

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports

RIDER, MANUEL AND YES, EVEN, EMERZIAN HIT THEIR 3'S

UNLV STIFLES LAMAR 100-75

By W.G. Ramirez

Everyone got in on the act this past Monday at the Thomas & Mack Center. Junior forward J.R. Rider scored a game-high 28 points, freshman reserve off-guard Reggie Manuel collected 14 points (11 in the 1st half), junior guard Dexter Boney and senior center Elmore Spencer each added 13 points and, yes, Brian Emerzian popped a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the Runnin' Rebels as UNLV throttled Lamar 100-75. Emerzian, which entered the game with about two minutes left, was being coaxed by the crowd to shoot the ball. The three-year letterman, who hadn't scored a point since Feb. 20, 1989 explains "I knew the seconds were tickin' down and Bobby (Joyce) kept telling me he was gonna set me up and I better shoot. I just lofted it when I saw there was 1.5 seconds left." The crowd went absolutely nuts when Brian hit the three.

UNLV started the game slug-

gish and allowed the Cardinals of Lamar to build a 23-13 lead with 12:47 left in the first half. Within four-and-a-half minutes, the Rebels outscored Lamar 18-2 to take a 31-25 lead. J.R. Rider's powerful slam-dunk more-or-less put an early exclamation point on the game. After the slam J.R. looked into a TV camera and just grinned confidently. The Cardinals tried to hang tough with the Runnin' Rebs toward the end of the first half. Lamar reeled off eight straight points to come within four but UNLV retaliated by outscoring the Cardinals 9-1 in the final two minutes to maintain a 52-40 halftime lead.

The second-half was nothing but scoring spurts by the Rebels interrupted by occasional baskets by Lamar. UNLV went on scoring bursts of 16-10 and 17-6 en route to their sixth victory.

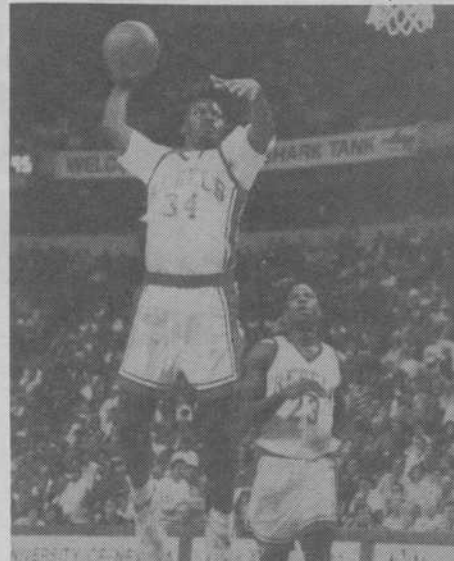
Although the Rebels were up by 22 with :05 seconds left it was as though the game was on the

line when Emerzian hit his prayer at the buzzer. Brian upped his career scoring avg. to 0.3 and also tied his career-high points and assists with 3 and 1 respectively.

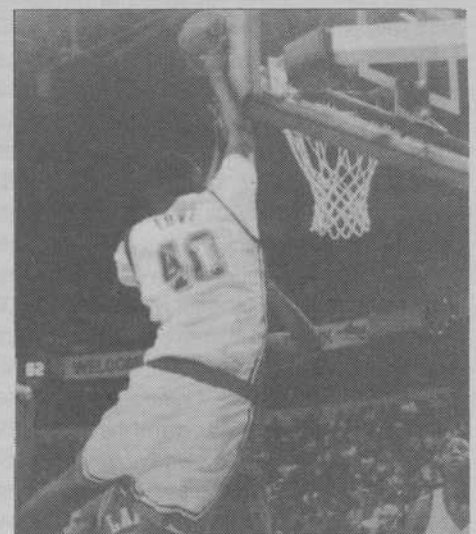
Reggie Manuel's 14 points was a career-high for him, while Melvin Love also had a career best with 15 points. Lamar was led by center Edward Johnson with 14 points and guard George Butler with 13 points.

"I was real pleased with the way the kids played tonight," commented Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian. "After being down by ten we just tightened up the 'D'. I thought Reggie (Manuel) played outstanding, he is a real worker, he's 1st out to practice he stays late and tonight it payed off, added Tark.

Inattendance was Oklahoma Head Coach Billy Tubbs. Besides saying that he thought Tarkanian would change his mind at the end of the season, (speaking of Tark retiring), he noticed that "UNLV started slow



UNLV Rebel J.R. Rider gets ground clearance for two of his game high 28 points against Lamar University. Photos by Savoy



Providing the acrobatic shot of the night, center Melvin Love of the Rebels gives the backboard a high five as he lets the ball float out of his hand. Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

and maybe took Lamar too lightly. After their defense took over though, it was all over." Asked for his opinion on the play of J.R. Rider, all he could do is scratch his brow and say, "yea, oh yea....he is very, very good." J.R. Rider commented and

forewarned that "you haven't even seen all of me yet. I'm pleased with my defensive game but the real me on offense is not here." Rider also mentioned that he thought he would of fit in perfect with last years Final Four squad. "The talent was terrific, but I feel I could've done something for that team."

Well J.R. that was then and this now....this is your year to shine.

The Rebels return to action this Saturday, Dec. 28, against in-state rival Nevada-Reno and also Monday, Dec.30., against San Diego State. Both non-conference games begin at 8:05 at the Thomas & Mack Center.

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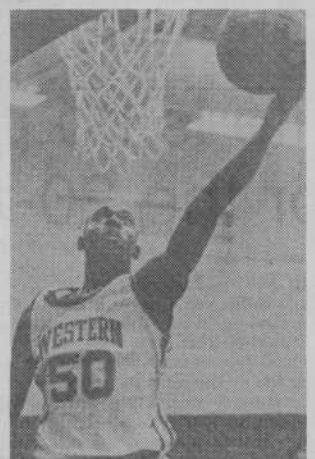
LV PREP HOLIDAY CLASSIC KICKS OFF

Six local teams - Western, Bonanza, Bishop Gorman, Chaparral, Rancho and Valley - will join 24 teams from around the country for one of the oldest and most respected tournaments in the country, the Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic.

Though none of 30 teams in the field are nationally ranked, tournament director Larry McKay is content with this years field.

Nearly a dozen or so of the nations top prep players will compete in the tournament, which begins today at UNLV's North and South Gyms.

Among local stars who will be playing are Western's Booker T. Washington, Valley's Kirk Williams, Bonanza's Eric Long, Rancho's Reggie Ingram and



WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL'S BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Chaparral's Damian Smith.

"I think the local talent is very good this year, but it's spread out because of the new schools," McKay said.