



JASON BEAN/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Former UNLV soccer star and heart transplant recipient Simon Keith, a spokesman for Nevada Donor Network, poses Wednesday in his Las Vegas office with a picture of himself just after his surgery almost 25 years ago.

Not an organ donor? Consider a change of heart

Nobody had ever questioned the heart of former UNLV standout Simon Keith on the soccer pitch until July 7, 1989, in Wichita, Kan. Al Miller, then general manager of the Cleveland Crunch of the Major Indoor Soccer League, approached Keith at the Budweiser All-Star Senior Bowl for top American college soccer players and cut to the chase. "Word is you have some kind of heart problem?" Keith responded by fist-bumping his own chest. "One in," he said, "one out."



Ron Kantowski
COMMENTARY

Keith then scored a goal and assisted on two others. One in. Two more in. The next day, the Crunch made him the No. 1 overall pick

in the MISL draft. Three years before Miller had popped the question, Keith had undergone a heart transplant. That was one of the few times he had mentioned it to somebody not wearing a lab coat. Yes, he'd had a change of heart, in the most literal sense. Yes, he was grateful beyond words for receiving a second chance at life. No, he did not want to be defined as a marvel of medical science. And that's basically the way it

► SEE **KANTOWSKI** PAGE 5C
April is National Donor Life month

Loewen accepts Ruthian challenge

It is defined as being fit or strong, muscular or active. Yeah, I'm guessing Adam Loewen thinks there is a tad more to it. There is being athletic, and there is undertaking the challenge Loewen has the past two baseball seasons, of owning enough skill to reach a professional level and talented enough to make a serious run back to the major leagues following the switch from pitcher to position player. When you know how hard it is: When the first name always mentioned with such an endeavor is Babe Ruth. "Some days, you think



Ed Graney
COMMENTARY

you have it figured out," Loewen said. "That's the worst thing for any baseball player to think — that anything is figured out. You can be the most unbelievable athlete around and then try hitting a baseball and not come close."

His home for now is right field with the 51s. For as long as he could remember, it was on the nearest mound. Loewen pitched parts of three seasons with the Baltimore Orioles, going 8-8 with an ERA of 5.38 in 164 innings, a former No. 4 draft pick from Vancouver, British Columbia, who was one of the few 6-foot-6-inch, 230-pound Canadians not gobbled up by the hockey gods. So he has been to the place of five-star hotels and daily per diem that rivals the weekly salary of many,

► SEE **GRANEY** PAGE 5C
Elbow injury prompted switch



K.M. CANNON/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

51s right fielder Adam Loewen, who pitched parts of three seasons with the Baltimore Orioles, prepares to bat in Las Vegas' 4-0 win over Salt Lake on Tuesday at Cashman Field. After 12 games, he is batting .255 with two homers and 10 RBIs.

BOUNCING BACK

Big men outshine L.A. stars

Bynum, Odom spark tying win as Bryant concentrates on Paul

By GREG BEACHAM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant barely made a ripple on offense for the Los Angeles Lakers. He was too busy ensuring Chris Paul didn't make another huge splash that could have put the Lakers in a cavernous playoff hole.

Andrew Bynum had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Lamar Odom scored 16 points, and the Lakers survived quiet offensive games from their two biggest stars to even their first-round playoff series with an 87-78 victory over the New Orleans Hornets in Game 2 on Wednesday.

Ron Artest added 15 points as the two-time defending champions rebounded from a stunning nine-point loss in the series opener with Bryant leading an improved defensive effort against Paul, who still had 20 points and nine assists after shredding Los Angeles' defense in Game 1.

► **KEY:** Improved defense on Chris Paul limited the Hornets point guard to 20 points and nine assists after he logged 33 and 14 in Game 1.
► **NEXT:** Game 3, Lakers at Hornets, 6:30 p.m. Friday, ESPN (30)

"We stayed in front of him for the most part," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "He made some big plays for them ... but I think we did a better job being attentive to him, and that's as good as it gets right now."

The Lakers spent the past two days scheming ways to prevent a repeat of Paul's 33-point, 14-assist dissection of their defense in Game 1. Bryant's snarling intensity was obvious when he took his turn

► SEE **LAKERS** PAGE 4C
Gasol held to eight points

Ginobili's return energizes Spurs

Banged-up guard helps even series at 1

By PAUL J. WEBER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



SAN ANTONIO — Manu Ginobili felt rusty. He played with a bothersome, bulky black brace on his sprained right elbow and didn't shoot particularly well.

But it was good enough. Joining this first-round series after top-seeded San Antonio dropped the opener without him, Ginobili scored 17 points and lifted the Spurs to a 93-87 win over the Memphis Grizzlies in Game 2 on Wednesday.

"It was uncomfortable," Ginobili said of the brace, which he plans to continue wearing through this week

► **KEY:** Manu Ginobili had 17 points, seven rebounds and four assists after missing Game 1 with a sprained right elbow.
► **NEXT:** Game 3, Spurs at Grizzlies, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, ESPN (30)

and possibly beyond. "But I felt I did OK. I took some risk. I went for some steals and rebounds, and it wasn't that I played worried about

► SEE **SPURS** PAGE 4C
Far more physical in Game 2