

SENTINEL SPORTS

College Basketball

After close loss to UCLA, Rebels prepare for Michigan

Sentinel-Voice

The UNLV Runnin' Rebels, who surprisingly managed to stay with the defending national champion UCLA Bruins last Saturday, now find themselves in another huge battle Thursday as they play host to the 17th ranked Michigan Wolverines.

The Rebels, now 1-5, surprised everyone, possibly even themselves, as they hung close in a 89-82 loss to the Bruins at the Thomas & Mack Center. UCLA, 6-3, finished with five players in double figures, including J.R. Henderson, who hit 18 of his game-high 25 points in the first half.

UNLV, on the other hand, received big games from point guard Kevin James and forward Wes Reed, and even bigger games from forward Warren Rosegreen (19 points and 14 rebounds in 37 minutes); a career-high 26 points from Clayton Johnson, and five 3-

"We just wanted to play hard and get better"

UNLV Forward, Clayton Johnson



pointers from injury-riddled Damian Smith, a former Chaparral High School star, and son of former Rebel standout Tony Smith.

"This was a big-time game for us," said Smith, who finished with 21 points. "Everyone was inspired to play. It's easy to get inspired when you're playing the defending national champions, the game's on national TV and it's in your house."

"We just wanted to play hard and get better," added Johnson, who had twice previously hit for 25. "We're still not satisfied, but we took a step forward as far as our goal is concerned."

Bayno also credited Johnson for doing an outstanding job of

isolating Smith for good three-point opportunities.

In the end, though, it was free throws that buried the Rebels. UNLV managed to hit only 10 of their 21 free throw attempts when it counted the most — the second-half (14 for 25 for the game) — but still managed to give a good scare to the Bruins, a young team that's loaded with talent and big-game experience.

"They made it a tough game," UCLA head coach Jim Harrick said. "They made it an emotional game. We took a great shot from them, but we survived."

"In the second-half when we were down by 20, we had a chance to fold but we hung together, kept fighting and got a lot of points off effort, Rebel coach Jim Bayno said.

UCLA's super sophomore, Toby Bailey, scored 18 points in 40 minutes, while teammate Charles O'Bannon hit for 16.

The Rebel's attention now,

however, shifts to Top 20 ranked Michigan.

"If you've got everyone relaxed, everyone into the flow of the game and you knock down

some shots... that's what helped us get off to our best start of the year (the UCLA game)," Smith went on to say. "Thursday, with Michigan coming into our house,

that should be another easy game to get up for."

Tip-off is scheduled for 9:05 Thursday at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Ray Rhodes Named NFL Coach of the Year

PHILADELPHIA — Ray Rhodes, head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, who turned the Eagles into a playoff team this season, was named NFL Coach of the Year Tuesday.

In just his first season as an NFL head coach, Rhodes received 24 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters in balloting by the Associated Press, as he edged out Dom Capers of Carolina and Marty Shottenheimer of Kansas City, who had 21 votes a piece.

Rhodes, defensive coordinator for the Super Bowl champion 49ers last year, was hired after Philadelphia owner Jeff Lurie was turned down by Jimmy Johnson and former Eagles coach Dick Vermeil. But it worked out as Rhodes managed to take a disjointed team that had lost its final seven games of last season and turned it into a 10-6 playoff squad.

"I'm not a guy who's high on

"It's not just me — It's a team deal"

NFL Coach of the Year, Philadelphia Eagles Head Coach, Ray Rhodes.

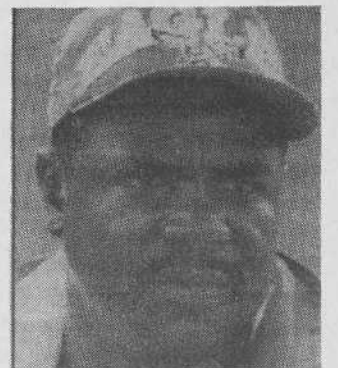
personal achievements — anybody who knows me knows that," Rhodes commented Tuesday. "Really, this award is a reflection on this organization for making the commitment to get this thing pointed in the right direction. "It's not just me — It's a team deal. Awards are nice, but...I'm all about winning."

A former wide receiver and defensive back with the New York Giants, Rhodes, 45, first became an assistant coach in 1981.

Also receiving votes were Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh (7); George Seifert, San Francisco (6); Marv Levy, Buffalo (6); and Mike Holmgren, Green Bay (3).

In other NFL news...

Reward: \$1,000 for the



identity or seat number of the righthander whose photo was plastered on the front page of newspapers all over the country this week, who hurled snowballs Saturday during the New York Giants' 27-17 loss to the San Diego Chargers.

He's a bit player in an ice and snowball barrage — thousands thrown — that injured 15 people at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., and nearly resulted in the first-ever forfeit in NFL history.

Arrested: 15 fans. Ejected: 175.

