

The Scarlet & Gray

Runnin' Rebels defeats UNR for 69-58 victory

By Alex Wright
Editor-in-Chief

For the first time this season the student section at the Thomas & Mack Center was full. And in front of its best crowd of the season, UNLV gave its fans plenty to cheer about.

UNLV defeated Nevada Tuesday night 69-58, for its first win against its in-state rival since Feb. 7, 2018.

"That was so much fun to come out of the tunnel and just see how much life there was in the Thomas & Mack," head coach Kevin Kruger said of the crowd. "I thought it was a direct correlation to the guys and hopefully we can keep doing that throughout the year."

UNLV took a 10 point lead, thanks to a 14-2 run, midway in the first half, as a Keshon Gilbert steal led to a Donovan Williams



Jordan McCabe (5) running around Nevada's guard Daniel Foster after making him slip. McCabe scored 16 points to lead the Runnin' Rebels to a 69-58 victory. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain.

dunk that brought the crowd to its feet and forced Nevada to burn an early timeout.

Jordan McCabe knocked down one of his three first half 3-pointers, with under four minutes remaining in the first half, that

stopped a Wolf Pack run that had cut the lead to six points. UNLV then proceeded to go on a 10-0 run in the final minutes of the first half that brought its lead to 19 points, before taking a 42-26 lead into halftime.

UNLV held Nevada to a season-low 26 points at halftime, the final three points came from a near half-court buzzer beater from Kenan Blackshear.

The Wolf Pack, without their leading scorer Grant Sherfield, utilized their depth to make a run coming out of halftime. Nevada outscored UNLV 17-6 through the first nine minutes of the second half that cut UNLV's lead to just five points, 48-43.

Another McCabe 3-pointer after the Nevada run sparked a 10-2 UNLV run that pushed its lead back to 13 points, 58-45.

Nevada tried to make another run, as it cut UNLV's lead to nine points. But Royce Hamm blocked a Will Baker layup attempt that halted any Nevada comeback attempt.

Kruger said he loved seeing his team buckle down when the

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President Whitfield "loves" UNLV

By Vanessa Booth
Managing Editor

UNLV President Keith Whitfield delivered the State of the University address to the community where he debuted a variety of new projects in the address and discussed university milestones.

Whitfield took the opportunity to address the thousands of

students and faculty members watching to highlight student achievements, new projects, and future projections for the state of the university in the annual address given by the UNLV president.

Before Whitfield took the stage, he was introduced by UNLV faculty senate chair, Shannon Sumpter.

As Whitfield took

the stage for his second State of the University address, he started his speech highlighting how he believes there is something very special about UNLV and that what makes it so special is the students that embody it.

"I recently came to realize that I'd fallen in love with this university," Whitfield said. "As I've come to learn

more about its faculty, staff and students, I've developed a deep affection for who we are, what we offer, and how we make things happen."

One of the highlights during the address was announcing that for a third time, UNLV has received its Carnegie R1 or "Very High Research". The first time

SEE **WHITFIELD** on pg. 4

Pork is good for the heart—so far

By Jimmy Romo
News Editor

In a last effort to save David Bennett's life, through a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved surgery, a pig heart was transplanted into a 57-year-old man to escape death.

The University of Maryland Medical

Center just performed a successful heart transplant into a man who was dying of heart disease and a shortage of human organs, according to Nature. Bennett was placed on cardiac support for nearly two months before signing up to be the recipient of the pig heart.

Research in xenotransplantation, where animal organs are

transplanted into a human, dates back to the 17th century. With the most notable strides in the 19th century where Keith Reemtsma, a surgeon, transplanted chimpanzees' kidneys into humans in 1964. The finding of this research was that the kidneys of a chimpanzee are not large enough, as many died between week four and eight

due to rejection.

The dean of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, Marc J. Kahn explains why the body begins to reject what might be a perfectly good organ, but the immune system does not recognize that.

"Our immune system recognizes parts of cells and tissues that are foreign," Kahn

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How similar are cats & dogs?

By Mark Credico
Staff Writer

Are cats and dogs really so different? That’s what a recent study by UNLV’s Elizabeth Johnson, in collaboration with Boise State’s Shelly Volsche, asked in their most recent publication.

This study is an analysis of results of a survey conducted in April through May 2020 by Johnson and Volsche for a previous study. This new analysis is focused on the possible differences between the results of dog and cat owners, and the possible cultural reasons for these differences.

The study found that for the most part, the general themes of bonding with their pets and helping with the owners’ mental health were consistent with both dogs and cats. It did also find subtle differences between responses based on species. The differences found were mainly in the expectations depending on the animal companion.

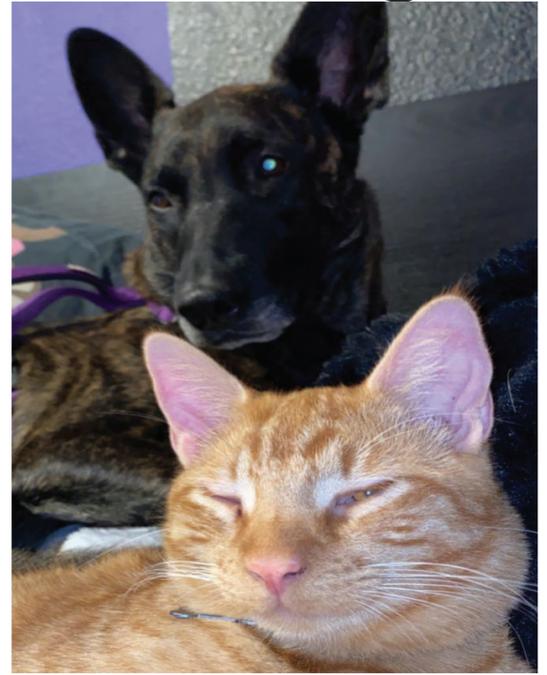
“A dog might come off as more friendly,” Johnson said, “Whereas a cat, maybe they actually are more friendly, but we have these social assumptions that they’re independent. And so we don’t really connect as well.”

The study found that the dog owners seemed to engage in activities like training and other bonding exercises that were better for communication and understanding between pet and owner. Cat owners seemed to engage less in this way with their pets. However, it also showed that the increased time spent with cats in isolation helped owners grow closer to them.

“One of the things that we noticed for the cats that people were saying was, ‘I feel like my cats are more interested in interacting with me than before,’” Johnson said, “Because maybe if they spent more time with their cat, they would realize that they’re similar as far as care and affection [to dogs].”

The survey was originally for a previous study by Johnson and Volsche that analyzed how companion animals affected owners during the COVID-19 lockdown. This initial survey asked 234 Americans standard demographic questions followed by Likert scale questions to describe how they perceived their pets throughout the lockdown.

However both also noted that the inherent selection biases that come with surveys also affected this survey. These selection biases also prevented the survey from being accurately representative of the entire pet owning population.



Harley (top) laying next to Archer (bottom). Photo by Kayla Faasse

Despite these limitations, that study found that companion animals like cats and dogs did have a positive impact on their owners’ ability to cope with the isolation brought by the COVID-19 lockdown.

Johnson has continued her work in understanding the bond between pets and owners, specifically with cats. Alongside this study, she also worked on another publication that analyzed the oxytocin response in female cat owners. That study found that certain intimate activities with cats, like petting or initially calling a pet cat, did have a positive response in oxytocin levels, but just the animal’s presence did not have the same connection.

Johnson hopes that the growing field of study on human-pet interactions specifically with cats will continue to further the general understanding of the animals. She also hopes that these advances can disprove some of the harmful cultural assumptions surrounding the felines.

“Unconscious bias can be influenced by perception and cultures,” said Johnson, “So I think if we have a better perception of cats in our society, we could understand the benefits of health and well-being in the relationship to cats, which would be helpful.”

