

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports

J.R. RIDER REINSTATED

DESPITE CONFUSION - ONLY STILL ALIVE AND KICKIN'

By W.G. Ramirez

It seems as though the Men's Basketball team, at UNLV, always runs into some type of confusion. Off-court incidents, like the most recent, involving guard J.R. Rider, once again put UNLV in the spotlight.

Rider, who was arrested Jan. 24th for obstructing an officer, was declared ineligible late Monday by UNLV Athletic Director Jim Weaver for receiving an extra benefit (a \$200 bail payment).

Early Wednesday morning, the UNLV Athletic Department telefaxed all of the information regarding the Rider case to the NCAA and, in doing so, appealed for the restoration of his (Rider) eligibility.

Upon review of the information provided, J.R.'s eligibility was reinstated.

"The NCAA staff was extremely cooperative in dealing

with our request for immediate restoration in a timely fashion," says Weaver.

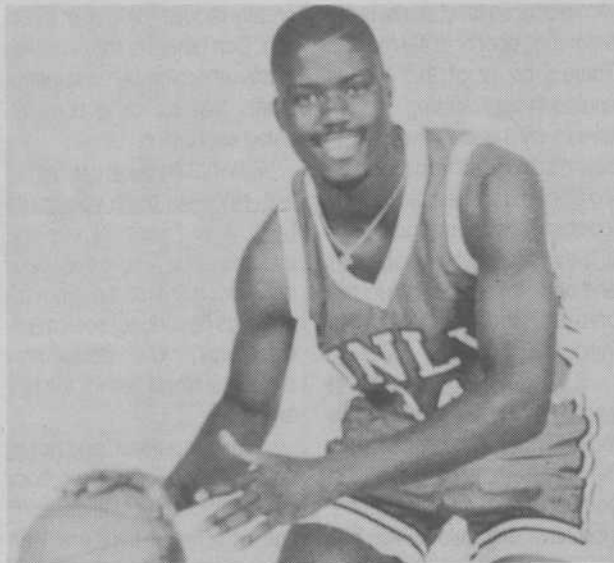
Needless to say, UNLV will have their scoring leader on the court Thursday evening against UC Santa Barbara.

UCSB boasts the top scorer, in the Big West, in Lucius Davis, averaging 20.7 points per game. Rider is second, in the Big West, averaging 20.3ppg.

Davis earned Big West Player of the Week honors for the 2nd consecutive week and the third time this season after scoring 52 points in wins over Pepperdine and Long Beach St. last week.

Davis is only the sixth player in league history to be selected Big West POW at least three times in a season.

UCSB, (7-2 BW and 14-4 overall), is currently in 2nd place, behind UNLV (10-0 BW and 18-2 overall).



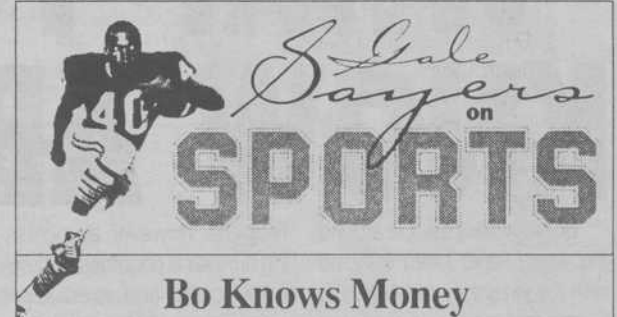
J. R. RIDER

The Runnin' Rebels are riding a 15-game winning streak and is one win away from ensuring Jerry Tarkanian his place in college basketball history as the all-time winningest coach by percentage.

The Rebels won the first

meeting, between the two, on January 11, 78-54 at the Thomas & Mack Center. Rider scored 20 points in that contest.

At press time, the two teams were scheduled to tip-off at the Campus Events Center in Santa Barbara, Calif.



Bo Knows Money

I don't want to be a spoilsport, but am I the only one who thinks an athlete playing two professional sports is not the greatest thing in the world? I've been asked a lot lately what I think of guys like Bo Jackson and "Neon" Deion Sanders and have been left shaking my head at how the desire for money has become confused with athletic greatness.

Let's get one thing straight right off: Jackson and Sanders are in it for the money, not because of a calling to be great at both football and baseball. The economics of professional sports today have created a market for these guys. As long as owners are willing to pay exorbitant salaries to athletes who only are available for partial seasons, we're going to see more guys playing two sports. New York Jets rookie quarterback Browning Nagle, for example, has announced that he'll play baseball for the California Angels next season.

I'm guessing that Nagle is going to have his hands full dealing with the National Football League. He was a pretty good college quarterback, but he'll need to concentrate on football if he plans to make a real go of it in the NFL.

As should Jackson and Sanders. Again, I'm not trying to be a spoilsport, but neither one of these guys is great at football or baseball. The camera is on when Jackson hits a couple of home runs or runs over a hapless Brian Bosworth on the way to a 40-yard gain. What the viewer doesn't see, however, are the mediocre plays an athlete who isn't concentrating on his sport makes.

I don't think there is any question that Bo Jackson is a superb athlete. I believe he could be a great running back if he devoted his time and effort to football alone. That's what it takes to succeed in professional sports — a year-round commitment. I can't help but think that Jackson's shift from baseball to football with no training camp contributed to his hip problems. Baseball shape is not football shape, and the body must adjust gradually to the shock of getting hit.

So what is it that makes a potentially great athlete stretch himself to the limits while not achieving greatness? Bo knows — it's the money.

When Sanders didn't report for the Atlanta Falcons' training camp on time this year, he was fined \$40,000. It didn't even put a dent in his wallet. What does a fine that size mean to a guy who makes a couple of million dollars a year? I know what it means to most people. It's downright irresponsible and a slap in the face to both management and hard-working sports fans.

I love watching athletes perform to the top of their abilities. But let's separate hype and fantasy from reality. Bo would know football the NFL way if he would go about the game the right way. ■

Gale Sayers is considered one of the greatest running backs of all time. The former Chicago Bear is a member of the National Football League's Hall of Fame.

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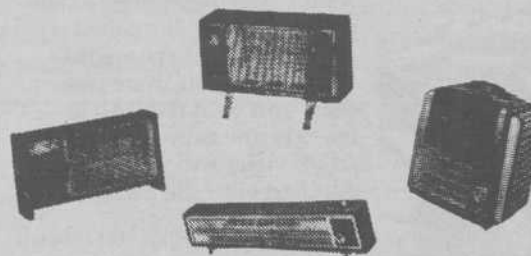


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LADY REBELS TRACK & FIELD SQUAD GO FOR THE GOLD

BY W.G. Ramirez

The Lady Rebel track and field squad can now boast about being the top athletic team at UNLV, at the present time.

Not only have six of the team members qualified for the Summer Olympic trials but they are also ranked fourth in the NCAA poll - the highest in Rebel track history.

This particular team, is presently, the highest ranked UNLV athletic team in the nation.

The six athletes that have qualified are freshman Zundra Feagin and seniors Trevaia Williams, Shunta Rose, Billie Butler, Crystal Irving and

Madette Smith.

Feagin was named Track and Field News' Athlete of the Year after setting indoor high school records in the 55 meters (6.84), 60 meters (7.30) and 200 meters (23.67). Zundra shunned colleges such as: Florida, Texas, LSU, Alabama and Auburn to attend UNLV.

Williams, a three time All-American, ranks behind Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the heptathlon. Trevaia is favored to win the NCAA heptathlon in which she placed third last year.

Rose will compete in the long jump and the triple jump at the (See Lady Rebels, Page 13)