

Golf program a rising star in college athletics

BY SCOTT GULBRANSEN

Remember the early years of your childhood? When you think back to those awkward, carefree days that seemed to go on forever you might think of games and friends long since departed from your life.

While I think of the same things most of you do, I also think of something my father told me when I was 9 years old. Like most parental wisdom, I just shrugged it off and went on with my fun and games. But this year I learned what a boomerang that wisdom was.

On a hot, humid Chicago day in August, 1979, my father told me to "Never expect anyone to do anything for you. If you want success you'll have to earn it with hard work. No one can feel proud of a hand out. Don't expect anything except that for which you worked for."

That type of attitude has been what the UNLV golf program has thrived on. It is the best athletic program on this campus and perhaps the best in the western United States. That is a bold statement to make, but just look at the facts:

1. Since coach Dwaine Knight's arrival in 1988, the Rebel Golf Foundation has risen from \$290,000 to \$2.17 million. The program remains self-sufficient.

2. The caliber of golfers UNLV has accepted has risen sharply over the past six years. No longer does UNLV have to settle for sub-par talent on the links.

3. Coach Knight graduates his players. In this day and age of low graduation rates among collegiate athletes the UNLV golf program has been a leader in the field of academics. After all, this is a university.

4. The Swingin' Rebels have been a success on the golf course. They won last year's Big West Championship and are poised to repeat this year. Warren Schutte won the NCAA Championship in 1991, UNLV's last such prize.

No matter how you look at it you cannot help but tip your hat to Coach Knight, Coach Higgins and the rest of the golf program. Even if

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you hate the game of golf, the program deserves the highest respect such a program can earn. Anyone who does not respect the job they have done over the last six years is simply brain dead.

Knight should be UNLV's Coach of the Year. He works hard and is successful at what he does. Since golf is not a large spectator sport on this campus, not many people know just how good he is. In 1991, Knight was chosen by his peers as National Coach of the Year. I'm not putting down the efforts of other coaches like Rollie Massimino or Jim Strong but at this time neither of them have been selected Coach of the Year by anyone. Just an analogy to put the honor in perspective.

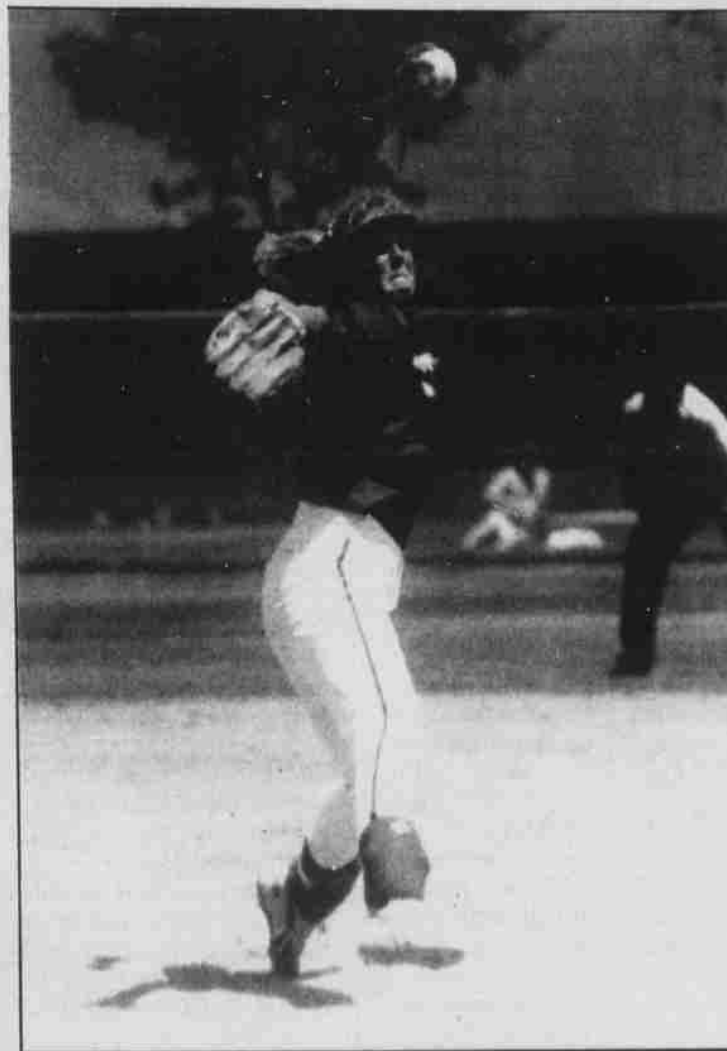
This week the Swingin' Rebels are competing in the Big West tournament here in Las Vegas. There will not be 18,000 fans and a pep band at their championship tournament. No Gucci Row lining the fairways of Spanish Trail Country Club. But the most important ingredient will be there. That ingredient is the student-athlete.

The UNLV golf team is collegiate athletics as it was meant to be. It is self-sufficient, successful, it graduates its kids and it is run by a man with high integrity. It is as close to perfection as any collegiate sports program could be. Maybe the team will get the recognition it deserves. Then maybe some people in this country will sit down and think of how they could be like our golf team.

