

SPORTS

UNLV survives its past, ranks No. 20

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Not much had been heard from Nevada-Las Vegas Coach Jerry Tarkanian or his players since an 82-46 rout by Georgetown last month knocked the Runnin' Rebels out of The Associated Press' Top Twenty basketball poll. But that's just the way an embarrassed Tarkanian wanted it.

"I told the kids it was no time to talk, just keep quiet and play ball," Tarkanian said Tuesday. "We've been very low key and we've been winning since then."

Winners of 12 straight since the Georgetown debacle, Nevada-Las Vegas returned to the AP Top Twenty again in the latest weekly poll released Tuesday. The Rebels, on the strength of a nationally televised victory over Maryland last Saturday, squeezed into the No. 20 position.

"It's nice we're getting some recognition," said Tarkanian, whose team now is 13-2 on the season.

Georgetown, the nation's only major unbeaten team, remained No. 1 in the poll and, for the fourth time in six weeks, the Hoyas received all 60 first-place votes and 1,200 points from the nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Southern Methodist moved up a notch to second place, while Duke, ranked second for the past

five weeks, dropped to fifth after suffering two two-point overtime losses last week.

St. John's, Georgetown's opponent Saturday, was in third place, followed by Memphis State.

Illinois, 15-4 and 11th last week, jumped to sixth, while DePaul moved three places to seventh with 682 points, two more than North Carolina. Oklahoma and Oregon State, 13th and 14th last week, respectively, jumped to ninth and 10th this week.

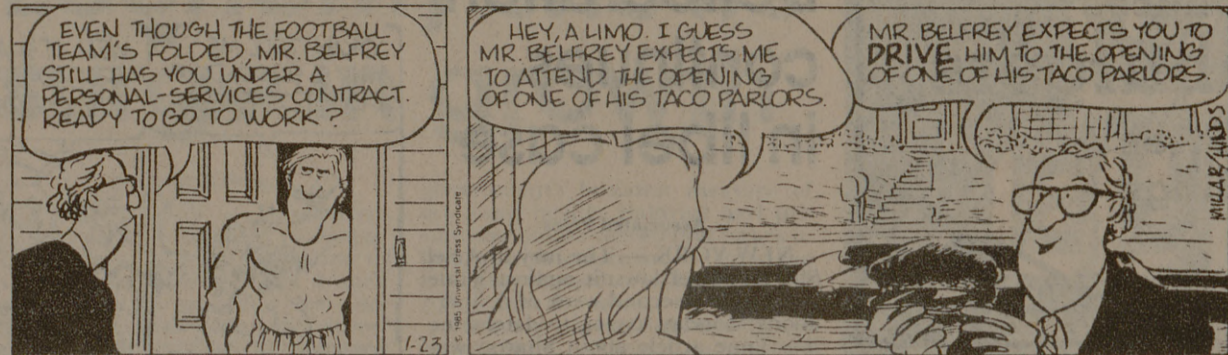
Oklahoma advanced after a victory over then No. 9 Kansas Saturday, despite All-American Wayman Tisdale being held to a career-low six points, while Oregon State improved to 14-1 with a 73-57 victory over Washington State.

Syracuse, which was upset by Connecticut at home last weekend, fell from seventh to 11th. The Orangemen were followed by Louisiana Tech, Indiana, Villanova, Kansas, Georgia Tech, Tulsa, Michigan, Virginia Commonwealth and Nevada-Las Vegas.

Boston College, 11-5, which lost to three Big East Conference foes, two of whom were ranked, Villanova and St. John's, fell from the Top Twenty, as did Michigan State, 12-4, which lost two Big Ten Conference games to unranked teams, Iowa and Minnesota.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Brooks wanted more say with NHL Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Herb Brooks pretty much knew he had reached the end of the road with the New York Rangers even before he was fired by the National Hockey League team.

Brooks said at a news conference Tuesday that he had accepted his firing Monday by Rangers' Vice President-General Manager Craig Patrick because "I didn't want to argue the point when he said he wanted to make a change." But Brooks, who led the 1980 United States Olympic team to its stunning gold medal at Lake Placid, N.Y., also admitted he had reached a dead end in his relations with his boss.

"I would like to have had a little more say in the people going up and down in our organization, a little more of a voice," Brooks said. "When it came to trades, I was always asked and I appreciate that. But a coach is out there on a limb. If I felt there was someone in the organization that would help us or should go down, I'd like to have

had more clout in it."

Last summer, after being frustrated by his lack of input, Brooks said he had tendered his resignation to Patrick and Rangers' President Jack Krumpal "as a matter of certain values and principles which I hold very important in the world of sport. My resignation was not accepted and I decided to stay on (for the final year of his contract) in the hopes that things would improve."

They didn't, and when Brooks confronted Patrick again over his role in decisions regarding personnel within the organization, he again was rebuffed.

"All coaches would like more of a handle on talent moves. I forced the issue and the last thing went against me," said Brooks. "Craig and I had a difference in philosophies, not personality."

Asked whether he resigned rather than was released by the Rangers, Brooks said, "He fired me, no question. I chose not to (resign). It might have the connotation of walking

away from something and I never have walked away from something in my life."

Brooks said he has no future plans but did rule out returning to coach on a collegiate level.

He did admit that he would like to coach again in the NHL.

Reports had circulated earlier this season that Brooks would leave the Rangers to coach the Minnesota North Stars. He was asked Tuesday how he would react to an offer from that team, whose coach, Glen Sonmor, was hired on an interim basis early in the season when Bill Mahoney was fired.

"I don't know if my head is clear right now (to return to coaching)," he replied. "I would be flattered by an offer but probably would be against it just because I'm coming off this psychological roller coaster I'm on. I need time to collect my thoughts."

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