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EVENTS THIS WEEK



Monday

February 7
The Writing Center’s 25th Birthday Week
All Day
The Writing Center

Tuesday

February 8
Rock Climbing Workshop Part 1
5:00-7:00pm
Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Wednesday

February 9
Reptile Expo
5:00-12:00am
Alta Ham Fine Arts

Thursday

February 10
Surviving and Thriving Panel
11:30am-1:00pm
Beverly Rogers Literature & Law Bldg Rm 101 & Zoom

Friday

February 11
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: The Beaux’ Stratagem
7:30pm
Judy Bayley Theatre

Monday: Come to The Writing Center to help celebrate its 25th birthday. There will be various events throughout the week on campus to help with the birthday celebration.
Tuesday: UNLV students can attend this free event to learn the basics of rock climbing, including basic climbing anchors, the materials & use of bolts, & much more. Members of the community can attend for \$10.
Wednesday: Artist Erin K. Drew is showcasing their discourse on vice in Las Vegas. The exhibit includes fabrications about substance use and abuse, nightlife, and notions of freedom.
Thursday: This event is open to First year Liberal Arts students & they can learn from current Liberal Arts about how to be successful in your transition to UNLV. Mini scholarships are available & this is a hybrid event.
Friday: Come to the Judy Bayley Theatre to watch a new adaptation of the classic English comedy. Tickets are available for \$25, & UNLV students get one \$10 ticket with identification.

President Whitfield expresses “love” for university in State of University address

Continued from pg 1:

UNLV received this classification was in 2018.

“Research is central to our success as a university and to our ability to make real and lasting contributions to our state and regional economy,” Whitfield said. “The R1 designation opens the door to new partnerships with private industry and provides more opportunities for our students at all levels, including enhanced learning in the classroom. This is a proud day for UNLV made possible by the collective efforts of our dedicated faculty, staff, and students and reaffirms our strength and continued growth as a university.”

Whitfield spent part of his address mentioning rebel success stories like the collaboration with NASA Mars Fleet Mission and how the school is “proud” to be one of the only universities in the nation to have multiple participating scientists in the mission. The only other university currently holding this designation alongside UNLV is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“The work of geoscientists like Elisabeth Hausrath and Arya Udry is one prominent example of the rebel community,” Whitfield remarked. “Elisabeth and Arya are a part of a select group of scientists on NASA’s Mars mission learning more about the red planet and determining which soils from Mars will come to Earth.”

Other success stories mentioned during the address were the wastewater COVID-19 variant testing project being piloted by professor Edwin Oh. Political science professor Tiffany Howard’s notable list of attained fellowships and research accomplishments.

“Those stories are why I love this university so much,” Whitfield said.

Whitfield then shifted his address to discuss upcoming projects that the university is particularly excited about. One project that

sparked a few laughs from the live audience was the debut of digital president Whitfield, an AI model of the university president who worked to connect closer with prospective and current students, as well as their parents.

“I know some of the responsibility for connecting with the students falls on me, and I’m trying to be more available to them,” he said. “President Whitfield will continue to adapt and expand his capabilities.”

While the project is still in its infancy, students can take advantage of the digital president by visiting UNLV’s Office of the President website. Whitfield encouraged all students, parents, and faculty members to take advantage of this unique resource that is only being offered at UNLV, unlike other universities.

In addition to initiating campus-wide projects, Whitfield discussed the implementation of the Top Tier 2.0 plan. The areas that this vision focuses on including student achievement, research, scholarship, creative activity, an Academic Health Center, socio-economic development, community partnerships, social justice, equity, and inclusion. Whitfield hopes to utilize these metrics to improve the lives of students on campus.

The last portion of the address concluded with a lengthy Q&A in addition to the presentation of the revamping of the campus master plan, which will aim to grow the campus and serve the growing student body.

“The update to the master plan has been developed with a framework that strategically positions the university for the long term,” Whitfield said. “We want to create a prominent entrance to UNLV.”

A major piece of the university master plan is to create a University District on the east side of the campus near the Maryland corridor. Whitfield said that this would create a vibrant and welcoming experience for those who visit campus. To make this project a reality, UNLV hopes to partner with private industry, Clark County, and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Other projects already underway



UNLV president Keith Whitfield stands at the podium delivering his State of the University address speech. Photo by Jimmy Romo

from the campus master plan include the creation of a Campus Village which will be completed in 2024, adding to and modernizing UNLV’s current parking infrastructure, along with new campus buildings.

New campus buildings that will be created are for the Lee Business School, Fine Arts, and the College of Engineering.

“All of these buildings have a direct touchpoint with the Las Vegas community,” Whitfield said. “While we are expanding campus, I know that this means we will need to re-envision parking.”

Whitfield also announced that the Tropicana Parking Garage expansion will be completed in fall 2022 and will add an additional 800 new parking spots to the southwest side of campus. The Del Mar parking lot that just opened from across the Student Union added about 100 parking spaces.

More long-term projects mentioned were the purchasing of the Rebel Plaza and the final stage purchasing of the Public Education Foundation building.

Outside accomplishments like

the development of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine building, discussions regarding the 2019 Student Union Expansion plan were not mentioned but are supposed to be a part of the campus master plan.

“We haven’t decided whether Phase 1 or 2 of the project will be the best for the students but with the changes we are making with some of our other buildings we are hopeful for what our campus will look like in the future,” Whitfield to the Scarlet & Gray after his address.

Whitfield concluded his address by expressing his excitement to be able to share all that is happening at UNLV to the audience. He was also able to note that there is more to come from UNLV.

“What I find truly fascinating is that those moments are not all that is going on at our university,” Whitfield said. “This is an incredibly vibrant and exciting place. Pay attention to it, be involved with it, be connected with it.”

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UNLV president Keith Whitfield and faculty senate chair Shannon Sumpter fist bump at the State of the University address. Photo by Jimmy Romo

Pig Heart:

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said. “And that’s what leads to tissue rejection. The pig was modified so that its cells didn’t express those foreign antigens they’re called, so that it wouldn’t be recognized by the human immune system. And the immune system would be tolerant to the pig organ”

Before Bennett’s surgery, at the New York University Langone Health performed the second successful xenotransplantation. On Nov. 22, surgeons transplanted the kidneys of a genetically modified pig into a human patient that was legally dead, who exhibited no brain function, according to Nature. This pig comes from the same line of genetically modified pigs that Bennett received his heart transplant.

Many xenotransplantations that involve kidneys and hearts have been unsuccessful until now, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Service. After Reemtsma’s kidney xenotransplantation, James Hardy, who performed the first lung allotransplant, human-to-human transplant, was impressed by the findings. Hardy in 1964, decided he would try transplanting a chimpanzee’s heart into a human who would not have been accepted for a heart transplant today. The chimpanzee’s heart proved to not be large enough to handle a human body and the recipient died hours later.

The most well known cardiac xenotransplantation was in 1983 by Leonard Bailey, a surgeon. Bailey transplanted a baboon’s heart into an infant girl, named Baby Faye. The procedure was successful and Faye lived for an

extra 20 days before her body’s immune system rejected the organ. Another factor that contributed to rejection of the organ was the conflict of blood type. Faye was of O blood type and baboons were not found to have this blood type, leading to a quicker rejection.

“The technology behind the pig heart transplant is a genetically modified pig,” said Kahn. “It’s organ’s wouldn’t be rejected by the human immune system. They transplanted a pig heart, which is a little bit smaller, but roughly the size of the human heart. And again the innovation is such that the heart was not rejected by the immune system. So this potentially opens the doors for a whole new source of organs for transplant.”

Bennett is the first person to receive a heart transplant from a genetically modified pig, but is not his first heart operation. In 2013, he received a pig’s heart valve that would not count as a xenotransplantation.

He continued to have complications with his cardiac system, where he was placed on cardiac support, but would not qualify for a mechanical heart pump due to irregularities in his heart beat. Bennett would not even be accepted for human transplant after a revision of his medical history, where he would not refill his medication and not follow medical instructions.

“It is ground breaking, we’ve been talking about this for several years now, but this is the first demonstration that it actually works,” Kahn said.

Research on genetically modified pigs and their hearts has been studied with baboons. Surgeons have been transplanting the pigs hearts and putting them into baboons. Bennett’s surgery is the stepping stone to the next phase into clinical trials to combat the

organ donor shortage.

