

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports

FIFTEENTH RANKED 'REBELS LEAD NATION WITH STREAKS

By W.G. Ramirez

With wins over UC Santa Barbara and Long Beach St. last week, nine-time defending regular season Big West champion UNLV closed in on its 10th straight conference crown.

The 15th-ranked Runnin' Rebels, (20-2, 12-0), hold the nation's longest winning streak-17 games-and the longest homecourt win streak-43 games.

One big reason for the 'Rebels' success is Senior center Elmore Spencer. The 7-foot 265lb. giant currently leads the

Big West in rebounding (8.4), field goal pct. (.627) and blocked shots (2.6).

Spencer is featured in the February 10 issue of Sports Illustrated.

Elmore, 22, prefers not to speak to the press after games, but spoke freely on such issues as the NCAA, UNLV president Robert Maxson and the university itself.

At press time, UNLV was about to tip-off against San Jose St. The Runnin' Rebels defeated the Spartans, in San Jose, 79-

67. J.R. Rider popped in 27 while Spencer yanked down 11 rebounds and swatted 3 shots in that contest, on January 18.

Rider captured the Big West Player of the Week after averaging 28.5 pts. and 6.0 rebounds in the Rebels two victories this past week. J.R. hit a tiebreaking 18-foot jumper, from the corner, with 43-seconds remaining, against UCSB, to propel UNLV to its straight victory.

The Player of the Week honor followed the week-long controversy with Rider and the law.



Senior center Elmore Spencer denies All-American Shaquille O'Neal a rebound in a contest played, at the T&M Center, back in November. (Photo by Savoy LVS-Voice)

CAN PORTLAND PLAY THE ROLE OF THE MATADOR

By W.G. Ramirez

The second half of the NBA season is underway and the question still remains: Can any team play the role of the matador that will stop the raging (Chicago) Bulls?

As of Wednesday, Chicago stands at 40-9 and could be headed to a record season.

Michael Jordan, the NBA's premier player leads the league in scoring (29.7 ppg.) and doesn't seem to be slowing down.

Often the Bulls' playmaker,

Scottie Pippen can be referred to as a "point forward."

Craig Hodges, Horace Grant and John Paxson play an outstanding supporting cast and Head Coach Phil Jackson should have the word "director" printed on the back of his chair.

The Bulls rank fifth, in the league, in team offense, averaging 110.6 ppg. Chicago allows 100.6 ppg. (4th in the league), mathematics folks, these superstars are winning games, on the average, by ten points.

The team closest to the Bulls are the Portland Trailblazers. If the 'Blazers were in the same league as Chicago, they'd trail them by only six games.

After a sluggish start, Portland has come alive to take over first place in the Pacific Division.

Terry Porter struggled early with his shooting but has found his range just recently. Buck Williams' rebounding was grounded early on but has found the runway in which to take off correctly. Williams' .615% shoot-

ing currently leads the league. Jerome Kersey battled through injuries to both ankles and couldn't practice all out for seven weeks.

If anyone has kept Portland cruising, it's been Clyde Drexler. Arguably, the best rebounding guard in the league, he has continued crashing the boards, has more assists than Porter and is fifth, in the league, in scoring (25.0 ppg.).

Drexler has eased back on the throttle since his teammates

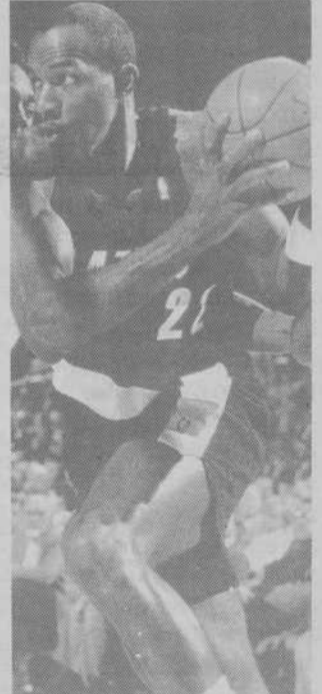
have accelerated.

Could Drexler and the rest of the 'Blazers wave the red cape and yell "El Toro"?

We shall see as the NBA



Hungry for another title, Michael Jordan currently leads the league in scoring with a 29.7 avg.



Clyde Drexler will lead his Portland Trailblazers through the second half of the season

season concludes its second half.

Just remember Clyde, Michael's wearing the red cape and it'll take a lot to board his flight.

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