

SPORTS

UNLV Rebels find two out of three ain't bad

by ralph brown

staff writer

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Hustlin' Rebels took two of three from the visiting Long Beach 49'ers over the past weekend winning the first two games and then dropped a close decision on Sunday.

Things didn't look good for the Rebels when Mike Lujan greeted Rebels starter Scott Lewis with a homerun on the second pitch of the game to give the 49'ers an early 1-0 lead.

UNLV didn't take too kindly to this and came out with their bats unholstered and ready to fire. Fire they did, with two outs in the bottom of the first inning Layne Lambert tripled and was driven home by Dave Sturdivant who singled.

What followed next was truly a sight as Jim Barbeau, Scott Childress and Joe Bellezzo all sent pitcher Greg Marshall's offering over the fence. It was the third game in a row the Rebels have hit three consecutive homers in a game.

The Rebels got two more runs in the second when Gary Forrester singled with two outs and came home on Lambert's offering to the left field scoreboard and the score was 7-1 after two.

It stayed that way until Lambert unloaded his second dinger of the night, and UNLV's fifth of the game, with Forrester aboard to run the score to 9-1.

Lewis ran into trouble in the seventh as three doubles and two singles to start the inning brought

Long Beach four runs. Marty Lequerica was called on to shut the door and did so striking out five in two and two thirds innings.

The Rebels got insurance in the bottom of the eighth getting two runs on two hits, a walk, and an error.

inning.

Childress then launched a high pop between second and center field. Three players converged on the ball but none caught the ball. The ball was so high in the air that Lambert from third and Sturdivant from second,

from Lequerica in the eighth.

Sunday was one of those days that you wish you can have over or never started. UNLV took an early 1-0 lead on a home run by Bellezzo, then they added two more in the second on a single by Stacey Kruse, a double by Childress and a double by Larry Simms.

In the third things fell apart for starter David Carter as Long Beach scored three runs on three hits and two walks to tie the game at 3-3.

The Rebels played longball again in the third with Bellezzo getting his second homer of the game with Forrester on second to make the score 5-3. Barbeau then doubled and came home on a single by Kruse to make the score 6-3 after three.

Reliever Bob Ayrault was ruffed up in the fifth for four runs on four hits, a walk and an error to give the 49'ers the lead 7-6 after five.

The Rebels played tied the game again in the sixth when Kruse doubled, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on the shortstops error on Lamberts groundball.

The score remained tied until the ninth when Larry Smith started off the inning for Long Beach with a walk, went to second on a sacrifice by Shane Larker.

Larker came home on a triple by Carlos Gonzales to give the 49'ers the run they needed as they survived a scare in the ninth.

They defeated UNLV 8-7 and the Rebels chances of a conference crown is in jeporady.



Saturday night's game might still be going on if not for the miscommunication of the 49'ers in the seventh inning. The Rebels had loaded the bases on a fielder's choice, a single and a walk with two outs in the

had crossed the plate and Barbeau who was on first was also halfway home.

Childress also scored as a result of another hit and two errors before the inning ended. Pitcher Donovan Osborne took the win with relief help



LOOKING FOR A RECEIVER — UNLV Quarterback Derek Stott is chased out of the pocket while seeking a receiver. photo by bill stouf/Rebel photographer

NFL drafts Ickey Woods

The National Football League held their annual draft on Sunday in New York and UNLV fullback and nation's leading rusher last season Elbert "Ickey" Woods was drafted in the second round as the 31st pick for the Cincinnati Bengals.

The draft only went through the first four rounds on Sunday and concluded late yesterday. Look for more on the draft in Friday's sports section of the Yellin' Rebel.

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