“For kidneys, we have two organs [in our bodies],” Kahn said. “So there are living donors that donate a kidney, either to a loved one or otherwise. But for things like hearts, we only have one heart, so the only way we are able to harvest hearts for transplant are cadaveric organs, so somebody who typically dies tragically in an accident and who agrees that their organs can be harvested for transplant.”

Kahn points out that when drivers sign up to get their driver’s license in Nevada, they are asked if they would be willing to be an organ donor. Some states actually have modified that procedure that applicants actually don’t have to opt in, they are immediately in. Everyone is assumed to be an organ donor, unless they opt out.

With time for more clinical trials, the medical field is eager to find a solution to the donor organ shortage. Revivicor, the company that had the genetically modified pig, wished to not disclose the cost of the pig, but it was a pretty penny. The company is in Blacksburg, Virginia, which has a facility that met the FDA’s approval for clinical trials, but is building a larger building that could supply hundreds of organs a year, according to Nature. But when will

the world be ready for xenotransplantation?

“I think eventually, we’re not there yet. Right? We have an [example] of one.” Kahn said. “This is the first one that we’ve done, but this is going to be a very fruitful area of research and technology, to again, increase the number of organs available for transplant.”

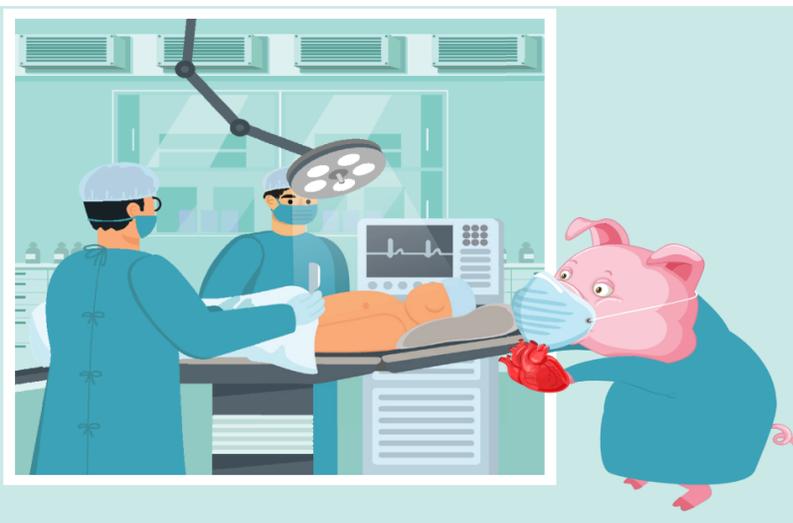
As the technology advances, there is an up cry in a clarification on ethics. Jeremy Chapman, a retired transplant surgeon at the University of Sydney in Australia, says to Nature that regulators and ethicists will need to define what makes a person eligible for a pig organ. Kahn was asked what this could change for the curriculum at the medical school.

“We teach ethics, there are ethical issues with firstly clinical trials,” Kahn said. “Secondly, novel therapies, so it would come up there. Are we going to specifically teach about cross species transplantation? It’s really too new to make it into the curriculum.”

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New omicron subvariant may be more contagious

By Mark Credico
Staff Writer

A new subvariant of the COVID-19 omicron variant has been discovered and detected in southern Nevada.

“A sub variant is related to one of those other variants, it’s just a slightly different flavor of it,” said UNLV assistant professor and principal investigator of UNLV’s COVID-19 contact tracing team, Brian Labus. “Although if some variant turns out to be very, very different, ultimately, it could wind up just being reclassified as its own variant.”

Labus explained that researchers investigate the ability to spread, severity of illness and response to vaccines in comparison to similar strains of the same virus before classifying it as either

a variant or subvariant.

A recent study of the subvariant in Denmark found that it is notably more transmissible than the original omicron variant. The new BA.2 subvariant was found to be more transmissible in both unvaccinated and vaccinated people. A report from the U.K. Health Security Agency also found the BA.2 subvariant to be more contagious, but no evidence for increased transmissibility in vaccinated people compared to other sub variants of omicron.

Multiple sources also report that there is no sufficient data to conclude that the subvariant is any more severe than omicron.

“The virus itself spreads more easily than delta, we know that for certain,” Labus said. “It doesn’t appear to cause any worse disease, and it may be more mild. But we also have to keep in mind

that the disease we’re seeing in the community is among a population that’s had more and more experience with it. We’ve had omicron infections, we’ve had more vaccinations, and boosters. So it’s hard to say that it’s any more mild.”

With the discovery of the new variant, it has also generated a nickname for itself “Stealth Omicron”, a nickname that Labus warns is misleading.

“It makes it sound like we can’t detect it, and that is absolutely not true,” Labus explains. “And I think by calling it ‘stealth’ people have just said, ‘Oh no, it’s this brand new thing that sneaks in and we don’t even know it’s there.’ Really it’s no different than anything we’ve been testing before. It sounds like a great name, but it’s very, very misleading and scares the population I

think more than necessary.”

For advice on what to do, Labus repeated the same message that he did for omicron, and delta and alpha before that.

“The things that we’re doing, we still have to keep doing,” Labus said. “A lot of them become more and more important as the virus can spread more easily. But people still need to get vaccinated and boosted, they need to wear masks, and if possible, upgrade your mask to a better mask. And still think about social distancing, I know we don’t have the same restrictions in our community. But close contact is what most easily spreads this just like other variants.”

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Are pre-COVID tourism rates returning to Las Vegas?

By Allister Dias
Staff Writer

The entertainment industry, still dealing with the fallout from COVID's first hit, has faced a sharp decline in tourism rates, heavily impacting the way Las Vegas operates and stays afloat.

Entering the third year of the pandemic, there appears to be a glimmer of hope for the Las Vegas entertainment industry: music concerts.

Recently, artists like Katy Perry, Anita Baker, Carrie Underwood and more have announced their residency for 2022 in Las Vegas. As COVID tensions continue to ease, the frequency of tourism has seen an almost pre-COVID recovery, in terms of attendance and large gatherings.

With more and more artists bringing their shows back to the Las Vegas Valley, what does this mean for tourism rates? Is the idea of continuing music events reasonable at such a time?

"I believe that Vegas is well known for its party life and including more well-known artists will only bring more attention and enjoyment to our bustling city," said Justin Ramos, a freshman psychology major at UNLV.

"Having more shows is a great way to attract people," Ramos elaborated. "All types of people, as long as there is a plethora of diverse entertainment."

Ramos went on to further explain how bringing more attention back to Las Vegas can help bolster new growth and further drive the efficiency of the economy. The inclusion of new shows and entertainment events can help



The Las Vegas Strip as seen from the Eiffel Tower. Photo by Allister Dias

attract a broad, diverse audience back to Las Vegas and expand a broader economic range.

According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, hotel rates and overall attendance were up 66.8% in 2021, compared to 42.1% reported in 2020. Although quite small compared to 2019's 88.9% rate, it's safe to assume that rising attendance rates will continue as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease. With travel returning back to normal, travelers eager to attend music events will flock to Las Vegas to relive pre-COVID experiences.

Although attendance for Las Vegas events is gaining a resurgence, the music industry has had a bit of a rough start regaining a foothold in Las Vegas. Hit artists have begun postponing their residencies, such as Adele putting a halt on her Caesars Palace residency due to delivery delays

and COVID-19 scares among her circle. Such elements could also negatively impact other artists and their respective residencies. However, it seems to be unique to only Adele at this time.

However, cancellation of certain shows have not hindered tourists from returning back to Las Vegas for musical entertainment. According to AARP, October of 2021 saw the largest visitation rates since the start of the pandemic; 3,390,200 visitors.

With more and more visitors coming to Vegas, the Las Vegas economy has seen a noticeably strong recovery. Tourism and entertainment generates approximately \$58 billion and houses 370,000 jobs, which is pivotal to the overall economy of Las Vegas.

As COVID-19 treatments continue to become more prevalent among the populace, Las Vegas is poised to return back to full capacity. Las Vegas shows,

in combination with safety measures, are also expected to continue to grow in size and regularity, thus bolstering both tourism and economic flourishing.

Given the current economic projections, Las Vegas shows should continue to grow in frequency to nurture post-COVID economic growth.