All I can say is: Dad, you were right. I learned more on that miserably hot day in the Windy City than any teacher or professor has taught me. I even lost touch with that philosophy until this year. The UNLV golf team reminded me of that priceless fatherly advice and should be an example to us all.

—Scott Gulbransen is a sports staff writer for the Rebel Yell.

Lady Rebs' rotating infield pitches sweep of Cal Poly Pomona Broncos



Cyndi Parus made a surprise appearance on the hill Sunday.

PHOTO BY WRAY HALTERMAN

Diamondwomen win three of four over the weekend.

BY NICK HALEY
STAFF WRITER

UNLV softball coach Shan McDonald had been waiting for this opportunity for some time. With her team holding a five-run lead over sub-.500 Cal Poly Pomona Sunday at Rebel Diamond, she opted to perform some experimenting.

All three of UNLV's pitchers occupied first and second base the whole day as well as the mound. So when McDonald saw a 6-1 lead heading into the sixth inning of Game 1, she chose to make a "pitching rotation." With UNLV's top pitcher Kim Smith filling in at third base and Amie Stewart pitching a four-hit game, McDonald gave the nod to first baseman Cyndi Parus to take over on the hill. Stewart moved to third and Smith moved to second.

Though wild at times, Parus was able to hold on to the lead as the fifth-ranked Lady Rebels won 8-3. Stewart (11-10), the winning pitcher, once again put herself over .500. Parus, making only her second appearance on the mound as a Lady Rebel, allowed two runs on three hits, completing two innings.

"(Parus) is a good pitcher," McDonald said. "We just wanted to give her a chance to throw in case down the road we need to have her in a ball game."

The timing of the pitching change was of no surprise, but the choice of Cyndi Hewitt was. While Parus has a pitching

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Big West Conference Softball Standings

1. Cal State Fullerton	21-5
2. UNLV	20-5-1
3. Utah State	21-7
4. Long Beach State	17-9
5. Pacific	11-16-1
6. Hawaii	9-19
7. UC Santa Barbara	8-18
8. San Jose State	7-17
9. New Mexico State	5-23



Cream Puffs take advantage of Nuts & Bolts miscues, win Co-ed title, 4-3

BY SCOTT HAVERLOCK
STAFF WRITER

The Cream Puffs may not have always had fun this season, but it was all laughs after they won the UNLV Intramural Co-ed Division softball championship last Wednesday over Nuts & Bolts, 4-3.

"Sometimes this season we forgot to have fun out there," Cream Puff Coach Rob Fitzpatrick said. "We always took things too seriously this season because we knew we had some of the best talent (in the division). Today we played to our poten-

tial and had some fun," Fitzpatrick added.

Nuts & Bolts blunders didn't hurt the Cream Puff cause either.

Trailing 3-2, the Cream Puffs were forced into a last-chance scenario entering the bottom of the fifth and final inning due to the UNLV intramural time-limit rule.

With a runner on first and one out, Cream Puff pitcher Darlene Alex stepped to the plate and hit a lifeless grounder. In his haste, the Nuts & Bolts pitcher launched an erratic toss over the first baseman's head, allowing the lead runner to score and tie

the game.

Alex was legging her way to third base when another Nuts & Bolts overthrow allowed her to score the game's winning run on a two-error, infield "home run."

Alex, who won the Women's Division championship a day earlier along with two-team teammate Missy Aupperle, also did the job on the mound. The Cream Puff hurler tossed a complete-game, four hitter for the win.

Nuts & Bolts opened up the scoring with a solo run in the top

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Neglect causes UNLV to lose Big West diving champion

BY JAY SAPOVITS

Do you know Kristina Lutes? Chances are you don't and won't because at the end of this semester she will become a former Rebel.

Lutes is a diver for UNLV. This past season she won the Big West Conference 3-meter platform competition. Nobody in the conference dove better than her, so why is she leaving?

According to Lutes, \$450 remained to be filled for a full scholarship. Before the year began, swimming coach Jim Reitz set goals for her. Consideration was to be granted for



Lutes

Conference, Lutes said.

She also said that Jim Weaver, UNLV athletic director, never congratulated her on winning the conference. Surely winning the conference deserves a 'nice job'.

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completion of the scholarship if she performed two tasks, became eligible and won the Big West

requirements but the remaining scholarship wasn't granted. Instead a feeling of betrayal—by the already cold athletic department—has her fleeing Las Vegas.

Lutes didn't always want to leave. She worked harder this season than any other. Struggles with eligibility and sickness made her accomplishments more gratifying.

Her struggles in and out of the water challenged her all of last year. Summer

Weaver was contacted for a comment but didn't return the phone call.

She met her coach's

classes at Mesa Junior College, miles away from her home in Gilbert, Ariz., were taken. A 1.8 GPA had ineligibility staring her right in the eye. In both an English and a political science class she earned a 2.8 GPA in the classes. She could come back and dive.

In the water Lutes was fantastic. She flew and spun through in the air all season long, never finishing worse than third. In the 13 events she competed in during the regular season she finished first seven times, second five times and third once.

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