

Hustlin' Rebs feature 'bleacher bums'

335 CLUB not just another weekend hotspot

by Richard Munson

If you've been to a Rebel baseball game this year, or toward the end of last season, you may, or may not, know of them. But if you haven't, those wild and hooey guys out beyond left field are known as the 335 CLUB.

But who are they?

The self-proclaimed president, Larry Christisen, said the club started as kind of a lark. Christisen, who is a fourth-grade teacher at Hinman Elementary school in Henderson, started the club last season over the lack of good facilities and viewing from inside Roger Barnson Field.

"We just started coming out here toward the end of last season and someone started calling it the 335 CLUB," Christisen said. "We made a few signs but they got wrecked, so now we have cardboard signs. It's a better atmosphere out here than in there."

During the winter, Chris-



photo by Wray Halterman

Rebel third baseman Lino Diaz puts his 13-game hitting streak on the line against no. 10 ranked and conference leading Long Beach State in a three game series at Barnson Field

tisen and friends said they planned all the time to resume the club this summer, and they have. What started out as a lark has grown into an unknown number of members and the

club gets plenty of advertising from the scoreboard located in left centerfield. Each time the Assistant Sports Information Director Jim Gemma announces the 335 CLUB, an arrow ap-

pears next to their name on the scoreboard and the club comes alive.

"I see they're out here a lot," Gemma said. "It started out last year so we decided to give them some help (putting their name on the scoreboard). We wish we had some more people like the 335 CLUB, honestly."

The club got its title because it is located just beyond the left field fence which is 335 feet from home plate. But even though the club is actually about 340 feet from home plate, the 335 CLUB stuck.

Besides the club holding up the "335 Club" signs, they hold up one that says, "Dan's Fans." The sign was made by Christisen's fourth-grade class, because UNLV's leftfielder is Dan Madsen. It first appeared when Madsen's brother, who plays for San Jose State, played against the Rebels earlier this year at Barnson Field.

"We're fans of Madsen," Christisen said. "We thought his brother (Dean) would be playing left also, so my fourth grade class made the sign. We wanted to show support for the Madsens."

The 335 CLUB is an actual group of baseball "junkies" that are a throwback to the bleacher bums that adorn Wrigley Field in Chicago. Just like those fans, when an opposing team hits a homerun, the ball finds its way back onto the field.

At the end of each game the Rebels win, the 335 CLUB gets their congratulatory high-five from all of the team members when they take their run out to the left foul pole.

The student body is also represented in the 335 CLUB. Some students that were just inducted into the club and only wanted to be known as members, said they could have a better time at the club than inside Barnson Field.

Christisen said the rules for the club are unwritten, but do include no heckling of the opposition, which he feels would get the club removed. The club is open to anyone who wants to join, but you do have to be loyal in showing up to become a full member.

As for right now, this reporter is an honorary member. But who knows? Maybe if you've got nothing to do sometime, I'll see you around the ol' club.

Baseball faces 49ers next

Conference leading LBSU next foe

by Tony Llanos

It's another "ho-hum" series for the Hustlin' Rebels with a ranked team at UNLV's Barnson Field this weekend. **NOT!**

Yes, indeed. Here comes the conference-leading Long Beach State 49ers (8-1 in the Big West, 19-10-1 overall) whom the Rebels will entertain this weekend in a key conference series starting tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at Barnson Field. Collegiate Baseball currently ranks the 49ers 10th in NCAA division I baseball.

Last year, the 49ers, who won its second NCAA Regional Championship, made another appearance in the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

The 49ers swept UNLV last year and outscored the Rebels 26-8 in the Big West series which was played in California. The Hustlin' Rebels (6-3 in conference, 19-10 overall) hope to vindicate the shellacking with their much-improved pitching led by right-hander Jonathan Jarolimek (6-0, 2.20 ERA).

But the 6-1 right-hander will have his hands full this weekend with the most explosive offense in all of collegiate baseball.

LBSU third baseman Jason Giambi, who's projected to be the first-round pick in the June 1992 amateur baseball

draft, currently leads the Big West in batting with a .434 batting average. The 1991 Big West Batting Champion, who batted .422 in last year's campaign, awaits to feast on some Rebel pitching. The UNLV staff allowed 25 hits last weekend against Cal State Northridge.

LBSU shortstop Chris Gomez, a transfer from Loyola Marymount, joins Giambi to form a strong, left side of the infield. Gomez is considered to be one of the top, all-around shortstops in collegiate baseball.

49ers Head Coach Dave Snow, in his fourth season at Long Beach, assembles an inexperienced pitching staff who lost four of their five All-American hurlers to graduation. LBSU southpaw Todd Taylor (6-0, 3.19 ERA) leads the Long Beach's cut-and-paste pitching staff which includes five junior college transfers.

UNLV's offensive attack includes Lino Diaz, the hitting machine of the Hustlin' Rebels who possesses a .317 batting average. The third baseman currently holds a 13 game hitting streak.

Sluggo and part-time pitcher Tory Miran leads the team in hitting with a .382 average and in home-runs with four. The Rebel southpaw also leads the team with four shut-outs and has struck out 33 batters in 44 innings.

And, in a dandy matchup, it's "Run vs. Gun" as Rebel base-swiper Rodney Mazion, who presently leads the Big West

with 16 steals, must contend with 49ers catcher Gordon Sanchez. The LBSU backstop nailed 17 out of 18 would-be base stealers last season.

Last weekend, in Big West action, the 49ers swept the New Mexico State Aggies 7-4, 14-0 and 11-7. The Rebels were idle in conference play last weekend, but took two out of three from top-ranked Cal State Northridge at Roger Barnson Field.

The games start at 7 p.m. tomorrow night and 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Students are admitted free of charge with a validated Spring 1992 ID.

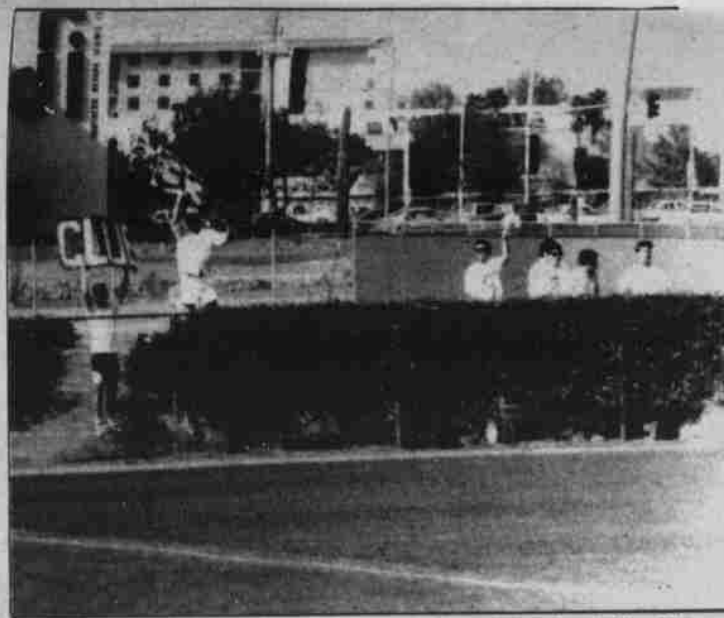


photo by Wray Halterman

(Above) The 335 CLUB members. (Below) The 335 CLUB has become a regular site at a Hustlin' Rebel baseball games.

photo by Wray Halterman