It's pivotal that Las Vegas reinstate music events to help drive economic growth in Las Vegas and grow the overall employment base, with all measures taken into consideration. As the old saying goes, the show must go on!

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Extending aid through virtual grief support groups to those in emotional turmoil

By Zeynep Akgedik
Staff Writer

Individuals all over the world have been going through psychological and physical challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in early 2020. The effects of quarantining, limited social gatherings, death of loved ones, loss of jobs, uncertainty about the future and fear of contracting the virus have caused incalculable levels of emotional distress.

As one might assume, these turbulent times have prompted and have continued to raise the demand for emotional support and professional aid.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-related stagnation, mental health services have either come to a halt or were performing poorly at some point.

The World Health Organization estimates that in 2020, the pandemic had interrupted key mental health services in 93% of countries globally. The delay in providing these treatments have caused greater harm to the human psyche and significantly worsened the situation of those who were already suffering mentally.

Although there has been a considerable improvement in the provision of mental health services since the early stages of the pandemic, people are still in des-

perate need of relief programs.

Confronting the upsetting feeling or emotion is one form of self-healing, and avoiding or ignoring it all only worsens the situation, causing more anguish for the individuals experiencing the misery.

In an interview with Ed Source, “Bereavement and grief is not a mental illness. It’s a life experience,” stated Dr. David Schonfeld, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician, and director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement.

He added to this by saying, “It’s a very difficult life experience, but everyone goes through it.” The intensity with which they are felt can be “managed through support and assistance.”

It is critical to highlight that the pandemic has inflicted varying degrees of pain on everyone. Given the length of time it takes for mental problems to recover from, there is still a lot of work to be done in order to return to pre-COVID psychological states.

To do this, local nonprofit organizations are rallying together to provide virtual support groups



for individuals in their communities. This would not only help people alleviate their level of stress but will also grant them relief from the mental discomfort they have been experiencing since the beginning of the pandemic.

The UNLV School of Nursing, for instance, is collaborating with Adam’s Place to offer a virtual grief support group.

Adam’s Place is a nonprofit organization committed to assisting those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The team will work with people and families who are grieving to help them regain their emotional health.

“You never really realize how many family-oriented holidays that we have in the United States until you lose somebody. And

then all of a sudden, it hits you that Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, 4th of July—all of these things are family-oriented,” said Dr. Paul Thomas Clements, professor in residence at UNLV in an interview with Fox 5. Only through lifting people will communities be able to recover from the devastation brought by COVID-19.

As a result, initiatives such as virtual relief support groups must be treasured and supported in order to reach out to as many individuals as possible.

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Runnin' Rebels vs UNR

Continued from pg 1:

Wolf Pack cut their lead from 19 to five. It was the second game in a row that UNLV held a double-digit lead going into halftime, and Kruger noted his team does not have a lot of experience in those situations, but hopes they can learn how to handle them better moving forward.

"We got a little timid," Kruger said of the team's second half struggles. "When we get to a point where the ball sticks a little bit, we enter a mode of not messing up, not taking a questionable shot."

Despite the early second half struggles, UNLV had four scorers in double-digits to help carry them past Nevada. Bryce Hamilton and Williams each finished with 17 points apiece to lead the Runnin' Rebels.

Williams had missed last Friday's win at Colorado State. He said that there was uncertainty as to whether he would play, but his return helped take the weight off Hamilton's shoulders by giving UNLV another scoring option on the floor.

"He's a great player, a great scorer," Hamilton said of Williams. "It helps a whole lot. The defense had to key into me the whole time and I'm able to have someone I can trust and pass the ball too."

McCabe was right behind the duo with 16 points of his own, a season high for the West Virginia native. He hit four 3-pointers and helped showcase the shooting ability McCabe brings to the team.

"It felt good," Hamilton said of McCabe's shooting performance. "Jordan's a great shooter.



Donovan Williams looking back after knocking down a three-pointer in the rivalry red out game against the Nevada Wolf Pack, Williams scored 17 points to lead the Runnin' Rebels to a 69-58 victory. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain.

We tell him to 'shoot, shoot,' he stepped up today and played really well."

Aside from this being a rivalry game, there were a lot of eyes on the Runnin' Rebels to see how they would answer their road win at Colorado State.

Kruger was worried that the team, and especially Hamilton after his career night and being named national player of the week, would put too much pressure on themselves in this spot. But, he saw the maturity in his team as they were all eager to focus on Nevada, and that started with Hamilton.

"He was patient, he didn't

force anything early," Kruger said of Hamilton's performance. "He didn't go try and get 42 [points]. I thought that was the maturity he showed in that, it was incredible."

UNLV returns to action this Saturday to face Utah State (13-9, 4-5) on the road at 3 p.m.

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	1	2	F
NEVADA	26	32	58
UNLV	42	27	69

Shorthanded UNLV suffers loss against Utah State

By Alex Wright
Editor-in-Chief

UNLV's brief two-game winning streak came to an end after a 90-75 loss at Utah State Saturday afternoon.

Just before tip-off, the Runnin' Rebels learned they would be without their second leading scorer Donovan Williams, who has been dealing with a knee injury that has kept him out of three of the last five games.

Despite the absence, UNLV held a 16-10 lead early seven minutes into the game, with Bryce Hamilton scoring seven of the team's first 16 points.

The teams traded the lead six more times throughout the first half, as UNLV guard Justin Webster and Utah State's Brandon Horvath traded 3-pointers in the final seconds of the first half to give Utah State a 40-38 lead heading into the locker room.

Utah State scored the first seven points of the second half to take a 47-38 lead, its largest lead to that point, two minutes into the half.

The Runnin' Rebels managed to cut the deficit to one point, twice. A Hamilton jumper at the 12:07 mark made it a 54-53 game.

On the ensuing possession, Utah State's Sean Bairstow knocked down a jump shot in the paint that sparked a 16-0 run for Utah State that put the game out of reach. The Aggies' lead was as high as 20 points (88-68), before the game ended with a 90-75 final score.

Despite a 33-point performance from Hamilton, the Runnin' Rebels could not muster enough stops defensively to stop the Aggies' 68% second half shooting performance.

"Utah State is an elite offensive team," head coach Kevin Kruger said after the loss. "We just had some breakdowns and were trying to play catch up. That's not what you want to do against them."

UNLV not only had to deal with the absence of Williams, but forward Victor Iwuakor only played five minutes in the first half and did not play the entire

second half. Iwuakor missed time earlier this season with a shoulder injury, Kruger, nor the team, did not disclose why he missed the second half.

Without Iwuakor, the Runnin' Rebels were thin in the front court. Reece Brown played 17 minutes, his most since Nov. 24 and David Muoka tied a season high of minutes played with 25.

Kruger emphasized the importance of playing a 40-minute game against a team that has made the NCAA Tournament the last two seasons, and won the conference twice. UNLV's inability to string together stops consistently in the second half impacted its ability to score and allowed Utah State to grow its lead.

"It just puts so much pressure on you to score that it makes it that much harder, and they're so good offensively that when they get a little bit of a cushion like that, they just keep playing with more and more confidence," Kruger said. "That's probably what happened today."

Justin Bean led Utah State with 32 points on 11-of-15 shoot-

ing. Three other Aggies scored in double-figures as they combined to shoot 64% as a team in their 15-point victory.

Jordan McCabe finished with 13 points and Mike Nuga had 10, no other Runnin' Rebels finished with more than seven points.

Up Next

UNLV returns to the Thomas & Mack Center Tuesday night to face Air Force at 7 p.m. Studnets who have attended the last two home games are still eligible for the free shoes giveaway promoted by UNLV athletics.

Prior to tip-off, there will be a pregame tailgate in front of the Jerry Tarkanian Statue at 5 p.m. Tuesday's game will be Military Appreciation Night, with active duty military being offered two free tickets, and it is also \$2 beer night.

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A look at Jordan McCabe's game day routine

By **Jordan Anders-McClain**
Photography Editor

Two freezing cold showers, a quick Starbucks run, and a shoot-around practice have become a routine for Jordan McCabe on game days before a late tip-off at the Thomas & Mack Center.

For the Runnin' Rebels guard, the day begins with a 9 a.m. wake-up time followed by a cold shower.

