



Petterson was UNLV's lone individual champ at No. 2 singles

Tennis serves notice at Big West Championships

BY GREGORY QUINN
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV men's tennis team ended the season with a second-place finish at the Big West Conference finals Sunday. For head coach Larry Easley, it was the best result in years.

"I don't know if a (UNLV) men's team has ever finished as high as two," Easley said. "No way. I don't even think they've been as high as three."

Freshman Roger Petterson was UNLV's only champion, finishing as the No. 2 singles player. The Rebels had two runners-up in Matt Rivera at No. 3 singles and Charlie Olinger at No. 4.

Pat Boies finished third at No. 1 singles. Wayne Bowyer won the consolation bracket to finish fifth at No. 5 singles and the Rebels' No. 2 doubles

team of Rivera and Eric Mateljian finished sixth.

UC Irvine finished with a team-total 51 points to win its sixth Big West Conference title in seven years. UNLV scored 37, while Pacific and UC Santa Barbara rounded out the top four.

"It was a success considering we lost (during the season) to UCSB, then Pacific beat UCSB," Easley said. "So really, we would have gone as the No. 4 seed, as a team. My guess was that we'd be anywhere from 2 to 4."

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Parvin keeping options open

Former UNLV punter happy for Lonnie Palelei, keeps a bright outlook.

BY PAUL GUTIERREZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Though he wasn't selected in this past weekend's NFL Draft and a teammate was, former UNLV punter Brian Parvin is not a bitter man.

Yet some may say he has a case to be, if so inclined. He was, after all, the No. 3 punter in the nation last season in terms of average. But Parvin simply won't look at it that way.

"I wasn't expecting to get drafted," he said matter-of-factly. "As a punter, being drafted would have been kind of an honor. Especially with the draft being only eight rounds this year."

The NFL Draft downsized from 12 rounds in 1992.

"I can't call up an (NFL) owner and say 'Hey, I'm Brian Parvin, I punted third in the nation and I think you should draft me.' That's not for me to say. But if I had been drafted, it would have been amazing," the Pomona, Calif. native said. "Even my agent (Ralph Sindrich) said that my chances at being drafted were slim and none."

Parvin shares the same agent in Sindrich with Lonnie Palelei, who was picked in the fifth round by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"I'm extremely happy for Lonnie," Parvin said. "I always knew he would go. He really deserves it. He's a great person."

The former Rebel punter averaged 46.3 yards per kick last year on 57 boots for 2,637 yards with a long of 69 yards. Despite the numbers, he says that his being snubbed in the draft is not all that surprising.

"Last year only two punters were chosen in 12 rounds and this year just three were cho-

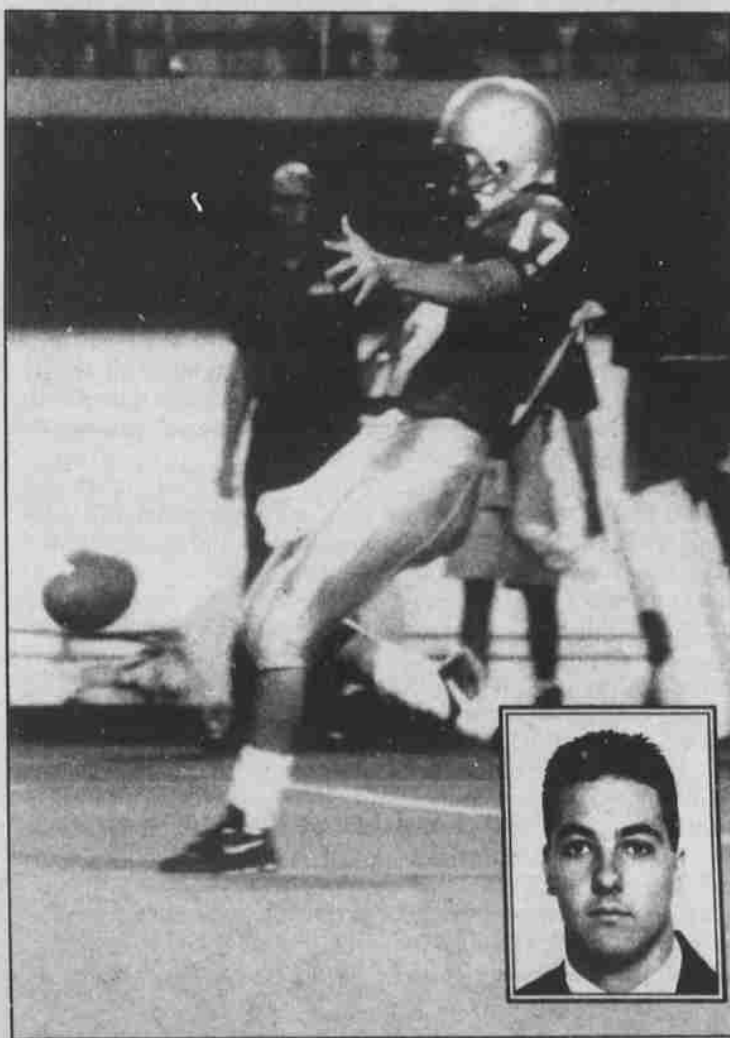


PHOTO BY ROB WEIDENFELD

Brian Parvin was the No. 3 punter in the nation, averaging 46.3 yards per attempt. He booted 57 times for 2,637 yards in 1992.

sen," said Parvin, who was listed as the No. 7 punter in some draft depth charts. "In the NFL, there is no such thing as a backup punter. In order for a team to draft a punter, there has to be a definite need for a punter."

