

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports



THREE MORE GAMES FOR TARK AT UNLV UNLV CAN CLINCH BIG WEST TITLE THIS SATURDAY AT T&M

By W.G. Ramirez

As the season rolls on, so does the end of Jerry Tarkanian's career at UNLV. Tarkanian, the only coach in Big West history to win 100 regular-season games, won his 200th against San Jose St. on Feb. 13.

UNLV, 23-2 on the regular season, boasts the most victories at Division I play. The 12th ranked 'Rebels own the nation's longest winning streak at 20 games and also own the nation's longest home win streak at 46 games.

This Saturday the Runnin' Rebels can clinch their 10th straight Big West title with a victory over second place New Mexico St. The two teams faced each other back on January 25, in New Mexico. UNLV escaped with a 74-67 victory. Tip-off, at the Thomas and Mack is at 8:05p.m.

UNLV destroyed Pacific and Cal-St. Fullerton, 66-50 and 76-47 respectively, this past week, upping their record to 23-2 overall and 15-0 in the Big West.

The 'Rebels have turned their

supposed "rebuilding team" reputation into a "national powerhouse team" as they've climbed to 12th in the latest AP poll. "Without a doubt we play the best zone in the country right now," says Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian.

The Rebels are the No. 1 team in the nation in field goal percentage defense (39%). Elmore Spencer is sixth in the nation in field goal pct. (63.6%) and J.R. Rider, along with Spencer, could be headed for the Big West Player Of The Year honor.

The Runnin' Rebels have announced, this past Wednesday, that they will file a lawsuit in hopes of getting in this year's tournament.

Because UNLV arranged a game to compensate for the Big West Tournament, in which they're ineligible, they would have to hope for an at-large berth into the NCAA Tournament.

After all the upsets this past week, UNLV may sneak into the top 10, next week. It would be hard for the selection committee to deny a top 10 team a berth into the tournament.



WILL TARK BE CHEWING THE TOWEL DURING NCAA TOURNAMENT?

Who knows, maybe J.R. & Co. can accomplish what Larry & Co. couldn't (last year).

OPENING CEREMONIES SET FOR CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Opening ceremonies for the seventh annual Corporate Challenge sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities takes place Sat. Mar. 28, at 12 noon. The five-week Olympic style competition between local businesses and corporations includes 25

sporting and athletic events. Promoting health and fitness in the workplace, Corporate Challenge offers employees the chance to go for the gold in a fun-filled atmosphere away from the office.

Lighting of the Corporate Torch takes place Fri. Mar. 27,

at City Hall, 400 E. Stewart Ave. officially starting the torch relay. The torch relay consists of several members of each Corporate team running a segment of the route throughout the community. The torch arrives at Freedom Park, East Washing-
(See Challenge, Page 15)



Our Two National Champs

When does one equal two? When it comes to college football's national champion. For the second year in a row, two different teams have been voted the No. 1 team at the season's end, giving us co-champions.

Both the Miami Hurricanes and the Washington Huskies posted perfect seasons, remaining undefeated over the course of 12 games. Both were commanding in their New Year's Day bowl victories. Both deserve the national championship. The Associated Press writers' poll gave Miami the crown by its closest margin ever. The USA Today/CNN coaches' poll gave Washington its No. 1 ranking. The teams themselves agreed that they should share the honor and, for once, actually had nice things to say about each other.

Football fans everywhere now will have something to argue about during the off-season. Who is really the better team? Who is really No. 1 number one? I don't mean to take anything from Washington, but I personally would give it to Miami. Here's why.

Miami's overwhelming team speed is simply too much for anybody to compete against. There's an old saying in football that "speed kills," and just ask any of Miami's opponents if that saying is true.

On top of speed, Miami is an incredibly strong team. They can beat you both in the air and on the ground. Though Washington's defense is considered the strongest in the country by many college-football followers, I'm not sure that Miami doesn't have the edge there too — at least when they play like they did on New Year's Day.

Look at their common opponent, Nebraska. Washington beat Nebraska soundly during the regular season, but the Huskies' defense allowed Nebraska to score 24 points. Miami shut out the Cornhuskers, the country's leading scoring team. The Miami defense also held Nebraska's running attack, which had led the country with an average of 353 yards a game, to just 82 yards. You can't get any tougher than that.

But again, both teams are deserving of the national title, and if they ever played a dream game, picking a winner would be a close call. Over a series of five games (wouldn't that be fun?), I'd take Miami to win three of the five.

With the current system for determining national champions, a dream is the only place those games could take place. I believe that the current bowls could be organized into a playoff system to determine the one true national champion. But, with collegiate athletic conferences trying to solidify their bowl affiliations, that idea is looking like it will remain a dream.

For now, the writers' and the coaches' polls will have to do. Usually, I side with the coaches' poll because I believe coaches have a better idea of the talent throughout college football, as opposed to the many writers who cover only certain regions and conferences.

This year, however, I agree with the writers. I am, after all, just another fan, and the only thing every college football fan can agree on about last year is that it was a heck of a season. ■

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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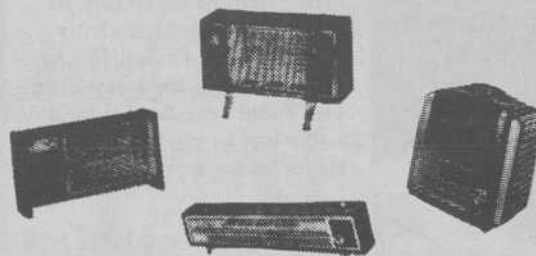
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