"I'm on 34 days in a row with a freezing cold shower in the morning," Jordan said. "It's actually the last thing I wanna do when I get up but I do it so it wakes me up and gets me a little energized for the day."

A cold shower won't give Jordan all the energy he needs for a long day, so he heads to Starbucks to order a quadruple shot espresso, blonde with sweet cream white mocha and cinnamon dulchi.

After a quick coffee stop, the No. 18 ranked player in the nation in assist/turnover ratio, heads to Mendenhall (the Runnin' Rebels practice facility) around 10 a.m. There, McCabe starts with stretching and any rehab he may need before the game to get his body ready.

"I'll come upstairs with the managers and we'll get a light workout in before our team shootaround," McCabe said. "We have a team shootaround at 1 p.m. So I'll go at noon to Thomas & Mack to get in some light shooting and a little bit of

movement, that'll get me ready for shootaround where we go through the other teams' plays for an hour."

A pregame meal follows the team's shootaround and at 2 p.m. McCabe goes back to his apartment and eats while he watches his favorite show at the time, right now it's HBO's Euphoria.

"I'm all caught up now. I binged watched the first season in record time," McCabe said.

From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. McCabe takes a pregame nap before he jumps back into a cold shower to wake up.

"After the nap, I'll watch a little bit of film, Chris Paul, a little bit of NBA, maybe a college game just to get back into the basketball mindset," McCabe said.

Two hours before tip-off, the guard heads to the arena to get taped and begin his individual pregame drills and shooting. After 20 minutes of that, he'll say hi to one of his favorite workers at the Mack, Gloria before getting ready for pregame drills with the team.

During this time, Jordan mentions that during the season he likes listening to rap music, specifically Lil Baby, before a game.

After being asked if he listens to NBA Youngboy like the rest of the team, McCabe said, "I do listen to him, they've forced that upon me. I've always liked him but it's like a cult following in our locker room. So whether or not I wanted to, I know all the songs."

Now back to the routine, with 60 minutes winding down on the



Jordan McCabe calling a play at the logo during the Runnin' Rebels rivalry red out game against the Nevada Wolf Pack, McCabe scored 16 points to lead UNLV to a 69-58 victory. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain

clock, the Rebels take the court and begin with 10 minutes of stretching, 10 minutes of dribbling for guards, and 10 minutes of specific guard shooting drills.

The team then heads to the locker room to discuss game plans before taking the court once again for layup lines as fans begin arriving at the arena.

"It's where I generally get all my dunks out of the way before anyone gets in there and sees me dunking," McCabe jokes. "That's why no one has ever seen it, I do it before people get in there."

After McCabe gets his "dunks" in, the team heads to the locker room to go over any last-minute game plans. Then, the team runs out for introductions which includes a pregame video montage of the team with Nipsey's "Last Time That I Checc'd" song playing, which is McCabe's favorite part of a home game.

When introductions end, McCabe said, "we get ready and go beat whoever is in front of us that night."

As far as after the game, McCabe said, "so we win right and everyone is happy. I'll wrap some ice on my knees, then me and my girlfriend, if she's in town, will go directly to Angry Chicks. Crumbl Cookie, if it's open, we go there too. We get those two terrible things for you and that's how we celebrate."

"We go back to the apartment, eat that and watch my Yellow-

stone or Euphoria. I generally don't get to bed too early on game days, especially a late one when my adrenaline is still going. It's usually around 12 or 1 a.m. when I get to bed."

Having that consistency of a routine on and off the court has helped McCabe, as he is having one of his best college basketball seasons to date.

The starting point guard is averaging 6.9 points, 4.6 assists, and 1.1 steals a game. McCabe is ranked second in the Mountain West Conference in assist/turnover ratio and has grown into his role as a playmaker on the court.

He has grown into his role as a leader on the court, keeping the offense moving by calling plays and most notably making crazy insane no-look passes, which is something you just have to see for yourself.

Catch Jordan McCabe and the Runnin' Rebels take on Air Force on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at the Thomas & Mack Center for a 7 p.m. tip-off. Students can get their tickets for free at unlvtickets.com.

DISCLAIMER:

You can find a longer version of this article on our website with more details regarding McCabe's game day routine during road trips. Check out the article on unlvscarletandgray.com

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No. 2 IN MW

JORDAN McCabe

No. 18 IN THE NATION
4.6 AST/1.6 TO

Softball's 2022 season set to kick off on Feb. 10

By Amber Dammier
Staff Writer

As spring semester is ahead of us and the sweet taste of warm weather is just around the corner for Las Vegas, this means UNLV Softball season is so close.

The fully-talented team this year are working hard as they are hungrier than ever for a successful season.

Each year, UNLV has inched closer and closer to winning the Mountain West (MW) Conference. During the 2021 season, despite it being shortened due to COVID-19, the team finished an impressive 17-7 in conference play and 25-15 overall.

The Rebels placed second in the conference last year and this season they're hoping for a first place finish.

"That has been our goal since I have been a freshman here and we have put in a lot of hard work every single year," fifth year senior Mia Trejo said. "We have gotten closer and better each year... that is all I want for this team."

Mia Trejo is one of the many talented players on this 2022 roster as she was named to her third consecutive MW All-Conference team along with Jenny Bressler and Denise Armendariz.

"We all know how to make it fun and we all make it effortlessly and don't take it too seriously," Mia Trejo said. "We all know that we each care about this sport, nobody wants to fail, nobody wants to not succeed. So knowing that we all know how to make it fun, it comes really easy to us."

Mia Trejo passes advice down to help out many of her teammates and one specific special one being her sister, Alyssa Trejo.

"We are super close to begin with, our whole family is super close," Mia Trejo said, "being able to share this experience with a piece of my family it's honestly a really cool experience."

UNLV is picked as the pre-season favorite for winning the conference heading into the year. The last time it was picked was back in 1995, the same year the Rebels reached the Women's College World Series.

A lot of similar faces, mixed with some new talent, will be seen out on the field, with eight starters and 13 letterwinners returning. It will take every player on the team in order for the Rebels to go far.

"Everyone has their job to do- whether that's starting pitching or coming in to relieve the last two innings," senior Jenny Bressler explains, "both of them are equally as important just kind of knowing that each player individually means something to this team, this

team is going to be very important."

Bressler finished the 2021 season with a team-best of 1.27 earned runs average (ERA) in 82.2 innings pitched, also leading the MW in opposing batting average (.180).

With many of the same players returning out on the field, there are some fresh faces to the team, with incoming freshmen and transfers. One of those being senior Siena Sandoval who transferred from Utah Valley.

Sandoval batted .301 with eight home runs, nine doubles and 32 RBIs while appearing in 50 games, 48 of which she started in. She was third on the team with 11 multi-hit games while having five multi-RBI contests including a two-hit, five-RBI game at New Mexico State which included a home run.

Before playing a season at Utah Valley, Sandoval spent two years at Illinois making the transitioning of schools a little easier.

"I was really impressed, people show up early to practice, and want to hit," Sadoval said in her experience of joining the Rebels, "whether you are in the lineup or not everyone is here early, everyone is hitting, everyone does what everyone else is doing at practice."

"There is no separation between the team, I think that has been one of the key points amongst our team. I feel like the staff here and the coaches are really on top of everything. It makes it feel like I am not alone or lost."

With a team filled with talented, hard-working players led by an impressive staff and coaches, the goals of a successful season doesn't seem too far out of reach for the Rebels.

Head coach Kristie Fox, as a full time mom and coach is involved every step of the way. Fox was named MW Coach of the Year for the previous season.

With the clear intention behind a close team full of leaders and driven athletes, who also love the game and soak in the joy. These Rebels are ready for a groundbreaking season right in front of them.

