

BIG WEST TOURNAMENT FINDS NEW HOME AT THOMAS & MACK

W.G. Ramirez

As the 1994 Big West Conference Basketball Tournament gets in full swing this evening with the Men's opening round and the Women's semi-finals, there are many new things that the post-season event is now experiencing - most notably the sight: UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center.

In the 18-year history of the conference's basketball tournament, this year's tournament will be the first toumey played outside the California state line. The T&M will be the fifth stop for the annual tournament, following up the Stockton Civic Auditorium, Stockton (1976); Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim (1977-1982); Great Western Forum (formerly the Inglewood Forum), Inglewood (1983-1988); and, the

Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach (1989-1993). After three years of an eight-team tournament field, this year's toumey will feature all 10 teams in a fixed bracket format tournament.

The most interesting change will be the favorite of the whole fiasco: there isn't one! New Mexico State walked away with the regular season title and the

#1 seed, but don't expect to see the Aggies cakewalk through the field.

NMSU collected it's second straight regular season championship after racing out to a 9-0 mark by the end of January. Fighting off Long Beach State, Utah State and San Jose State, the Aggies were able to skate with a 12-6 mark.

Remarkably, LBSU, USU and SJSU all finished within one game (11-7) of first place New Mexico State. One game behind the second place trio was UNLV and Pacific at 10-8.

This afternoon all the action gets underway when No. 7 seed UC Santa Barbara meets No. 10 seed UC Irvine for the right to advance to the quarterfinals against No. 2 Utah State. UCSB swept the Anteaters this season and just may be eyeballing a little post-season revenge against UCI. In 1992, as the No. 8 seed, UCI knocked off the No.

1 seed Gauchos in the first round. In the other opening round matchup, Cal-St. Fullerton, the No. 8 seed, will lock horns with No. 9 seed Nevada. Sweeping a pair from the 'Pack in the regular season, CSF outscored Nevada 171-142. The winner of this game goes on to meet top-seeded New Mexico State.

The other quarterfinal matchups will pit No. 3 seed LBSU against No. 6 Pacific and No. 5 seed UNLV against the No. 4 seed San Jose State, a team that swept the Runnin' Rebels during the regular season.

The winner of the tournament will receive an automatic berth into the 64-team NCAA Tournament. The Big West championship game is set for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

In the Big West Conference's Women's Tournament, the semi-finals pits No 2 UNLV battling No. 3 New Mexico State tonight at 7:00. The nightcap will

see top-seeded Hawaii face No. 5 seed Pacific at 9:00 p.m. In the Lady Rebels' opening round game Wednesday afternoon, they found no trouble in disposing of longtime nemesis Long Beach State 108-81.

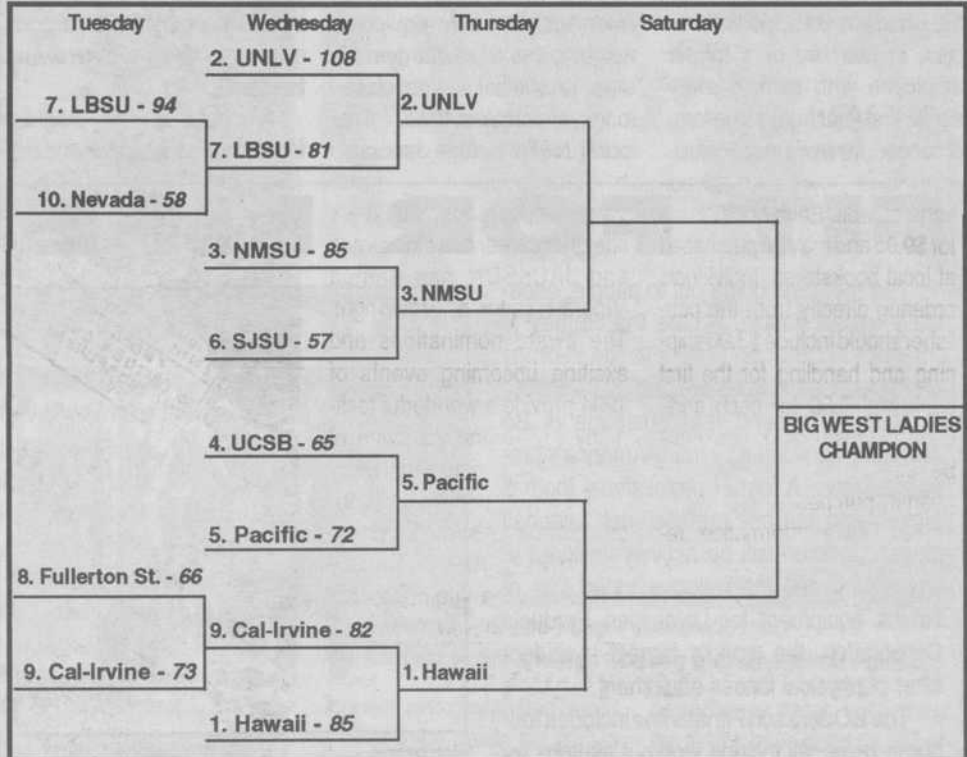
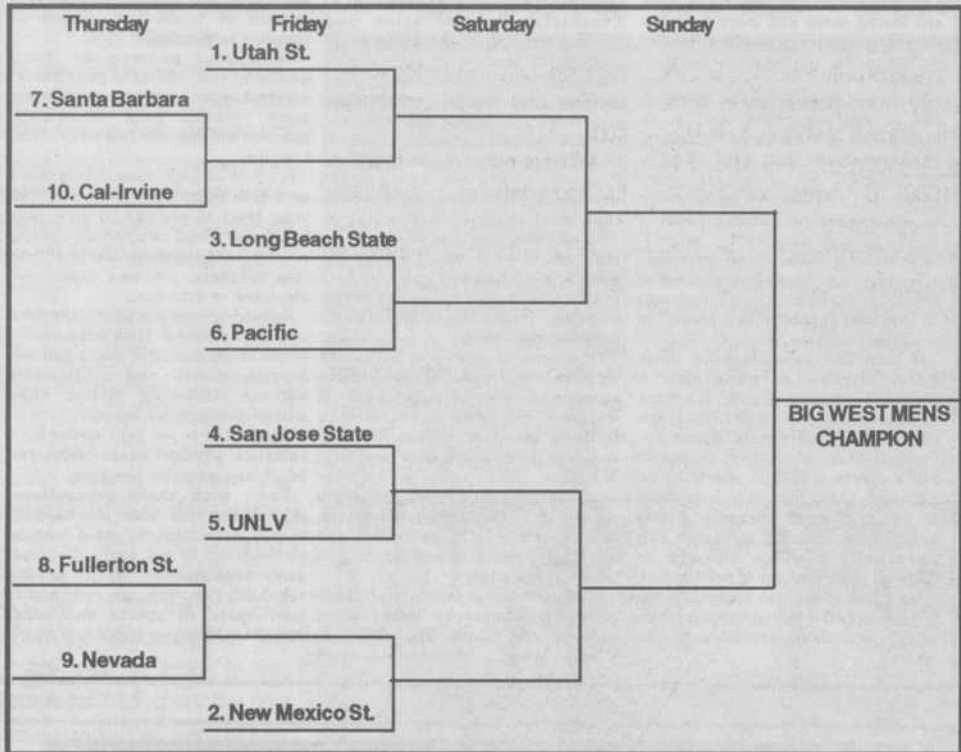
Behind 79% shooting in the first half, the Lady Rebs coasted to a 61-36 lead at the half.

