

Swingin' Rebels shoot for second Big West Championship

The sixth-ranked team will go into the tournament a heavy favorite.

BY SCOTT GULBRANSEN
STAFF WRITER

UNLV has been a dominant force in the Big West Conference over the past 10 years. Of course, the first sport that comes to mind is basketball. But coach Dwaine Knight and the Rebel golf team are about to build a new dynasty in the desert. A dynasty built with drivers, 5-irons and a little white dimpled ball.

The "swingin'" Rebels go into next week's Big West Golf Tournament a heavy favorite as competition in the BWC remains slim. The sixth-ranked Rebels are coming off their strongest performance of the year at last week's Cougar Classic. This despite a poor performance by UNLV's No. 1 golfer Warren Schutte.

The continued strong performances by Edward Fryatt and Chris Riley have lit a fire under the Rebel duffers that seems to have them poised to win their

second-straight Big West Championship.

"All we need to do is go out and play as we have all year," said assistant golf coach Jim "J.T." Higgins. "If we get solid play out of our fourth and fifth spot, and our top three perform as they have, everything will come together."

Fryatt, a junior, has had his best two weeks of the past year. He tied for second in the Sun Devil Invitational two weeks ago and took the individual title at last week's BYU Cougar Classic.

Coach Higgins said Fryatt only needed a few adjustments in his game to get the results he has always wanted.

"Edward was having some trouble with his tempo. Coach Knight helped him straighten it out and now everyone is seeing the results," Higgins said.

That is perhaps the understatement of the year. With Fryatt, a strong Schutte, and a consistent Riley, the Rebels look phenomenal. The only burning question, as it has been all year, is the infamous four and five spot.

Junior Eric Schroeder has

stepped up his game the past few weeks and has really helped the Rebel cause. He tied for seventh overall at the Cougar Classic shooting a 216, which was only six strokes off Fryatt's championship score. Schroeder has also finished among the top 10 in two of his last three tournaments and four of his last six rounds have been par or under.

Fredrick Chew III has been the Rebels fifth golfer as of late and is coming off a subpar performance at the Cougar Classic. Chew shot a 232, 16 over par.

Although their fourth and fifth spot are somewhat unproven, the Rebels' "Three Amigos" (Schutte, Fryatt and Riley), should be enough to bring UNLV its newest Big West crown.

The field at next week's tournament will include UNLV, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Long Beach State, Nevada, New Mexico State, Pacific, San Jose State and Utah State.

The tournament will take place at the par-72, 7,107-yard Spanish Trail Golf & Country Club in Las Vegas. The first and second round will take place Monday, followed by third-round action Tuesday. It is the Big West's 25th-annual Men's golf Championships.



Lady Rebs attempt first ever sweep of 49ers

BY NICK HALEY
STAFF WRITER

A couple of months ago, Big West Conference coaches were picking UNLV to finish fourth in the Big West.

But now that the season boils down to just a few series and UNLV is still out in front, it appears the coaches may wish to reconsider. With three conference double-headers left in the regular season, the fifth-ranked Lady Rebels find themselves 2 1/2 games up on second place Cal State Fullerton and 3 1/2 ahead of third-place Long Beach State.

Before capping off the season at UC Santa Barbara, UNLV must go head to head against both teams, beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday when the Lady Rebels host a twin-bill against the 49ers.

Long Beach State enters the weekend shaken up by a disastrous four-game visit to Logan, Utah which saw Utah State take

three games from the 49ers. But even with a sizable lead over Long Beach, UNLV Coach Shan McDonald still sees the importance of this series.

"The factor now is not just Long Beach, it's Fullerton," McDonald said. "Even though we might not be playing neck-and-neck games against Long Beach, the games now become important in the standings against Fullerton. We need to take two from Long Beach to hold our space with Fullerton."

Sweeping the Beach, however, has proven almost as difficult a task as winning the Big West. UNLV has never done it. Traditionally this series has fallen decisively on the side of Long Beach (23-9).

But McDonald has reason to believe it may be different this year. The Lady Rebels, winners of eight straight, have split the last five series against the 49ers, including one earlier this season

in Long Beach, 4-0, 1-2. In 16 outings at home this season, UNLV has only lost one. And going down the batting order, UNLV holds the edge both in hit and run production.

"It's always a good series," McDonald said. "The last couple years we've battled pretty evenly and hopefully this is the year that we take a step ahead of them."

If that is to happen, it will require another solid performance by sophomore pitcher Amie Stewart. Shaken up at the end of UNLV's month-long road odyssey, Stewart has become increasingly more frugal in allowing runs. In her last outing, she hurled 10 Ks in shutting out New Mexico State.

Said McDonald: "Just like any athlete, whether you're in the big leagues or Bobby Sox, you go through a phase sometimes where you don't know how to work out of it. Only time and effort can work you out of it and Amie's put up the effort and the time."



Softball

from page 5

in the seventh.

Alex also led the team offensively. She gathered two hits plus a team-leading four runs batted in, including the game-winning RBI in the seventh frame.

ATA (4-2) had 11 base hits while the champs collected nine.

Sigma Kappa finished its banner season with a 5-1 record. Its lone loss came to the Untouchables, a team which was ineligible for the post-season tournament due to the UNLV Intramural forfeit loss rule.



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Rebel Rumble

UNLV to play UCLA in basketball next year

UNLV Athletic Director Jim Weaver announced last Thursday that UNLV signed a two-year contract to play UCLA in men's basketball. The contract takes effect next season as it will be the first-ever meeting between the two schools on the hardwood.

The home-and-home series will get under way Dec. 4, 1993 as the Runnin' Rebels travel to Westwood to face the host Bruins. UNLV lost an overtime game to eventual runner-up Michigan in the second round of this year's NCAA Tournament.

"I am very pleased to announce the series between UNLV and UCLA," Weaver said in a released statement. "I look forward to continuing

this new relationship in the years following these two games."

The Rebels will host the Bruins on Dec. 22, 1994.

UCLA is the lone Pacific-10 Conference school UNLV has not faced in men's basketball.

Hustlin' Rebs up north to face Nevada

The UNLV baseball team, 5-10 in Big West Conference, 18-22 overall, is in Reno this weekend for a three-game set against the Wolf Pack, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is the first year in the BWC for Nevada baseball.

The Pack sports a record of 5-7 in league, 25-12-1 overall.

UNLV leads the all-time series against Nevada, 42-23, despite being swept last year in three games.

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