UNLV opens its season hosting the Rebel Kickoff at Eller Media Stadium with BYU on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m. Students get free admission and tickets can be purchased at unlvtickets.com

REBELS SOFTBALL



BYU	CSUB	HAWAII
FEBRUARY 10 5:00 PM	FEBRUARY 11 2:00 PM	FEBRUARY 11 4:30 PM

CSUB	HAWAII	WEBER ST.
FEBRUARY 12 2:00 PM	FEBRUARY 12 4:30 PM	FEBRUARY 18 3:00 PM

UMKC	WEBER ST.	UTAH VALLEY
FEBRUARY 18 5:30 PM	FEBRUARY 19 3:00 PM	FEBRUARY 19 5:30 PM

UTAH VALLEY	SAM HOUSTON	MCNEESE ST.
FEBRUARY 20 11:00 AM	FEBRUARY 25 2:45 PM	FEBRUARY 25 5:00 PM

SAM HOUSTON	MEMPHIS	MANHATTAN
FEBRUARY 26 10:15 AM	FEBRUARY 27 10:15 AM	FEBRUARY 27 12:45 PM



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SCHEDULE

SPORTS THIS WEEK



FEB 6 Sunday	FEB 7 Monday	FEB 8 Tuesday	FEB 9 Wednesday	FEB 10 Thursday	FEB 11 Friday	FEB 12 Saturday	
WTEN vs Youngstown State Las Vegas 10:00 am PT	X	MBB vs Air Force Thomas & Mack Center 7:00 pm PT	WBB at Boise State Boise, ID 5:30 pm PT	SB vs BYU Las Vegas, NV 5:00 pm PT	WTRACK at Texas Tech University Lubbock, TX All Day MBB at Boise State Boise, ID 8:00 pm PT	SB vs CSU Bakersfield Las Vegas, NV 2:00 pm PT SB vs Hawaii Las Vegas, NV 4:30 pm PT SWIM vs UNLV First Chance Invite Las Vegas, NV 10:00 am PT	SB vs CSU Bakersfield Las Vegas, NV 2:00 pm PT WBB vs San Diego State Cox Pavilion 2:00 pm PT MTEN at Oklahoma State Stillwater, OK 11:00 am PT SB vs Hawaii Las Vegas, NV 4:30 pm PT

REBEL HOCKEY UNLV Hockey establishing itself as contender against top competition



By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

The Skatin' Rebels were predicted by coaches across the nation to finish their 2021-22 season ranked as No. 1, and the team is proving themselves worthy of doing so.

UNLV is currently ranked fourth in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), following behind Liberty in third, Minot State in second, and Lindenwood in first.

Starting in late October, the Rebels managed to hold onto a 16-game winning streak, one of the longest streaks in the nation.

"This is probably one of the best hockey teams that UNLV has ever had- definitely while I have been here," junior forward Brendan Manning said. "I think everybody is just buying in and having a fun time at the same time as winning. It's been a great season to be a part of."

Central Oklahoma currently holds the longest streak with 17 straight victories. Along with the win-streak, the Bronchos were the first team to hand the Rebels a loss this season on Oct. 15 and 16

sweeping the series.

After the tough road series, UNLV returned to City National where it lost its third game against Arizona. The following night, the Rebels hit the ice stronger and more focused than before to defeat the Wildcats and begin their streak of victories.

On Nov. 19, the Skatin' Rebels competed in their first game of the Chicago Classic against the defending national champion, Adrian College. UNLV managed to leave the rink with a 4-2 victory that night to take on Minot State the following night, who was ranked No. 2 in the league.

After defeating Minot 2-1, the Rebels took on the No. 4 ranked Liberty defeating them with a similar score of 2-1 to bring home the Chicago Classic trophy.

The Rebels entered the Chicago classic as the underdogs of college hockey, and left as one of the top schools to keep an eye on. Following the tournament, UNLV rode the winning streak all the way to its first game against Liberty.

The Flames managed to take control of the game early

on, securing a 7-4 win over the Rebels and snapping their 16-game winning streak to zero.

Despite the tough loss, the Skatin' Rebels returned to the ice for a Flames' Midnight Madness game and proved themselves worthy once again.

With better offense and a stronger played defense, UNLV defeated Liberty 3-1.

Overall for the season, the Rebels have yet to lose in overtime with a 21- 4 overall record.

Offensively, UNLV has scored 101 total goals with a shooting percentage of 84%. Defensively, UNLV has allowed 62 goals.

Zach Wickson remains the top goaltender for the Rebels with a 14-2 record for 432 total saves. On average he allows 1.99 goals for 32 total allowed goals and a save percentage of 93.1%.

Vince Benedetto has a 7-2 record with the Rebels for 256 total saves and a save percentage of 89.5%. On average Benedetto allows 3.33 goals with 30 total goals against.

Head coach Anthony Vignieri-Greener has said that this team is one of the most tight-knit group

of guys that he's ever coached before and the team owes a lot of its success to the strong chemistry amongst the boys.

"Everyone is excited to play this year and obviously getting one win after another after another- just building on that," forward Michael Boutoussov said. "The team is only going to get better. Our chemistry definitely led to that sixteen game win streak and we lost one game unfortunately, but we're ready to start a new one to carry into Nationals."

As the Rebels continue to build off the success they've had so far, they prepare for their next series against Arizona State for the second matchup of the season.

UNLV will take on ASU on Feb. 11 and 12 as it looks to sweep the Sun Devils in Phoenix, AZ. Puck drop on Friday is scheduled for 8 p.m. MST while Saturday's game will begin at 7 p.m. MST.

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Take a deeper look into the Rebel Talk podcast

By Jordan Anders-McClain
Photography Editor

Anything and everything UNLV Hockey is the subject for the new Rebel Report podcast, and has quickly become the number one podcast for the organization.

With the bonus of exclusive player and coach interviews, the American Collegiate Hockey Association's (ACHA) fourth ranked Skatin' Rebels paired up with UNLV journalism students Kayla Faasse and Chris Johnson to bring insight into the world of hockey in the desert.

It all started with an idea for a hockey podcast; that idea sparked for Faasse one night after a Golden Knights game.

"I had just gotten home and I was on the phone with Chris," Faasse said. "He's the podcast manager with Rebel Report and he was trying to get me into doing a podcast. I told him the only way I was going to do a podcast was if we could bring UNLV Hockey into it with us."

"I get to see the personality during interviews, but it's harder for the fanbase to really get to see the behind the scenes of the team."

After approval from UNLV Hockey to bring in players and



Rebel Hockey's assistant coach Nick Robone and head coach Anthony Vignieri-Greener on the set of Rebel Talk on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. Photo by Jimmy Romo

coaches each week for a 30 minute podcast, the recordings began. For the first episode which debuted on Jan. 27, Nick Flanders and Hunter Muzzillo were the first two players to join the podcast.

When the recording finished, it went straight to editing and was published to Spotify where it quickly became one of the most listened to podcasts for Rebel Report.

"It was really cool. Kayla and [Chris] were nothing but great," Flanders said. "They added a lot of different insights and it was cool to see stuff from a different

perspective. They did a really great job at making us feel comfortable and spreading the word about UNLV Hockey."

Lots of positive feedback and hundreds of listens later, head coach Anthony Vignieri-Greener and assistant coach Nick Robone couldn't be more thrilled to join the podcast for episode two.

"We absolutely love it. We absolutely love every aspect of working with the journalism department at UNLV," Robone said. "I think it's great for the department and it's especially motivating for our boys as well."

"We want to be able to spread

our brand and get more students involved, and continue to let people know that Rebel Hockey exists. This podcast is a great avenue and way to do it."

As the program continues working its way up to playing NCAA Division I hockey, this podcast only helps to boost the talent and success the team has shown all year as they pose a 21-4 record so far this season.

"I'd love to continue this podcast for future seasons to help in any way possible for them to reach that goal," Faasse said. "The coaching staff and players are all doing amazing things behind the scenes and I'm happy to shine light on them."

With two episodes out and more on the way, many players are lined up to be guests in the coming weeks before the team takes on Nationals in March.

Make sure to listen to the first two episodes of Rebel Talk on Rebel Report's Spotify and keep up-to-date with new episodes each week that will feature two new guest players.

A new episode is released every Thursday at 9 a.m.

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Rebel Hockey looks for another sweep against ASU

By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

The Skatin' Rebels (21-4) hit the road after their bye week to take on the Arizona State Sun Devils (10-13) for the second match-up of the year.

