

S P O R T S

TRAILBLAZERS DEFEND STATE TITLE

It's back-to-back for Durango

*By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice*

The Trailblazers of Durango High School defended their Class AAA boys state basketball title last week in a convincing 73-56 win over rival Bishop Gorman at the University of Nevada, Reno's Lawlor Events Center.

The championship game provided the perfect opportunity for the Gorman Gaels to redeem themselves as they had lost three consecutive games to Durango prior to the state title game. The Gaels, ironically, had beaten the Trailblazers by 26 points in their first meeting of the season.

Rated Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, going into the state championships, Durango and Bishop Gorman's seasons came down to a one-game playoff after ending the regular season tied

with 13-1 division marks. Durango went on to win the southern zone title with an easy 70-54 win over the Gaels.

Paced all season long by the quintet of guards Jared Call, Thomas McTyer and Kevon Jones, forward Tyler Kidd, and center Ra'oof Sadat, Durango proved to be too much for Bishop Gorman, who had two of its top players out recently with ankle injuries.

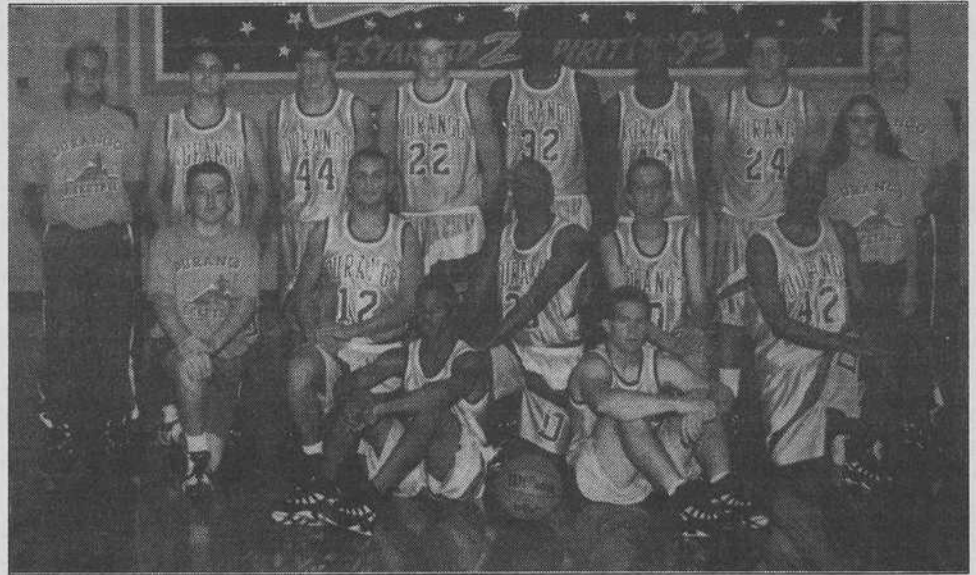
Forward Jim Roban and guard Mo Terry, the driving force for the Gaels this season, came down with their injuries in the late rounds of the zone tournament, and consequently missed the zone championship game. They both recovered, however, by the time the Gaels were headed to Reno for the state tourney, but it wasn't

enough, as the 6-9 Sadat and company were healthy and prepared.

In the finals, it was Jones' 19 points that paced Durango, as point guard Jared Call added 16, including three from beyond 3-point range. Sadat, who has signed to play at the University of San Francisco in the fall, also finished with 16 points.

Bishop Gorman was led by Kendall Soares' 19 points, with Mo Terry adding 12, as Roban was held to just 9 points.

In girls state action, with all four southern Nevada teams (Rancho, Bishop Gorman, Western and Cimarron-Memorial) eliminated in the first round, it was the northern zone winners, McQueen, that won its 2nd consecutive state title with a 68-40 victory over rival Carson.



Back-to-back: Led by 6-9 center Ra'oof Sadat (32), the Durango Trailblazers defended their Class AAA boys state basketball title with a 73-56 win over Bishop Gorman at Reno's Lawlor Events Center Friday.

Rebels look to the future

*By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice*

At this point, there is only one direction for the UNLV men's basketball program to go — forward.

For what will go down as the second-worst season in the program's 38-year history, UNLV, who finished 10-16 overall and 7-11 in Big West Conference play, has nothing but good things to look forward to. Even though all hopes of gaining a berth to the Big West tourney were dashed last Saturday in a hard-fought 82-69 road loss to Utah State, believe it or not, UNLV's future looks pretty bright.

First of all, The Rebels, who will join the more-competitive Western Athletic Conference (WAC) next season, will return two greatly-missed redshirt starters in 6-10 sophomore center Eric Lee and former Chaparral High School star, 6-3 senior shooting guard Damian Smith, who both missed the season due to injuries. Lee had a herniated disc in his lower back and had surgery in December, while Smith had arthroscopic knee surgery in November. The surgeries were successful, and they're both looking forward to next season.

Secondly, UNLV will return starting forward Warren Rosegreen for his senior season. Rosegreen led the Big West in rebounding with 10 per game (ranked 15th nationally) and averaged 12 points per contest. In addition, they will also return junior guards Kevin James and Cheyenne High's Chancellor Davis, and 6-7 junior Tony Lane who will move back to the forward position after filling in at center for the injured Lee.

And as if that weren't enough,

UNLV, who will only lose starting forward Clayton Johnson (17 points and 5 rebounds per game), has already put together one of the top recruiting classes in the country. So impressive that reports even have UNLV head coach Bill Bayno going out on a limb stating that this recruiting class could possibly be ranked as high as No. 1 in the country.

In addition, the Rebels, who only once before have failed to make it to the Big West tournament (1991-92 season when UNLV was placed on probation by the NCAA), have, thus far, managed to sign Dixie College standout, 6-11 Keon Clark; highly-touted 6-9 Issiah Epps of Maine Central Institute; and 6-5 Donovan Stewart of Cheshire Academy in Connecticut.

Also, 6-0 Corky Ausborne of Tyler College in Texas and 6-6 swingman Tyrone Nesby of Vincennes University in Indiana, have verbally committed to attend UNLV.

So, with the spring signing period slated for April 15 through May 15, the outlook appears bright for the Rebels, who had dominated conference play during the 70s and 80s. A young, second-year coach; a new conference, a bunch of returning players, a highly-respected recruiting class, and a fresh outlook — what more could you ask for?

In the words of the outspoken owner of the NFL's Oakland Raiders, Al Davis, "just win baby, just win!"

Billy Packer won't be disciplined for remarks

LANDOVER, Md. — Georgetown head coach John Thompson defended CBS sports commentator Billy Packer after he referred to Hoya guard Allen Iverson as a "tough monkey" during last week's telecast of the Villanova-Georgetown game.

"I get mad at Billy sometimes for trying to officiate games on TV, and I get mad at Billy sometimes for trying to coach games on TV," Thompson said following the Hoyas' 106-68 victory. "However, one thing I do know about Billy is that he is

(See Remarks, Page 16)



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