

## Led by Fryatt, Rebels capture second Big West Crown

**Fryatt wins four-hole sudden death to take top honors.**

BY SCOTT GULBRANSEN  
STAFF WRITER

In heavy winds and cool weather at Spanish Trail Golf and Country Club, UNLV's golf team won its second straight Big West Tournament. Along with the team victory was the individual champion, Edward Fryatt, who outlasted his teammate Warren Schutte.

Every landscape has been equally at bay to Fryatt's inspired play. The junior had his third-straight strong performance

since starting the year inconsistently. Fryatt finished second in the Sun Devil Invitational, first at the BYU Cougar Classic and won the Big West individual championship Tuesday.

Coach J.T. Higgins said the reason for Fryatt's success was pretty simple.

"Edward is just playing well right now," he said. "If he hits a bad shot he doesn't get frustrated and lose concentration as he has before."

Higgins' statement was very important in Fryatt's performance this week. Going into the 18th hole Fryatt had a one stroke lead on Nevada's Nobuhito Sato. As the wind picked up, Fryatt hit the ball out of bounds on 18 which

enabled Sato to force a four-hole sudden-death playoff. Fryatt then bared down and came out the winner, something he is getting used to.

The Rebel team outlasted Mother Nature's wind test to take the team title and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. The Swingin' Rebels shot a 900 for three rounds which is almost unheard of.

Higgins said the wind played a huge factor in the inflated scores.

"The wind really blew the scores out of whack," he said. "To win a tourney with a 900 is unheard of. But we played well through the wind and played our last four holes solid to finish on top."

The Rebel team led most of the way and Fryatt's victory almost looked assured until on his second playoff hole he teed off into the water. He then chipped in a 15-footer for par that locked up his tournament win.

Fryatt earned Big West Conference Player of the Year honors by shooting 5-over 76-71-74-221.

UNLV also placed four other players in the top seven. Eric Schroeder continues to improve his game finishing third behind teammate Fryatt and UNR's Sato. Chris Riley finished fourth overall shooting a 227. 1991 NCAA Champion Warren Schutte tied for seventh at 230.

Schutte was considered the favorite to win the individual title but did not perform as he would have liked.

"Warren is hitting the ball well," Higgins said, "but the wind took him out of his tempo and he lost control. He did rebound in the second and third rounds and played like he always does—fantastic."

Schutte had won the conference player-of-the-year honors two years running until Fryatt unseated him this year.

The Rebels will next take to the links May 20-22 in Provo, Utah for the NCAA West Regionals. The NCAA Finals are June 2-5 in Lexington, Ky.

## Rider and Smith named 'Rebel Yell' Athletes of the Year



In a recent poll by *The Rebel Yell* sports staff, men's basketball player J.R. Rider and softball pitcher Kim Smith were named the school paper's male and female athletes of the year. The poll was based solely on the individual's respective performance in the athletic arena.

Also nominated for the men were Big West Golf Champs Edward Fryatt and Warren Schutte. Lady Rebel basketball standout Teresa Jackson and distance runner Diane McCarthy were mentioned for the female candidates.

(left) J.R. Rider is a lottery pick candidate in next month's NBA Draft. The forward was the nation's No. 2 scorer, averaging 29.1 points per game, as he also pulled down a team-high 8.9 rebounds per outing.

(right) Senior Kim Smith sports a record of 20-2 on the hill at press time with an ERA of 0.90. She has thrown 19 complete games with nine shutouts and 93 strikeouts in 163 innings pitched.



## Texas A&M victory one for the books in a long, frustrating season

BY JAY SAPOVITS

The school year has been long. It's 31 weeks down and one to go. The games that have been mixed between classes and off-court controversy have provided some spectacular highlights. The following is the most pleasant memory of the year.

It is so vivid because KUNV broadcasted the game against Texas A&M. Perched off the concourse with my broadcast partner, losing looked imminent for UNLV.

Optimism remained for the Rebels. The broadcast tapes give a feeling of the Final Four. Urgency to win pervaded the atmosphere.

That queasy feeling wouldn't go away. Sweat poured off me like I was on the court. This game kicked and drug 14,000-plus nervous fans through painful and agonizing trenches.

It seemed the fans were united. A common bond had developed through nerves.

We hung on every dribble. Then

gasped with every shot.

We sighed during timeouts. They offered the only relief during the night.

The Rebels couldn't lose two games so early in the year. The unranked Aggies couldn't snap the home-court winning streak.

On the court the Rebels acted that same way. This game will be an all-time UNLV classic.

At halftime the Rebels trailed the Aggies by 13 points. That margin is the most UNLV has ever been down at halftime in the Thomas & Mack Center.

Rollie's Rebels could have quit. The crowd left early as it was, so they wouldn't have noticed. Instead one of the greatest sequences in the history of sports took place.

With 1:29 remaining in the game UNLV trailed 81-75. Rider rebounded an Aggie missed shot, cruised over the time line and buried an NBA-range three-pointer.

### Commentary

The Rebels, down three, were forced to foul. One-minute was left on the clock when the Aggies made one of two free throws. The score: Texas A&M 82, UNLV 78.

Ten seconds elapsed offensively before Rider then spotted up in the land of three, drained it and the Rebels called timeout again. The score: Texas A&M 82, UNLV 81.

Down one point with 48 seconds remaining Coach Mass ordered the foul. Eight seconds after the ball was in play, former Georgetown Hoya David Edwards was fouled. He made one of two free throws. The score: Texas A&M 83, UNLV 81.

Then, with 26 ticks on the clock the fun started. UNLV had possession until Reggie Manuel turned the ball over. Four seconds later Ken Gibson stole the ball. With 16 seconds left Reggie Manuel had the ball stolen by Aggie guard Edwards, who then was called for travelling.

Rebel's ball—16 seconds left—timeout UNLV.

J.R. got the ball right.

Wrong!

It came to Ken Gibson with four seconds left in the game. As he drove to shoot, he was fouled.

Gibson was on the free throw line for two shots. The crowd never was so quiet. Gibson nailed the first shot. The crowd exploded, only to fall back into a death-like silence. The second shot was needed to tie the game and force OT. The Rebels had yet to lose their home-court winning streak. They also were climbing the polls.

...Swish.

The Rebels cruised in overtime to a 98-96 win.

At the end it didn't matter that the Rebels were expected to kill the Aggies. Everyone was too exhausted to care. They had just witnessed one of the greatest endings in sports history.

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