

Weekend results—Tennis: The Big West Championships
Track and Field: The Penn Relays from Philadelphia

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Sports

THE REBEL YELL

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Diaz lets his playing do the talking

by Jonathan Jarolimek

When people first meet junior Lino Diaz they might not understand him. It's not that he has any obscure political views or is outspoken in his beliefs, he just doesn't speak very good English.

Diaz, an infielder, currently has a 16-game hitting streak for the UNLV Hustlin' Rebel baseball team, and is hitting .345.

"When I came to America the hardest thing was overcoming the language barrier," Diaz said with a strong Panamanian accent. "I moved to the United States four years ago and that is when I first began to learn English."

Diaz went to school at Saint Francis College in Lorette, Pa. before coming to UNLV. At Saint Francis, Diaz was in classes with approximately 14 other students from Central America, none whom could speak English. Diaz and the other students required year-round schooling due to the language problem.

"We never had vacation," Diaz said. "They made us go to school all year, all week long. Vacations were at a vo-tech school."

Even if the language was a problem, Diaz has had no trouble adapting to the American way of baseball. He is hitting .486 over the last nine games and .526 with men in scoring position.

Coach Fred Dallimore has high expectations for Diaz. "He is a very hard worker with a great attitude. He has been an

impact player and will continue to be one for us," Dallimore said.

Dallimore also said Diaz is a "likeable kid" but Diaz wasn't sure the rest of the team always felt that way.

"You want to be in the group with the guys but sometimes you're afraid of what they say," Diaz said. "You feel something you say might not be funny and sometimes you can't be yourself. Sometimes I'm quiet when I don't want to be."

The players on the team have come to accept Diaz, and his accent becomes more of a game than an embarrassment. Senior outfielder Tory Miran hassles Diaz as much as anyone.

"The other day Lino said he was going to get 'tree men' and none of us could understand what he meant," Miran said. "Later we found out he was going to the training room to ice his arm and what he was saying was 'treatment' for his arm."

Though the team messes with Diaz all the time, none of them can deny some of the feats he has accomplished.

Last year Diaz was considered by *Baseball Magazine* the toughest hitter in Division I to strike out. Diaz only struck out five times in 176 at-bats last year. This year Diaz struck out only once.

Though Diaz hasn't mastered the English language yet, he's not having much problem with the game of baseball. And if you hear Diaz say, "T yay. Jew jerk," just try and understand that maybe T.J. deserved to be called that.

Rebels from past and present receive honors

Conference and national honors given

Three UNLV athletes and two former athletes received honors this week for their individual performances.

Senior pitcher Tory Miran was named the Big West pitcher of the week. Miran's week was highlighted by a five-hit complete game against UC Irvine on Friday.

Junior first baseman Nick Kuster was named the co-Big West Player of the Week. Kuster batted .467 in five games last week.

Senior pitcher Lori Harrigan was named Big West Player of the Week for the second time this season. Harrigan won five

games and lost one in action last week.

Harrigan went the distance in five games and recorded as many shutouts. Her back-to-back performance Sunday against UC Santa Barbara put her over the mark of 1,000 innings of pitching. Also in the doubleheader she tallied her 700th strikeout.

Former UNLV basketball standout Larry Johnson was named NBA Rookie of the Year. Johnson, who averaged 19.2 points per game for the Charlotte Hornets edged out Sacramento's Billy Owens to claim the honor.

Former Rebel basketball star Stacey Augmon captured NBA Rookie of the Month for the month of April. Augmon, who now plays for the Atlanta Hawks averaged 19.6 points and 6.3 rebounds.



photo by Richard Munson

Dan Madsen had one of the Hustlin' Rebels' 22 hits in a doubleheader against Southern Utah.

Rebs sweep Thunderbirds

UNLV scores 22 runs on 22 hits in two games

by Richard Munson

The UNLV baseball team continues to add up the runs in bunches. OK, so this time it was against a 4-38 team now 4-40. The Hustlin' Rebels completed a doubleheader sweep of the Southern Utah Thunderbirds by the scores of 12-4 and 10-3 Tuesday afternoon at Barnson Memorial Field.

The skies of clouds, lightning, dust and light rain put more fear into the Rebels than did the Thunderbirds. In the first inning center fielder Tory Miran hit a solo two-out home run to put the Rebels on the board. Southern Utah answered with a run in the top of the second before the house of Las Vegas' cards fell on them in the

bottom of the inning. The Rebels scored seven runs.

After reaching on a single, Rebel Blake Feeney scored from first on a hit-and-run play with John Coats at the plate. Feeney reached third on the play but a Thunderbird throwing error allowed Feeney to score and left Coats at second. Lee Reiber tripled and scored Coats from second, putting the Rebels up 4-1. The rest of the inning was a comedy of errors until Rebel Nick Kuster hit a three-run home run giving the Rebels an 8-1 lead.

The Thunderbirds answered in the top of the third with two runs as they loaded the bases and Vince Ebarb plated Allen Ecnochson and Joe Blackham from third and second. The Rebels came back in the bottom of the inning after Steve Biermann singled in Steve White with the bases loaded.

The Thunderbirds put their

final run on the board in the fourth off of David Lundquist who came in relieving Jeremy Randle. The Thunderbirds again loaded the bases but only scored one run on Randy Nelson's single.

The Rebels added another run in the bottom of the sixth on Feeney's sacrifice fly which scored Ryan Plughoff.

In the second game neither team got on track until the third inning. The Thunderbirds jumped in front of the Rebels in the following inning to a 3-1 lead. The Rebels pulled ahead for the remainder of the game in the fifth inning after Mark Yurovchak's three-run home run. The Rebels scored five runs in the fifth including a Mike Hubel two-run pinch hit home run. The Rebels added insult to injury by scoring four runs in the eighth inning. Pat Flury picked up the win for the Rebels to improve his record to 2-0 on the season.

Teams hit the road

Baseball

The Hustlin' Rebels will travel to UC Santa Barbara this weekend to play a three-game series with the Gauchos starting Friday.

Tennis

Both the men's and women's tennis teams will begin play in the Big West Conference Championships today in Ojai, Calif. The three-day championship will run through Saturday.

Softball

The Lady Rebels will travel to Fresno State Friday to play a doubleheader against the Bulldogs. The Lady Rebels travel to Stockton to face the Pacific Tigers in a doubleheader on Sunday.

Track

The women's track team will run in the Penn Relays in Philadelphia which begin today and run through Saturday.