Parvin said that several franchises had expressed interest in him before the draft, including Atlanta, Cleveland, Miami, New England, Seattle and the New York Giants.

"Football for me was a way to

get my schooling paid for," said the UNLV scholar-athlete. "That was the extent of my punting. I'm three credits short of graduating and I'm on course to graduate in five years and I've played football all those years."

"But if the opportunity comes, I'll go," Parvin said about a possible invitation for an NFL try-out. "Basically, I'm just keeping myself two paths open (with schooling and football). I'm doing what I have to do."

Sigma Kappa claims softball crown with seventh-inning rally

BY SCOTT HAVERLOCK
STAFF WRITER

With its season hanging by a thread, Sigma Kappa (ΣΚ) found a way to mend it and earn the UNLV Intramural Women's Division softball championship and the sorority's first team title ever at UNLV on Tuesday, 11-5.

Sigma Kappa found itself tied

with Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ), 4-4, in the bottom of the sixth inning of the championship game. ΣΚ's back was against the wall. ΑΓΔ had two baserunners aboard and just one out in what would have been the season-ending inning if ΑΓΔ scored one more run due to the UNLV intramural time limit rule.

Somehow, Sigma Kappa, led

by star pitcher Darlene Alex, found a way out of the jam. A close force play at home plate was followed by a ground out to end the ΑΓΔ rally and send the championship game into the seventh inning.

ΣΚ (which defeated ΑΓΔ in the regular season, 4-0) turned things around after this near-death experience, scoring seven

runs in the seventh inning to eventually record a six-run championship victory. This was the first UNLV Intramural team championship for ΣΚ, a sorority that was chartered at UNLV in 1987.

"We weren't excited early on," ΣΚ Captain Missy Aupperle said. "The weather was hot and we were nervous. But we knew we

had to pull through in the seventh inning."

ΑΓΔ had initiated the scoring with a solo run in the first inning. ΣΚ took the lead for the first time with four fifth-inning tallies. ΑΓΔ scored three runs to tie the contest in the bottom of the sixth before ΣΚ put it away

see **SOFTBALL** page 6

Rebels finally get to run against Bruins. So what!

BY JAY SAPOVITS

Who cares if the UNLV basketball program signed a home-and-home series with UCLA? One game with a mediocre school isn't going to make a difference in the athletic department. Georgetown helped prove that this past year. This package is just a lackluster, politically motivated, anti-Jerry Tarkanian, pro-NCAA decision.

When Jim Weaver wants to get serious and make a hard-line decision to put academics and athletics together, not apart as they still are then UNLV will enter a real league like the Western Athletic Conference or Pac-10. The Big West is a glued-together imitation conference that the Rebels happen to play in.

Why, for years, did UCLA shy away from playing UNLV?

That's easy. UNLV was/is (deservedly now) viewed as the outlaw program of the nation. Prim and proper UCLA, the winners of nine straight national championships, couldn't possibly play these "thugs," especially if the Bruins had a chance to lose.

But now, even after a Runnin' Rebel has committed academic fraud, the Bruins will come to Las Vegas. All of the violations Tarkanian committed together weren't as bad as the current regime's. But now UCLA can play in the former "Shark Tank."

This feud has existed for many years. Mostly because Tarkanian-coached teams would have stomped UCLA if they ever had a chance to face each other. Forbid the Bruins from playing the outlaw Rebels in a sport which they couldn't beat them. That would be

Commentary

unheard of. UCLA also didn't want to play a school with the image problems of UNLV.

Remember, kids at UNLV were bad students—they were part of the Tarkanian era. And we all know now that Rollie Massimino puts out good basketball player/students!

This series was a product of the NCAA compliance garbage that has been pelted at fans and students all year. The Kings in Kansas will just love for the new-image Rebels to play the Bruin dynasty. This series is going to give both schools a lot of mileage in the media. Most of the articles will be perky and positive. Most of those writers haven't lived in Las Vegas for four years.

The Big West has improved, but so what? It will never be as good as the two aforementioned conferences. But

they still won't accept this athletic program because nothing has really changed.

On the court, the series is even less interesting. Who wants to see the Rebels scrimmage almost-Rebels anyway? UCLA head coach Jim Harrick features two Rebel welchers, Shon Tarver and Ed O'Bannon. Both players gave UNLV an oral commitment, then backed out due to the NCAA sanctions.

The Bruins are late in making this deal, but UNLV doesn't want to turn down the public relations.

A wiser act would be to clean up the basketball program. Then move to a respected conference.

But that won't happen either.

—Jay Sapovits is sports director of KUNV and Rebel Yell columnist