



# SPORTS

**The #5 seed in BWC Tourney, UNLV needs championship for NCAA berth**

## RUNNIN' REBELS END SEASON ON WINNING NOTE

W.G. Ramirez

The UNLV Runnin' Rebels ended the 1993-94 campaign on a winning note after Patrick Savoy tipped in a missed shot with one second remaining in the game, upending Pacific 76-75 at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Senior point guard Dedan Thomas recorded his first career triple-double, scoring 11 points, dishing off 12 assists and snatching 10 rebounds. In a fan voting contest, Thomas was named the Rebel of the year.

Senior Ken Gibson was brilliant for the Rebels, hitting 6-of-7 (17 points) from the field, 3-of-4 from the three point line. The victory was the fourth in five games for the Rebels, the only loss coming at the hands of their opening round opponent in the Big West Tournament - San Jose State.

The Spartans posted its first-ever victory over UNLV with a 92-77 thrashing in the event Center on January 29, then completed a sweep for the regular season on March 3 with a 80-74 win at the T&M.

The two will battle for the second time in eight days on Friday night at 9:00, concluding a busy day at the Thomas and Mack Center with the Big West



*In the waning seconds of UNLV's final regular season home game, Patrick Savoy's tip-in at 00.3 pushed UNLV ahead of Pacific 76-75 and sent the slim crowd into a frenzy.*

Conference Tournament quarterfinals.

UNLV's 14-12 record marks the first time they haven't reached the 20-win plateau since 1980 when they were 16-12. A 10-8 Big West Conference record left UNLV in a tie with Pacific for fifth place and the fifth seed

for the post-season tourney.

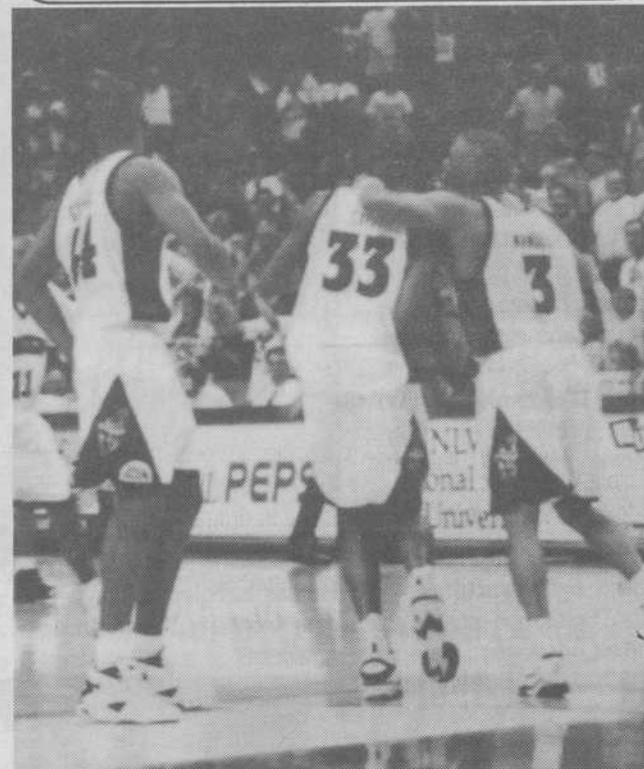
Many local fans, Rebel boosters and media are proclaiming that Head Coach Rollie Massimino is the reason that UNLV has deflated considerably in Men's Basketball, yet the same folks haven't taken a close look at what also may be causing the

Rebels hard times. Injuries have played a major role against UNLV, which included three season-ending casualties.

Arguably his star pupil, someone Coach Mass is extremely fond of - Lawrence Thomas - missed 22 games this season with a broken foot. Clayton

**FINAL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS**

	BWC	OVERALL
New Mexico State	12-6,	20-7
Utah State	11-7,	14-12
Long Beach State	11-7,	11-5
San Jose State	11-7,	10-9
UNLV	10-8,	14-12
Pacific	10-8,	16-13
UC Santa Barbara	9-9,	13-16
Cal-St. Fullerton	6-12,	8-18
Nevada	6-12,	10-16
UC Irvine	4-14,	7-19



*Kebu Stewart (44) and Reggie Manuel (3) maul Patrick Savoy (33) after his winning bucket against Pacific.*

Johnson was designated to add a bit of force inside but had to have reconstructive surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Seth Myers missed the majority of the season with a torn ligament in his right thumb.

Players that played throughout the season but were hampered by nagging injuries included Reggie Manuel, Ken Gibson, Brian Hocevar, Jermaine Smith and Damian Smith.

For the season, UNLV was beat up inside getting outrebounded 40.9-39.3 and out blocked 81-73. There is a high possibility that if both Myers and Johnson did not go down with injuries that UNLV could've erased one-third of those losses (18-8 instead of 14-12).

There is also the fact that not only has UNLV slipped from

powerhouse status, but a few of the teams have gotten a bit better, or may be just a tad more confident.

In the past, UNLV has been notorious for eclipsing big deficits and turning them into W's. This season the Rebs lost their twelve games by an average of nine points. Only two were below five points.

Big West schools are now becoming accustomed to UNLV's attack and can counter with evenly-matched athletes.

One thing is for certain, the Rebels are going to have to unleash a vicious attack on all Big West foes if they hope to reach the NCAA Tournament. A trip to the conference championship game that ends in a loss wouldn't do any good leaving the Rebs with a 16-13 record and a longshot for an NIT berth.



*Senior captain Dedan Thomas concluded his final regular season at UNLV in fine fashion, producing a triple-double against Pacific, scoring 11 points, dishing off 12 assists and snatching 10 rebounds. Thomas was voted Rebel of the year by UNLV fans.*

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