Doolittle Community Center Sports Announcements

Adult Men's Spring Flag Football

Play begins February 11, 1996 for ages 18+. Registration will take place through February 3, 1996. Fee is \$200 per team, plus official's fees (*\$50 refunded if no forfeits). Coaches meeting will be held February 7 at 7 p.m.

Call or visit the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 N. "J" St. at W. Lake Mead, or call 229-6374 or 229-6375 (Fax, 646-4137). This league is sanctioned by the American Football Association, and sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Dept. of Parks and Leisure Activities.

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Spring Church Coed Softball League

League play begins March 8, 1996. Registration ends February 23 and fee is \$150 per team, plus official's fees. For ages 16 and older. Coaches' meeting will be held on March 5,

1996 at 7 p.m.

Call or visit the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 N. "J" St. at W. Lake Mead, or call 229-6374 or 229-6375. This league is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Dept. of Parks and Leisure Activities.

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Girls Basketball League

Registration will take place through March 1, 1996, with league play beginning in April. Individual registration or pre-formed teams welcome. Girls who are not on a team will be placed on teams March 9 at the Basketball Skills Clinic. In addition, volunteer coaches and sponsors are needed. There is no registration fee.

Call or visit the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 N. "J" St. at W. Lake Mead, or call 229-6374 or 229-6375 (Fax, 646-4137). This league is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Dept. of Parks and Leisure Activities.

Youth Basketball League

Play begins January 2, 1996

Fee: \$200 per team plus official's fees

Registration ends December 27, 1995
Coaches! Register your team for Las Vegas' most competitive and skill enhancing leagues.

- 2nd & 3rd Grade
- 4th & 5th Grade
- 6th & 7th Grade
- 8th Grade

Doolittle Community Center
1901 North "J" St. at Lake Mead
229-6374 or 229-4137/Fax 646-4137

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National Sports Briefs

Cardinals fire Ryan after dismal season

PHOENIX — The self proclaimed "winner in town" got a one-way ticket out Tuesday when Arizona Cardinals owner Bill Bidwill fired coach/general manager Buddy Ryan.

Bidwill met with Ryan, 61, hours after a season-ending 37-13 loss to Dallas Monday night, which left the NFL club 4-12 and fired him with two years left on a four-year contract.

Player reaction was mixed. Said quarterback Dave Krieg, "When you're 4-12 something has to be done."

"Fire me, right along with Buddy," fullback Larry Centers said. "I don't want to start all over."

Bidwill, saying he had "no timetable," must decide whether to hire a general manager or give one person Ryan's dual titles and authority.

Kidd leads voting for guards

NEW YORK — Jason Kidd, bidding to become the first Dallas

player to start an NBA All-Star game, leads all Western Conference guards in balloting announced the league Tuesday.

Kidd, who shared rookie of the year honors with Grant Hill of Detroit last season, has received 81,963 votes, just ahead of Houston's Clyde Drexler, who has 79,926. Next is Utah's John Stockton at 43,629.

Houston center Hakeem Olajuwon leads all vote getters with 131,814, more than twice as many as San Antonio's David Robinson, last year's MVP, who has 60,492.

At forward, Charles Barkley of Phoenix leads with 105,291 votes and Shawn Kemp of Seattle is next with 81,104.

Police charge wife in shooting of ex-Brown

CLEVELAND — The wife of former Cleveland Browns' defensive tackle Bob Gain was charged with shooting him during an argument.

Gain, 66, remained in critical condition Tuesday at

MetroHealth Medical Center, spokeswoman Sue Kalas said. Gain was wounded in the chest Friday at his suburban Cleveland home.

Gain played 12 years for the Browns and was selected to five Pro Bowls before retiring in 1964. He won the Outland Trophy at the University of Kentucky in 1950 as the top lineman in college football.

Nebraska's Phillips gets Fiesta start

TEMPE, Ariz. — With the national championship at stake in the Fiesta Bowl on Tuesday in Tempe, Arizona, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne has turned to a familiar face.

Controversial tailback Lawrence Phillips, suspended for six games this season for assaulting his former girlfriend, will start for the No. 1 Cornhuskers against No. 2 Florida, Osborne said Tuesday.

Phillips played better than freshman Ahman Green in recent scrimmages and the last

regular-season game against Oklahoma, Osborne said. "It looks like he's earned his chance to start."

Phillips originally was dismissed from the team by Osborne, but the penalty was reduced. Phillips backed up Green in the final three games.

NAACP Penalties for North Alabama

North Alabama, which just won its third consecutive Division II title, will lose the equivalent of 23 football scholarships over four years as part of a self-imposed penalty for NCAA rules violations.

North Alabama awarded financial aid to a disproportionate number of athletes from 1989-92 without counting the grants toward scholarship limits. The school was the equivalent of 29 scholarships beyond the limit in football and 18 in baseball.

Baseball will be docked roughly two scholarships a year for the next seven seasons, plus one more in the eighth year.