March 5, 1992 The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE LAS XEGAS e Sports **BUT FOR CONSOLATION** ANCHO AND CLARK TO MEET AGAIN STUMBLE .

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By W.G. Ramirez First-year Head Coach Tony Hopkins set a goal for his Rancho Rams' boys basketball squad at the beginning of the season - win the zone tournament

Although Hopkins didn't imagine it would happen so soon, he and his team are headed for Reno as the #1 seed in the state tournament

The Rams defeated the Clark Chargers, last Friday, 77-59 to capture the Class AAA Southern Conference Championship.

Senior point-guard Reggie Ingram led the way with 26 points while teammate Tim Macklin popped in 15 points and grabbed

RUNNIN' REBELS CON

By W.G. Ramirez

West), currently holds the best

record in the nation along with

the best winning percentage.

They're also ranked sixth in the

nation and, oh yeh, as you can

see they went undefeated in the

Big West Conference so what's

missing? How about the NCAA

UNLV, (26-2 overall, 18-0 Big

16 rebounds. Senior guard Ron Riley led the Chargers with 22 points.

Having to work hard for everything, Riley seemed to be the only Charger who could create a shot

Due to Rancho's tough defense, Clark was never able to put together a serious run. Rancho slowly built their lead, maintained it and shut down the Chargers.

Clark got down by as many as 16 points but did manage to climb to within 58-51 midway through the fourth quarter. Enter Ingram; The gifted guard took control while manipulating the Charger defense to up Rancho's

lead to 62-51. Rancho never looked back

"I'm so excited right now," explained Ingram, after the game. "We came together like a team, as a whole."

Coach Hopkins was all smiles and couldn't stress more how proud he was of his team. "These kids came in played like a team, I knew this team had some talent, but I really wasn't sure things would fall into place so quickly."

Commenting on the state tournament, Hopkins said that if his team plays together how they're capable of playing, they can win it all.

· · · Special Note · · · The state championship

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ICLUDE SEASON WITH THE BEST RECORD IN DIVISION I PLAY

Class AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WEDNESDAY-1ST ROUND Clark 64, Carson 61

Western 90, Wooster 73 Rancho 79, Douglas 45 South Tahoe 71, Eldorado 47 THURSDAY-SEMI-FINALS Western 89, Rancho 68 South Tahoe 58, Clark 49 FRIDAY-CHAMPIONSHIP Western v.s. South Tahoe

CONSOLATION Rancho v.s. Clark

game will be broadcast live Friday evening at 8:15 p.m. Seat Williams will be the play-by-play announcer.

of the best teams in the nation.

season with a 23-game win

streak and a 48-game home win

streak-both are nation leading.

Big West Conference and are

hoping they can prove them-

selves among the other top

teams in the country, in the NCAA

an exciting season - from the

LSU victory-to the BWC games-

to the final game of the season-

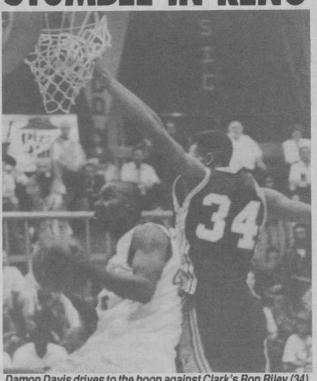
the ceremonies this past Tues-

It has without a doubt, been

The Runnin' Rebels end the

They've breezed through the

-



Damon Davis drives to the hoop against Clark's Ron Riley (34).

dream into a nightmare and deny the repeat-then Las Vegas can send Tark off with a real bang-National Championship #2, only this one is just forJerry, J.R., Evric, Elmore, H., Dexter, Dedan, Reggie, Melvin, Bobby, Bryan, Clint, Jason and Danny.

One last point: For the past two years, at the conclusion of the season, Robert Maxson has

(Continued from Page 1)

phone, he sipped his water and began - "I want to thank you for 19 wonderful years...," it was then that Tarkanian choked on emotion and told the crowd "you

and intense for all in attendance. ence for the media.

"The ceremony was really beautiful-I feel good-it made me feel great. It's special to see the support I have from the fans and

Many of the fans in attendancewore "KEEP TARK" shirts

been the happiest person around and was so proud of his University. For the Runnin' Rebels had brought even more fame and glory to UNLV than ever, National Champions and two straight Final Four appearances-Excuse Mr. Maxson but you seemed to be missing this past

ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!!!

announced Jerry Tarkanian and he and Grourich embraced while holding back the tears.

As JT approached the microknow, I can't talk.'

The ceremony was emotional yet when it was finally over. Tarkanian was able to compose himself and hold a press confer-

community."

or t-shirts that read something similar to that message.

"I'm an emotional guy and I





18.000+ showed up at the Thomas & Mack Center to bid a final farewell to the longtime UNLV Head Coach.

have a hard time talking when I get real emotional. Going into the game I was alright, it was after when I got emotional. It really started when I watched

(See Absolutely, Page 15)



serve?

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Attorney Steve Stein is hoping his case will give the NCAA no choice but to invite UNLV to the 1992 tournament.

The Runnin' Rebels concluded their 1991-92 season this past Tuesday by defeating Utah St. 65-53.

Seniors Elmore Spencer, Melvin Love and Bryan Emerzian

were honored before the game and each started the game at their respective positions while (former) Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian was honored after the game due to his resignation announced last June.

Although rescinding his resignation almost two weeks ago, it is not expected that Tarkanian will return as coach of the Runnin' Rebels

If the 'Rebels lawsuit is successful and they are granted eligibility for this year's tournament, the players are confident they can talk Tarkanian into coaching them during the postseason

After losing all of the starters from their 1990-91 squad, UNLV was said to be in a rebuilding stage... NOT! The Rebels, who were shunned by the pre-season polls and knocked out of the polls early in the season, after climbing to #24, returned to the rankings late in the season and now are being considered one



day-the win streaks-the rankinas ...but oh how the icing on the cake would be so sweet-picture this

Tournament.

UNLV is granted eligibility. they swarm the regionals and advance to the "elite eight"-next up the Final Four only to find themselves facing the team that ended a dream last year, Duke, and doing to them what they did

to Larry J. and Co.-turn their