



# SPORTS

## RUNNIN' REBELS KICK IT TO STOCKTON; RETURN HOME FOR TWO CRUCIAL GAMES

By Willie Ramirez

When UNLV went to Long Beach four weeks ago, it clearly became eminent that the Big West regular-season title was not just going to be up for grabs in Las Cruces and Las Vegas. The LBSU 49ers stunned the Runnin' Rebels 101-94 and proceeded to dismantle New Mexico State 97-71 two nights later. Well its time for the rematch and things may get sticky at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Before the Rebels host LBSU on Monday night though, they must travel to Stockton, California, where they'll meet the Pacific Tigers for the second time this season tonight at 7:30 p.m. The Rebels, (13-1, 6-1), defeated the Tigers 88-71 on January 14, behind senior J.R. Rider's 37

points and 13 rebounds. Senior cohort Dexter Boney also had 13 rebounds while dishing out six assists.

Since that meeting, Pacific has gone 3-2 - losing at NMSU 53-48, topping Nevada 71-49 and Utah State 86-79, then splitting a pair of road games with UC Irvine (a 68-62 victory) and Fullerton (a 71-58 loss). The Tigers stand at 9-8, and 5-4 in the Big West.

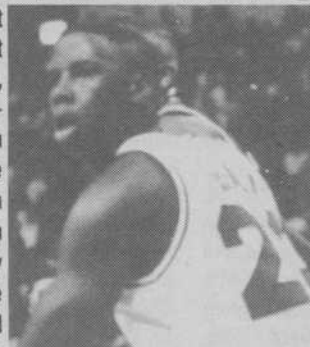
Pacific has been paced by shooting guard Tony Amundsen, who is averaging 16.6 points per game. The senior has led the Tigers in scoring the last five contests, tallying 96 points (19.2 ppg.). When the two teams met in January, Amundsen struggled from the floor, going 3-15 and 2-9 from 3-point land.

The Rebels will counter with

their own "hot topic" in the last five games, Rider. Its actually been seven games since Rider has been playing like an NBA lottery pick, when the Rebels faced Missouri on ESPN. Rider

had six straight 30-point performances before fouling out with 29 points against Utah State last weekend. Since the Mizzou game, Rider is averaging 35.0 ppg. The difference between Amundsen and Rider is that J.R. has had a great supporting cast.

Senior Evric Gray is second on the team in scoring (16.2 ppg.) and rebounding (7.3 rpg.)



Evric Gray

and is coming off of a good game against USU, particularly in the second half.

Gray scored 18 of his game total 20 points in the second half and added eight rebounds, four blocked shots, two assists and two steals to the cause. Gray is tops on the team in blocked shots and also second in assists.

The third member of UNLV's trifecta, Dexter Boney, like Rider, has also stepped up his game in the past seven contests. The lightning quick guard leads the squad with 32 steals, including 18 over these past seven myste-

rious games.

When UNLV faced Marquette on December 26, 1991, it marked the first time the Rebels had been on TV since losing to Duke 79-77 in the Final Four semifinal game on March 30, 1991. Besides local coverage on KRLR TV-21 or Sportschannel, UNLV has been on national television three times this season - the two times mentioned before on ESPN, and also on CBS against Georgetown. As the season has progressed, it seems that UNLV has gotten better each game just a little bit, and then they unleash a whooping on TV.

If this happens to be the case, UNLV has four games to go, before facing Louisville, Saturday February 14 on ABC.

UNLV returns home for a meeting with Cal-Santa Barbara

on Saturday and then have the rematch with Long Beach on Monday.

The Rebels will be facing the Gauchos for the first time this season when Jerry Pimm brings his spunky 10-6 team into the Thomas and Mack Saturday night.

Incidentally, Long Beach State, now 14-4 overall and 6-3 in Big West play, their three defeats in the Big West at the hands of Pacific 68-56 and twice to the Gauchos 61-60 on ESPN and 68-59.

Santa Barbara was figured, at the beginning of the season, to be a factor atop the standings. Their 3-5 BWC record doesn't exactly leave them with hope but they still have the potential to play the upset-minded role.

File Photo By Savoy LVS-Voice

## LADY REBELS CONTINUE TO HOLD THEIR OWN

By Bill Lee

In the shadow of their counterparts, the Runnin' Rebels, UNLV's Lady Rebels continue to roll in their 1992-93 campaign. The Lady Rebels have run roughshod through the first half of the season, as they prepare for UC Irvine tonight in the South Gym, on the campus of UNLV.

UNLV (14-1, 8-0) continued their winning ways last Saturday by capturing their 12th straight victory and eighth in a row at home, by crushing the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos.

5'11" senior forward Teresa Jackson led the Lady Rebels with 24

points, while 5'10" junior forward Trudie Hopgood added 17.

Although shooting a meager 50% from the field, their defense turned it on by forcing 32 turnovers and 17 steals, limiting the Lady Gauchos to a dismal 32% shooting percentage before a capacity crowd of 1,250 in the South Gym.

"It feels great being undefeated (in league play) and nationally ranked (#20 in the AP poll), considering we have a young team this year," stated Jackson, the team's only senior, and also an All-American candidate. Jackson was named Sports Illustrated's female player of the week, this past Monday.

First year assistant coach Musiette McKinney gives credit to Jackson's ability of knowing what it takes to win as a contributing factor to the Lady Rebels success as well as the team's excellent conditioning which ultimately has worn down past opponents in the Big West.

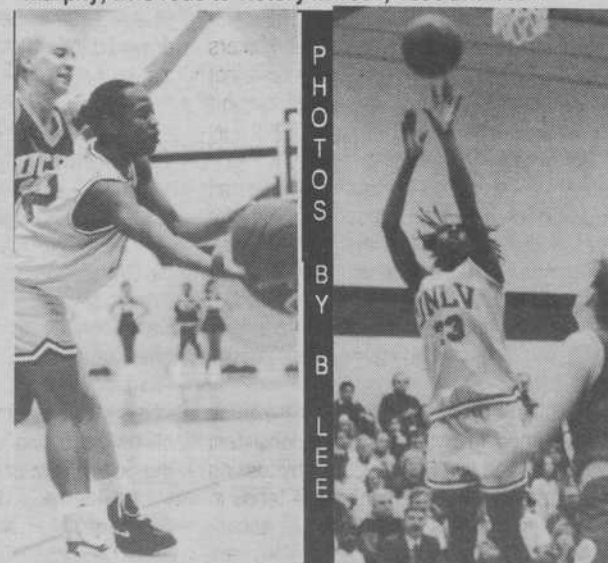
One thing that Head Coach Jim Bolla can be confident in, is the depth that he has with his squad. Rounding out the starting five, besides Jackson and Hopgood, are Cherie Hogg, who has great court speed and can be a terror on defense. 5'6" sophomore guard Gwynn Hobbs offers tenacious defensive play, while averaging 14.5 points per game. 5'9" junior forward Vivian Johnson rounds out the starting five and is an asset on the boards for the ladies.

The Lady Anteaters come into tonight's contest against UNLV resting firmly in the basement of the Big West with a depressing 0-9 record and a 1-16 showing overall.

The South Gym should be rocking tonight as the Lady Rebels roll for 13 straight.



**DID YOU KNOW THAT** - The first rider to win the Kentucky Derby three times was African-American jockey Isaac Murphy, who rode to victory in 1884, 1890 and 1891.



Vivian Johnson is currently second on the team in rebounding with 8.0 rpg. avg. Teresa Jackson was named Sports Illustrated's female player of the week.

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