UNLV shot 72% from treyland in the first half, nailing 8-of-11. Guard Gwynn Hobbs led the charge for UNLV, popping in 27 points and dishing out six assists.

Pouring in 19 points a pece towards the cuase was Hobbs' backcourt mate Cherie Hogg and reserve Tracy Titus.

"Our kids are focused," commented Head Coach Jim Bolla. "We played well today, we are playing well particularly, Cherie Hogg and Gwynn Hobbs.

"Wegot some good performances from our reserves." Titus ended up 8-for-8 off the bench.



SELF-REALIZATION

"I REALLY DID IT LAST NIGHT," BARRY THOUGHT. "GOT DRUNK, ACTED STUPID AND WENT HOME WITH WHO IS THAT?"

"WHAT AM I STUPID? HOW DID I DO THIS?" BARRY BEGAN TO WORRY, REALLY WORRY.

WHAT ABOUT AIDS?

THEN HE REMEMBERED, "HEY, I'M JUST A CARTOON CHARACTER. I DONT EVEN HAVE TO SHOWER."

GET HIGH, GET STUPID, GET AIDS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL; 1-800-662-HELP

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all activities are sponsored by the City of Las Vegas

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| <h3 style="text-align: center;">CORPORATE CHALLENGE</h3> <p>The ninth annual Corporate Challenge games, sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities, is rapidly approaching. Opening ceremonies take place Sat., March 26 at Freedom park (E. Washington Ave. at No. Mojave Rd.).</p> <p>Dave Parker, Corporate Challenge Coordinator for the City, reminds all corporations planning on competing in this year's challenge, that the registration deadline is February 1.</p> <p>Corporations that have not submitted their registration fees are asked to call the City's Corporate Challenge office at 229-6706 for details.</p> | <h3 style="text-align: center;">ANNUAL ADAPTIVE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT</h3> <p>When: Saturday March 5, 1994 Where: Dula Gym - 450 E. Bonanza Rd.</p> <p>What: Single elimination hoops toumey involving junior and senior special education students, ages 12-18, within the Clark County area.</p> <p>Special Guests include former NBA player and Runnin' Rebel Sidney Green.</p> <p>Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and will continue through 9:00 a.m. The tournament will commence at 9:00 a.m. and run through 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>There is no charge and the public is welcome.</p> <p>There will be a maximum of 10 teams (10 players per team).</p> | <h3 style="text-align: center;">MONSTROUS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT</h3> <p>Volleyball enthusiasts of all skill levels will get their chance on the court at the 7th Annual Volleyball Mania on Saturday, March 12th in UNLV's North and South Gym. This indoor, coed tournament benefits the American Lung Association of Nevada's community service programs. Divisions include: Novice, Spiking A and Spiking B. Each team is guaranteed four games (round-robin) and a chance for Trophies, T-Shirts and other prizes. Wendy's of Las Vegas is sponsoring this year's tournament. Entry fees are \$125.00 per team. You may call 454-2500 to receive your registration flyer. Entry deadline is March 7th.</p> |
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