The last time these two teams faced off was right before the holiday break, where UNLV dominated the series for a sweep over ASU to end 2021 on a high note.

The Rebels' entire fourth line finished the series with six points each.

UNLV won the first game 8-1, with Michael Boutousov scoring two goals. Nick Flanders ended the night with one goal and one assist, while Bradley Golant ended it off with one assist.

Entering the second game, the three forwards continued to show off their skills with more scoring opportunities. The Rebels won the game 7-3 to sweep ASU.

This time around, Boutousov scored one goal and three assists,

while Flanders scored two goals and two assists leaving Golant with two goals and three assists. The three took claim to the Three Stars of the Night.

In the last matchup with the two teams, UNLV outshot Arizona 106-75 in total for the weekend.

With high expectations for this series, the Rebels will be entering off a split series with Liberty, losing the first game with a comeback victory the following night.

"This series is gonna be big," Boutousov said. "Every game is a new game though, so can't be too high. But again, we had great success against them, so hopefully we carry a little more confidence, a little more swagger into that game and hopefully continuously."

The Sun Devils will be entering off a two-game winning streak after sweeping the University of Oklahoma.

The puck drop is scheduled for 8 p.m. MST / 7 p.m. PST on Feb. 11 and 7 p.m. MST / 6 p.m.

PST on Feb. 12. Follow the team on Twitter (@UNLVRebelHockey) for live updates along with a link to the stream. For Vegas fans tuning into the game, the puck drop will be at 6 p.m. PST.

"We're looking forward to two big wins," Boutousov said. "We can get a three game win streak going. Obviously we want

to win all of our games and get to nationals. We got ASU, Grand Canyon, and Oregon left. We think we can beat all those teams if we play our game so I look forward to doing so."

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Skatin' Rebels Ranking

RANK	TEAM	M1 RECORD
1	LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY	12-0-1
2	MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY	18-2-0
3	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	15-6-1
4	UNLV UNLV UNLV UNLV UNLV	17-4-4
5	IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	19-4-3

Johnson brothers showcase on-ice bond as Rebel Hockey' top-two scorers

By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

UNLV hockey head coach Anthony Vignierii-Greener has said this year's team is as close a group as he's ever had. And the team's top-two scorers are much closer than others on the team.

For the past 17 years, Max Johnson and Alec Johnson have always had a best friend on their team and that's the case again as they've begun their collegiate careers.

Born in Osseo, MN, the Johnson brothers made their way to UNLV last year during the pandemic. Despite there being no games, they practiced with the Rebels and grew closer to everyone on the team.

"I mean last year we all got super close so to be able to start playing with each other is really amazing," Alec said. "The fact

that we're coming out and winning a bunch of games, it's pretty awesome."

The Skatin' Rebels are currently No. 4 in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) with a record of 21-4, with the twins being a key aspect to the success of the team so far.

Growing up playing the same sport, the two fell into positions on the team to make themselves the perfect combo on the ice.

Max grew into playing forward, while Alec stole the position of defender making them a force to be reckoned with on the ice.

"We always push each other to be better. It's always fun to make plays together and score together," Max said. "We've been doing it for so long so to be able to do it now is just amazing. It's nice to have someone back who you trust at defense and hopefully vice versa."

Max has remained the top scorer for UNLV for the majority of the season with 18 goals and 12 assists for a total of 30 points.

Trailing closely behind, Alec has kept his name in the top three scorers for the season currently in second with 9 goals and 17 assists for a total of 26 points.

"I'm glad to be able to pitch in and help out," Max said. "Points don't really matter if we're not winning the game. So as far as being able to contribute and help us win those games, it feels good."

With constant competition throughout the season during games, there's a bit of sibling rivalry that goes on behind the scenes.

"You always got someone to compete with," Alec said about playing on the same team as his brother. "I always try to be better than him so it makes us both better as players at the end of the

day. It's a lot better playing with each other than against that's for sure."

With this being their first official season as a Rebel, the brothers look forward to a couple more years of playing together as they both prepare to finish off this year on a high note.

Watch the twins play at City National Arena during the next home series on Feb. 18 and 19 against Grand Canyon with a 7:30 p.m. puck drop for both nights.

Tune in to the UNLV Rebel Hockey Twitter page for live updates of its next series this upcoming weekend, Feb. 11-12, as they take on the Sun Devils in Phoenix, AZ.

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#22		#16
25	GAMES PLAYED	25
9	GOALS	18
17	ASSISTS	12
26	POINTS	30

Alec Johnson (Left) and **Max Johnson** (Right)

UNLV football adds Power 5 talent with transfer additions

By Alex Wright
Editor-in-Chief

UNLV football announced the addition of seven new transfers to the program on Feb. 2 as part of its 2022 recruiting class.

All seven members of the class will be immediately eligible to play in the 2022 season. Six transfers are from four-year schools and one is from junior college.

There are notable members of this signing class that come from Power 5 schools, which include Tennessee quarterback Harrison Bailey, Michigan State wide receiver Ricky White, and Florida State outside linebacker Jordan Eubanks.

One of the headliners of the group is Bailey. The four-star high school prospect appeared in six games and made three starts as a freshman in 2020. But after a coaching change and only appearing in one game in 2021, Bailey entered the transfer portal.

Bailey will enter a crowded quarterback room that includes Doug Brumfield, reigning Mountain West Freshman of the Year Cameron Friel, and freshman Jayden Maiava. Head coach Marcus Arroyo was clear to Bailey and the other quarterbacks that the job is up for grabs.

"I'm very transparent with the group," Arroyo said. "Anyone we add to any of these rooms is coming in to compete for a job."

Bailey has a connection with another member of the class, White. The two were high school teammates together and Arroyo acknowledged that their relationship was a factor in both deciding to come to UNLV.

"It's not a hidden secret that those relationships from players when you recruit them carry weight," Arroyo said. "Those guys have conversations that you're not privy to, because of their relationship and their trust and their bond and their time together."

Just like with Bailey, White enters a crowded wide receiver room that includes Kyle Williams, Zyll Griffin and Steve Jenkins.

Arroyo said that White has already come in with the current receivers and has been accepted by the guys, calling White "a great addition at wide receiver room."

Defensively, Eubanks will look to come in and add to an already young defensive line group for the Rebels. Arroyo sees similarities and potential with Eubanks, to some current players on the roster.

"(Eubanks') physicalness at the line of scrimmage, we feel he'll grow into something very similar to what Brennan Scott's doing for us on the edge with that size and growth potential so excited about," Arroyo said.

The only member of the class that is a "Super Senior," and has just one year of eligibility is SMU transfer and offensive lineman Cobe Bryant. Arroyo anticipates Bryant to come in and immediately fill the holes the Rebels have at the tackle position with his maturity, experience, size and length.

Arroyo knew that there are still holes that he needs to fill with the rest of the open spots he has for high school players or transfers, with tight ends, defensive linemen and cornerbacks being near the top of the list.

But the biggest void he has to fill is the one left by the graduating Charles Williams. The school's all-time leading rusher created a high standard in the running back room. Arroyo said he will not sign a running back because they need to fill that spot, but he is confident that someone who will meet their standards will be available soon.

"We're confident that there's going to be an opportunity for us to add value to that room," Arroyo said. "It'll be coming soon or this next wave or summer so we're staying open to that."

Another void Arroyo will have to fill is the opening left by offensive coordinator Glenn Thomas, who left the Rebels for Arizona State. Arroyo said that there is a lot of interest in the job and they need to find the right fit.

When talking about the cur-



UNLV Football head coach Marcus Arroyo stands on the sidelines of Allegiant Stadium as the team warms up for a game during the 2021 season. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain

rent wide receiver room, Arroyo said that he wants to be aggressive through the air. That he wants to be able to stretch the field, create more space on the field, and overall have more explosive plays. The next offensive coordinator could likely be someone who fits all those bills and is able to get the most out of a wide receiver group that has a lot of potential, along with helping find the right quarterback.

UNLV announced 10 members of the 2022 class on Dec. 15 as part of the early signing day, which included six high school players. UNLV will announce the remaining players that will fill its open spots at a later date.

