

LAS VEGAS

March 8, 1990

Sentinel Voice Sports

Family, Players, Students Mourn Gathers

Loyola Marymount may be first team in 20 years to reject NCAA bid...

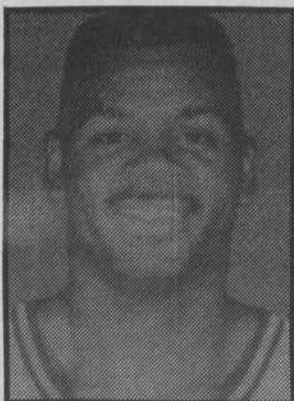
LOS ANGELES — There was one last, thunderous cheer for Hank Gathers inside Loyola Marymount's Gersten Pavilion on Tuesday.

His closed, silver casket draped with red roses and white carnations stood at one end of the basketball court he called home, the court where he was stricken.

And filling the stands were 5,000 friends, family members and classmates who came to say goodbye to the 23-year-old star, who died shortly after his collapse during a tournament game on Sunday.

With little prompting from teammate Bo Kimble, the crowd broke the solemnity of the memorial service to do something Kimble said his buddy would have loved.

"I know Hank would want to hear one more cheer here in his house," he told the mourners, who included Gathers' mother, Lucille, two brothers, a sister and an



Hank Gathers

aunt.

And so they rose to their feet, 5,000 strong, and cheered and applauded one last time for one of the nation's best players. The ovation lasted several minutes and when it was over, Lucille Gathers ran to Kimble and hugged him.

The relatives of Hank Gathers learned Monday it would be at least a week before they know what caused his sudden death and Loyola Marymount officials

declined to answer questions concerning the basketball star's medical history.

The 23-year-old senior center collapsed during a tournament playoff game Sunday and died less than two hours later. He had collapsed once before, on Dec. 9, and was diagnosed as having cardiac arrhythmia.

Loyola Marymount, still mourning the death of the basketball star, could be the first school in 20 years to decline a bid to play in the NCAA tournament.

In the aftermath of Gathers' death, WCC officials canceled their tournament and declared the Lions champions. The decision gave Loyola Marymount (13-1 in the conference) one of 30 automatic NCAA berths, which will be formally extended on Sunday.

But the school has yet to decide whether to accept. Coach Paul Westhead said a determination will be made later this week.

Sooners Ranked No. 1 While UNLV Falls to Third

Oklahoma became the third team from the Big Eight to be ranked No. 1 in the AP college basketball poll this season.

The Sooners jumped to the top from fifth after beating the other two teams from its conference that had been No. 1 - Missouri and Kansas - in three days.

UNLV dropped from second to third after losing to UC Santa Barbara.

Meanwhile, Kansas took over the No. 2 spot.

In the women's poll, Louisiana Tech was No. 1 for the 12th straight week. Stanford was No. 2, while UNLV dropped to fifth.

Associated Press Top 20

1. Oklahoma	23-4
2. Kansas	28-3
3. UNLV	26-5
4. Syracuse	22-5
5. Georgetown	22-5
6. Missouri	26-4
7. Michigan St.	24-5
8. Connecticut	25-5
9. Arkansas	23-4
10. Purdue	21-6
11. La Salle	28-1
12. Duke	23-7
13. Michigan	20-7
14. Georgia Tech	21-6
15. Arizona	21-6
16. LSU	22-7
17. Clemson	23-6
18. Louisville	23-7
19. Minnesota	20-7
20. Illinois	20-7

Johnson Honored

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Larry Johnson of UNLV and Coach Roger Reid of Brigham Young head the District 7 college basketball honorees for the 1989-90 season in voting by members of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association.

Johnson was named player of the year and Reid coach of the year for the district, which encompasses the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Nevada.

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☆☆☆ PREP NOTES ☆☆☆

State Hoop Pairings

The first-round pairings and game times for this week's state basketball tournaments were announced Monday by Jerry Hughes, executive director of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.

The Class AAA boys tournament will begin Thursday at Reno High School. In first-round games, Bonanza will play Reno at 3:30 p.m., Southern Conference Champion Clark will play Carson at 5:00 p.m., Western will play South Tahoe at 6:30 p.m.

and Valley will play Northern Champion Reed at 8 p.m.

In the AAA girls tournament, which begins Thursday at Wooster High, Las Vegas will play McQueen at 3:30 p.m., Southern Champion Rancho will play Reed at 5 p.m., Reno will play Valley at 6:30 p.m. and Northern Champion Carson will play Western at 8 p.m.

Boulder City's boys team will open the Class AA tournament Thursday at McQueen High against Incline.

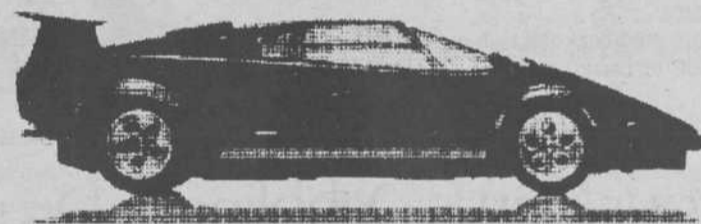


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