

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

July 9, 1987



Lonnie Wright Reflects on UNLV Basketball Alumni Association

Ten years have come and gone; one third of my life has been devoted to a dream. My dream, that started ten years ago, was to see UNLV's athletic academic community be respected throughout the United States for academic excellence. At that time I felt that we were taking a beating by the national media because of our graduation rate. Being born and raised in Las Vegas, I was, and still am, a die hard Rebel! I was totally flabbergasted by the way the national media was butchering my alma mater. I knew that we were trying to alleviate the problem which was facing our athletes. At that time we had neither the academic programs or the funding to get the job done,

and we needed immediate results. Hence, the concept of sending student athletes, who required only 12 credits or less after their athletic scholarships ran out, back to school to complete their degree requirements. The UNLV Basketball Alumni Association was formed and took on the task of supplying funds to send these athletes back to the classroom. Thus, we brought about immediate results... former UNLV athletes earning degrees!

God definitely has been with the Association since its meager inception. We have played games against the absolute best basketball alumni in the nation: UCLA

(twice), North Carolina (twice), Kentucky, Louisville, Notre Dame, BYU, and now the illustrious Georgetown. The players and agents that I have had the privilege to associate with reads like the "who's who" of basketball; Danny Ainge, Michael "Air" Jordan, Darryl Griffith, Bill Walton, Adrian Dantley, Scooter and Rodney McCray, Walter Davis, and Mark Eaton, to name just a few... besides a continuing relationship with our own great UNLV alumni.

I feel flattered that I made a contribution which led to the recent nationally broadcast Alumni Game between UCLA and North Carolina. Thank God that I didn't believe the propoganda about our athletes, our City, and its people! I'm proud to be an alumnus of UNLV!

Today, the UNLV Basketball Alumni Association can boast of 14 athletes graduating with their baccalaureates and three with their masters degrees. Over the past four years we have brought athletes other than the men's basketball program in to benefit from our program. Our idea to send athletes back to the classroom has caught on at other institutions, such as Fresno State and New Mexico. I personally went to these institutions to help start Basketball Alumni Associations designed after our program here in Las Vegas.

This July 18th we play New Mexico and Michael Cooper in "The Pit" for the second year. We also play the Fresno State Bulldogs in Selland Arena on July 24th for the third time. Last year, I helped organize and stage a UCLA/Fresno State alumnae game as a supplemental game to raise funds for the Fresno program.

Being the only basketball game to ever be played at Caesars Palace, when Bill Walton started his successful comeback in a UCLA loss to the UNLV alumni wasn't enough... Caesars and UBAA teamed again this summer



Lonnie Wright

for a three country Far East Tour! I give all the glory and thanks to the Almighty God for His guidance and blessings in every accomplishment that I and the

Association has been associated with.

Along with ten years of accomplishments, came ten years of minor disappointments, headaches and let-

downs. We have had a lot of rude awakenings from players, staff and people claiming to be part of or supportive of the association... when they really wanted and tried to hinder it. But God, I feel, is with us, despite the back biting and ridicule of our program by some. The number who support us and aid us far out number the detractors. To all, we just simply say, "Our record speaks for itself." We have provided educational support that has so far resulted in 17 degrees, an amalgamation of former UNLV athletes, and entertainment in the form of our basketball games. If the past ten years are any measure the next ten years should produce outstanding results.

T & M Schedules Two Rebel Basketball Alumni Games July 10 & 11

Two action-packed UNLV alumni basketball games July 10 and 11 pit the two number one ranked Rebel alumni squads against each other and the Rebel alumni squad against Patrick Ewing and his Georgetown alumni teammates.

Competing July 10 at UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center are:

'82 TEAM

Sidney Green
Danny Tarkanian
Richie Adams
Jeff Collins
Larry Anderson

'87 TEAM

Armon Gilliam
Freddie Banks
Mark Wade

Eldridge Hudson
Gary Graham

Other former Rebel players are expected to play and will be announced soon.

Teammates for the Georgetown Hoyas' July 11 game include New York Knicks' center Patrick Ewing, '87 Georgetown alumni member Reggie Williams, Eric "Sleepy" Floyd, Michael Jackson and Michael Graham.

Ticket prices are \$12, \$8 and \$5 for children under 12 with \$2 off for fans purchasing Georgetown alumni game tickets.

Proceeds benefit the UNLV Basketball Alumni Association.

Call 739-3900 for more information.

Flame Soccer Club Seeks Girls For Teams

The FLAME SOCCER CLUB is seeking girls born in the years 1973, 1972, 1971, 1970 and 1969 with or without soccer playing experience for the 1987-88 playing season.

After "circuit training" the girls will be formed into teams with the more skilled girls being eligible for the

Travel Teams.

Travel Teams, aka Competitive, enter tournaments locally and out of town.

Former Flame S.C. players and competitive or select team players are urged to call 878-6269 to obtain more detailed information. Newly arrived players from out of State are most welcome.

ERUNNIN' Rebels Fever Returns...

Friday, July 10

SHOWDOWN:

UNLV Alumni vs Georgetown Alumni



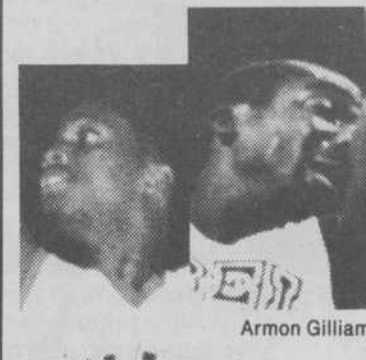
Reggie Theus

Patrick Ewing

Saturday, July 11

Duel Of The DECADE:

'82 UNLV Alumni vs '87 UNLV Alumni



Sidney Green

Armon Gilliam

Don't miss the famous Rebel light & fireworks show!!

Games Start At 8 pm

UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center

Tickets: \$12, \$8 & 5 for kids under 12 (\$2 off Saturday's game with Georgetown game ticket stub)

TICKETS: Thomas & Mack Center Box Office
Nellis AFB and all Ticketron outlets.

A Benefit For The UNLV Basketball Alumni Association