Arroyo anticipates that there will be another group of guys that will be announced to the program. He said given the ever changing landscape of college football and attrition that will come from winter and spring practices, the Rebels will have to be prepared to fill spots that open up unexpectedly.

"There's going to be a third wave, there's going to be another wave of guys," Arroyo said. "And I think that's the world we're living in right now and how this is working, and we're prepared for that. We're keeping a couple (of transfers) in our pocket."

Arroyo said the program is currently in "phase one" of the offseason with weight lifting, yoga and mindset training underway for the players, while the coaches continue to evaluate the roster and culture of the program. "Phase two" starts near the end

of February with the team getting back on the practice field for morning workouts.

Spring football will be the last phase of the off season, which is set to start on March 29. Arroyo said that the team will be working on possibly doing a scrimmage late in April at Allegiant Stadium for the fans and community, near the end of spring football.

Nothing has been officially announced yet as Arroyo called the project a "moving target" since they will have to navigate the NFL Draft happening around that time.

Here is the full list of the seven transfers that signed with the Rebels on Feb. 2:

- Harrison Bailey-QB, Tennessee
- Cobe Bryant-OL, SMU
- Jordan Eubanks-OLB, Florida State
- Trenton Holloway-DB, City College of San Francisco
- Senika McKie-WR, Erskine College
- Preston Nichols-OL, Charleston Southern
- Ricky White-WR, Michigan State

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How to do Valentine's Day with 25 Dollars or Less

By **Ashleigh Liebig**
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. So whether you are in a relationship, have a group of girlfriends, or you are spending this love-based holiday by yourself. There is a cheap way to celebrate the holiday without breaking the bank.

When you cuddle up to your loved one by the fire watching whatever cheesy romance you chose for the evening, you will be grateful for the tips to make this Valentine's Day affordable.

Make a quick stop to your local \$5 and Below, gentlemen; all your girls want is to know you're trying, and at \$5 and Below, you can get a stuffed animal to spray with your cologne, chocolates, and a lovely face mask all for 15 dollars, and change.

You can use the last \$10 on a bouquet from Vons. Ultimately, you do not have to spend an arm



Gift bag surrounded by faux flowers in a Dollar Tree. Photo by Kayla Faasse

and a leg to make your partner feel special.

An inexpensive bottle of rosu, some chocolates, and a pizza while watching the latest chick flick with your girlfriends is the perfect way to have a Galentine's day for all my single ladies

out there. Especially if everyone pitches in, it could only cost each person \$10.

Last, but certainly not least, to everyone who plans on staying in this holiday season to cuddle up with their favorite pet. Enjoy your night with a steaming cup of

white chocolate hot cocoa, some quick and easy snacks such as cheese and crackers, chocolates, or any assortment of Lays chips.

I think treating yourself to a festive blanket and a feel-good movie could very well cost less than \$25, and you can still feel the joy that Valentine's Day brings you.

Whether you love the holiday or dislike it, there is still an inherent need to celebrate. So have no fear; it is the little things that make it special. Ultimately you will be watching a chick flick, which puts anybody in a great mood.

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Lunar New Year celebration on campus



Photo taken from Adele's Instagram Announcement on Jan 20, 2022.

By **Stephanie Overton**
Staff Writer

A teary-eyed Adele took to InsStudents and visitors from all across UNLV came together on Thursday, Feb. 3rd in the Pida Plaza on campus to celebrate the Lunar New Year in an event put on by CSUN. The event hosted a small variety of food vendors from around the valley with a cultural significance on the holiday.

Traditionally, the Lunar New Year is a 15 day celebration within Chinese and other asian cultures. It is a holiday centered around prosperity and luck, and

the importance of giving to others so that it may come back to you. "It's really important for us, and since the beginning of our platform has always been very important, [that we] hone in on the cultural diversity that we have on campus and showcase it," said CSUN vice president Abraham Lugo at the event.

The event was able to put the spotlight on Asian-American Pacific Islander student organizations on campus, giving a chance for each organization to showcase themselves and for the campus to celebrate them. Some of the organizations in attendance of the event were Alpha Psi Rho, the

Asian American Pacific Islanders Student Association, and the UNLV Taekwondo Club.

The Lunar New Year celebration brought together foods from different local restaurants around the valley. The Brew Tea Bar, located across the street from the UNLV campus, provided different kinds of boba milk tea for the event. Grindz 2 Da Max, a local Hawaiian fusion restaurant, brought teriyaki chicken and rice bowls for students and staff to enjoy.

Paina Cafe, originally based in Hawaii, brought taro, strawberry, and cookies and creme mochi donuts as a dessert. Paina has two locations in Las Vegas, one in the Spring Valley area and one in Blue Diamond.

Kolby Lawson-Akau, the Director of Campus Life at UNLV for CSUN, was in charge of organizing the event and other events that CSUN puts on. The Lunar New Year Celebration was an event very close to his heart, as he is half-asian. He puts his heart and soul into planning these events throughout the year.

"We want to celebrate those who make up UNLV," Lawson-Akau said. "February is perfect, because not only can we celebrate one type of race and culture, but also at the end of the month, we have our Black History Month party."

Later in the month, CSUN will be holding a Black History Month event, which will showcase organizations on campus and the enriching culture that comes with black history, as well as empowering black voices.

CSUN has plans for more events through-out the semester, not just cultural ones. The campus is going to start seeing more events to promote civic engagement within the student body, with goals to not only encourage engagement in student government, but government in general.

With elections coming up, there are going to be events making sure people are aware of the elections for the next executive administration. Lugo tells us that they are planning events for meeting your candidates as well as debates. Campaigning for those running will be starting later this month.

As a Different, Daring, and Diverse campus, UNLV strives to be able to spread culture to all students on campus. Events like the Lunar New Year Celebration and Black History Month Party are just the beginning.

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UNLV ANT's club here to represent all students

By Arielle Hale
Staff Writer

Are you one of the 40% of students who is considered a non-traditional student at UNLV? A non-traditional student is anyone who has either taken a break from their studies or has commitments outside of going to class and studying.

UNLV will also classify you as non-traditional student if “you’re 24 years of age or older, a transfer student, have dependent children or loved ones, had an interruption or delay in your education since high school, work while attending school, classified as independent for financial aid purposes, serve or have served in the military, or formerly incarcerated or justice impact, etc.”

If you fit into the non-traditional student category, consider checking out the Alliance of Non-Traditional Students (ANTS). ANTS is not just a club. Tiffany Brewster, President of ANTS, describes the club as a family, community, and system of support.

“One thing about us is that we provide you the support,” Brewster said. “We give you the tools



“ANTS Members” Photo courtesy of ANTS Student Involvement Center Website

that you need to succeed. We stick with you from the beginning of your entrance into you until you graduate. It’s truly a community where we are pushing for each other to succeed.”

“This isn’t just a club. We have lives. We’ve had careers and things like that. We’ve been, we’re intimidated by the idea of coming back to school, but the other members help us get through.”

Whether you are looking for kid and family-friendly events, friendly faces to study with, an accepting group to eat lunch with, business mentorship, networking, or career seminars, ANTS has a

ton of resources available to help you achieve your goals and make the most of your time at UNLV.

“When I found this group of people, I said, ‘I’m having a hard time. I have anxiety,’ they were there to help me,” Brewster said. “That’s, I think that’s one thing that’s very unique about ANTS. It isn’t just a club where we come here to have fun, we also have that support that you need to make it from entry to graduation because we want to see you succeed.”

Not all ANTS members are looking to transition careers. Some simply enjoy learning and others are looking to pursue their

passion or further their current career. This is a benefit to other members because you can network with and be mentored by a member who is established in an industry or career you’re interested in.

“We do have our members who have PhDs, who are professors, who’ve had careers, some of them are older,” Brewster said. “They do mentor our other members. If they have questions, they’ll be like, ‘Hey, is anybody a nursing major or somebody who’s been a nurse?’ and a member can provide them with the information that they need to help them. Our members, not just the school, but the members themselves, are resources to our other members.”

To learn more about ANTS, resources, events, & seminars, you can join via the “Organizations” tab on the UNLV Involvement Center website and/or the unofficial Facebook group, “The Non-Traditional Students of UNLV.”

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