Don King scheduled a surprise news conference here this week to announce contribution of \$100,000 to TransAfrica, the anti-apartheid organization leading American demonstrations against the white only, racist government of South Africa.

King, co-promoter of the world heavyweight championship elimination contests and organizer of Michael Jackson's 1984 "Victory Tour", presented a \$50,000 check on behalf of outstanding athletes and entertainers at a star-studded ceremony on Capitol Hill.

TransAfrica executive director Randall Robinson accepted the first half of the award as King kicked off a million dollar fundraising campaign that will feature an all-star concert next June.

Another \$50,000 will be presented at that time, the promoter said.

Invited participants in the Cannon Congressional Office Building included Reps. Willaim H. Gray (D-Pa.), Ed Towns (D-N.Y) and Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), along with singer Melba Moore and tennis star, Arthur Ashe, organizer of sports stars and celebrities fighting apartheid.

"Making this contribution symbolizes my deep commitment to TransAfrica, the most influential organization working to end the racist policies of apartheid," said the head of Don King Enterprises based in New York. "I hope my contribution will spur other successful Blacks to support TransAfrica's work," he added.

"We are delighted that entertainment promoter Don King is making such an enormous contribution toward ending apartheid in South Africa and strengthening

the work of TransAfrica," said Robinson, head of the official lobby in Africa and the Caribbean.

The organization has also opposed the participation of American artists in concerts in South Africa areas, including one of King's fighters, Trevor Berbick, who was recently defeated by Mike Tyson in the heavyweight championship elimination series.

NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



Why the Drug Testing Program will Increase Crime and Violence

"Dear Dr. Faulkner:

I am a government employee and will probably be required to submit to drug testing in order to keep my job. Is it legal? Do you think drug testing will keep people from using drugs? Ken, Milwaukee."

Dear Ken:

I will defer the issue of the legality of drug testing to the courts, where it will eventually be decided. There are many diverse viewpoints on it. Some people think that it is a violation of constitutional rights of privacy; others think it is the only way to save the country from self-destruction.

I think that no program will completely eliminate illicit drugs from the population unless the reasons for which people take drugs are dealt with. Illicit drugs are used by people to cope with the problems of living in a complex society. This goes for rich and poor alike. They would use legalized drugs if

they could afford them. Valium and alcohol are among the most abused "approved" drugs in society.


The program proposed by the president is too general and insufficiently funded to make a significant dent in illicit drug usage. A really tough program will simply create other problems while neglecting the causes.

Some predictable effects of any tough drug program are: 1) An increase in the cost of drugs due to a reduction in their availability on the street. Authorities know that a program is effective when the cost of drugs goes up 2) More violence among drug peddlers directed at other pushers in order to control a possibly decreasing market, and violence directed at citizens by drugs users to obtain additional funds to pay the higher cost of drugs. 3) Some drug users will be unable to acquire drugs

during a stringent official crackdown. Many of them will find it necessary to resort to other outlets for the release of the tensions and frustrations that the use of illicit drugs previously mediated. Some of these outlets will be violent.

4) An increase in the addiction level of many addicts and recreational users. Drug users will not be deterred by a possible reduction in the availability of drugs but will search out the supplier. They will follow the drug to wherever it can be purchased. Users are far more creative than those who try to make them non-users. 5) Liquor sales, now at an all time high, will increase greatly, for those who lack the means of ingenuity to seek out illicit drugs. 6) Development of designer drugs and drugs that are more difficult to detect through testing.

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