

PHOTO BY WRAY HALTERMAN

John Coats (above) homered in the sixth inning Saturday to give UNLV a short-lived two-run lead. Nick Degerinis (above-right) doubled with the bases loaded Saturday.

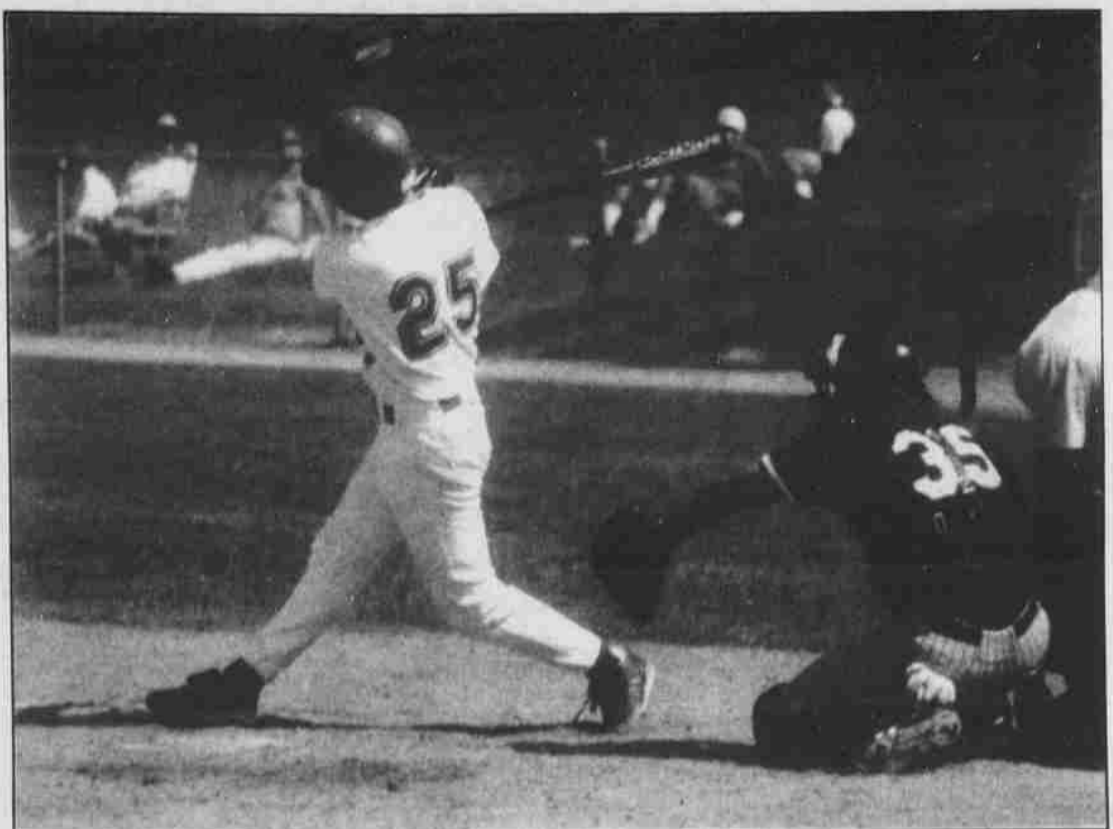


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Rebels swept away by No. 3 Titans

BY JAY SAPOVITS
STAFF WRITER

Though the UNLV baseball team was swept at Cal State Fullerton last year, only the location changed this season as the third-ranked Titans took advantage of 28 Rebel-issued walks during the three-game series by UNLV pitching.

Fullerton beat the Rebels 5-3, 22-4 and 13-9 in the weekend series.

Under the lights Thursday, Eric Ludwick, 2-4, pitched his second straight complete game loss. Ludwick, who was expected to be the ace of the UNLV pitching staff, gave up five runs, all earned. He struck out five batters while walking three.

Offensively, John Coats had two of the seven hits for the Rebels.

Bret Hemphill homered in the top of the fifth for the Titans to break a 2-2 tie.

Mike Parisi, 7-0, remained undefeated for the Titans.

In game two of the Easter-abridged weekend series Friday, Rebel pitchers walked 16 batters.

After four innings the score was knotted at 4-all. Then the Titans scored 18 runs in the remaining five innings, including 11 in the top of the sixth to easily defeat the Rebels.

Starting pitcher Derek Cotton, 3-3, got the loss for the Rebels. He worked five complete innings, giving up eight runs on five hits.

Cotton walked 10 batters while fanning three.

Dan Ricobal, 6-1, got the victory for the Titans.

After the fifth inning of Saturday's salvage game, UNLV had its biggest and only lead of the weekend, 8-6.

After trailing 6-1 in the fourth, Nick Degerinis hit a two-out fifth inning double down the right field line with the bases loaded to put UNLV on top 7-6.

John Coats then led off the next inning with a solo home run, his second of the year.

However, UNLV pitching couldn't preserve the win. In relief of starter Dennis DeMartini, Kirk Kline, 1-1, got the loss.

Kimson Hollibaugh got the decision for the Titans in relief of Derrek Hazs.

Rebel pitching walked or hit the leadoff batter in each of the last six innings of Saturday's game.

UNLV (13-18) has lost five of its last six games. Before that the Rebels had won four straight.

The Rebels host Southern Utah this coming weekend in a three-game set.

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