



All-American Warren Schutte finished in a seventh place tie.

## Rebel golfers tie for fifth in Texas tourney

BY SCOTT A. GULBRANSEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UNLV golf team finished in a fifth-place tie in the nine-team Morris Williams Golf Tournament in Austin, Tex.

Two-time All-American Warren Schutte led the Rebels with a three-round score of 216. He finished in a seventh-place tie with John Hebert of the University of Texas.

After one rain-soaked round, Schutte was in second place shooting a 69. He then slipped in the second and third

rounds, shooting a 72 and 75 respectively.

Freshman Chris Riley finished in 12th place, shooting an impressive 220 in the three-round tournament. Edward Fryatt shot a 224 to tie for 23rd overall.

Texas won the tournament on its home course despite heavy rains through the first two rounds. Texas finished with a score of 849. UNLV finished at 881.

The Rebels' next tournament will be April 10-11 at the American Airlines Invitational in Cary, N.C.

## Lady Rebels rested, ready for NIT

UNLV faces SMU in first round tonight

BY NICK HALEY  
STAFF WRITER

It's been a full two weeks since UNLV's women's basketball team last hit the hardwood. After losing to UC Santa Barbara 62-58 in the semi-finals of the Big West Conference Tournament, the Lady Rebels were snubbed by the NCAA selection committee, despite being ranked in the AP poll since Jan. 25.

Big West regular-season champion Hawaii, whose place in the polls ran close to UNLV's, was also denied a ticket to the Big Dance.

Hawaii, who also lost to UC Santa Barbara in the Big West championship game, declined a bid to play in the 25th annual National Women's Invitational Tournament in Amarillo, Tex..

"I thought Hawaii would go (to the NCAA Tournament), especially after last year's record," UNLV Coach Jim Bolla said. "I was shocked."

UNLV, however, RSVP'd their invitation and will play in the eight-team tournament beginning tonight at 8 p.m. against Southern Methodist (18-9). Despite the extended break in which many players went home, Bolla said the time away from court shouldn't work against his team.

"I think the week off helped them more than anything," Bolla said. "The kids that stayed here kept working out on their own. Physically and mentally, it was a good situation for us."

The biggest benefactor of the break was junior Trudie Hopgood. Having hurt an ankle in practice over a month ago, Hopgood is just now getting back to full strength. For the Lady Rebels, it's a long awaited return—four of UNLV's five losses have occurred in the time she's been injured.

Bolla said, "she's close to 100 percent again. I expect she'll be fine."

More good news for Hopgood concerns her eligibility. UNLV coaches were concerned that Hopgood's season might end after regular season play this year,



PHOTO BY WRAY HALTERMAN

Trudie Hopgood is eligible and will play in the Lady Rebels' NIT game tonight against SMU in Amarillo, Tex.

because of an NCAA rule that stipulates how long a collegiate athlete's career may extend.

"She took a year off from basketball to help her family out," Bolla said. "In the NCAA, once your clock starts, it continues to run out regardless of whether you play or not."

Hopgood filed a hardship case for an extension, claiming extenuating circumstances and won. She will now be eligible through

the end of next year.

As for the end of this year, Bolla needs just three victories in three days for his Lady Rebel team to win the NIT. With plenty of time to prepare, Bolla has made a few adjustments to help round out UNLV's offense.

"We put in a couple of new plays to get the ball inside more," Bolla said. "We want a more balanced game inside and outside."



Evric Gray played as a sophomore on the 1990-91 Final Four squad. He averaged 16.1 ppg in regular season play this year.

## Evric Gray deserves to play in the NBA too

BY JAY SAPOVITS

Evric Gray should be the angriest person in Las Vegas at J.R. Rider. After all, the 6-7, 240 pound forward is not a lock to get selected in the National Basketball Association draft in June. And when Rider was declared ineligible by university officials for the NIT game, it was Gray who carried the burden of victory for the team.

Everything Gray received this season, he earned—mostly the bumps and bruises from pounding against double teams and much taller opponents. It was Gray who busted his back, gave up his true position on the court, and forewent all the media attention to let Rider catapult his ability and congeniality into that of a lottery candidate.

Yes, lonely Gray, who reporters often neglect and stare at with a blank gaze.

At the Big West Tournament

### Commentary

in Long Beach, Calif., Coach Rolie Massimino, Rider, and Gray took the podium following the Utah St. victory. Gray was asked just one question—Did he get injured in the second half when he grabbed his leg? His response, "I just wanted to be like J.R.," who left the game earlier with cramps in both legs.

But again, what about Gray? Should he feel animosity too? After all, he looked foolish against USC. Alone on the floor left to carry the remnants of a distraught Rebel team, this was the end of Gray's career at UNLV.

Gray red-shirted his first season at UNLV after arriving from Riverside Community College. And in his first full season, Gray played in every game, averaging 12.9 minutes in a backup role to Stacey Augmon. Small forward

to center in just two years is quite a transition, especially when he grew no taller. His girth, however, increased by about 30 pounds in three years as did his ability to lead.

Silently, Gray did his job every night. Especially the times Rider didn't do his, except for the time Rider deserted the team against USC.

Blame the administration, but Rider failed Gray, no one else. Without Rider's ability in the lineup, as it had been all season, Gray couldn't manage to shake triple teams. Gray needed a strong showing in a post-season tournament for a secured place in the draft. He deserves to be in the NBA. I just hope Rider didn't cheat him out of it.

—Jay Sapovits is KUNV sports director and a Rebel Yell Columnist.