

Missed Putt Gives Rebel Swingers Tourney Title

BY JOHN SANTANA
STAFF WRITER

A missed putt by Texas Christian's Deron Zinnecker on the 11th hole allowed UNLV to retain its team title at the IGT/UNLV Rebel Classic Wednesday at Spanish Trail.

Zinnecker missed a four-foot birdie putt which would have allowed the Horned Frogs to tie the Rebels for the team title. The missed putt also put Zinnecker in a second place tie in the individual standings.

"It's winning ugly, as they say," UNLV coach Dwaine Knight said.

"We're fortunate to have done that, there's no doubt about that."

The win by the No. 3 Rebels, who entered two teams in the tournament, was the second for UNLV this season, who concluded the fall portion of their schedule Wednesday. UNLV also won last year's Rebel Classic.

The Rebels' first team, which consisted of starters Chad Campbell, Gilberto Morales, Chris Riley, Mike Ruiz and Mike Vance, entered the final round with a 15-stroke lead on Texas Christian and Texas-El Paso. But the Rebels shot 5-over par Wednesday.

Morales was the only UNLV golfer who didn't have an over par final round, shooting an even-par 72. He was shooting 2-under par after 10 holes, but double-bogeyed the par-5 11th hole.

His second shot on 11 landed in the water just short of the green, earning a penalty stroke. "Basically I hit one bad shot all day and it cost me," Morales said. "It's a par-5, and you should never struggle at a par-5."

Not only did UNLV's first squad lead the team chase after the second round Tuesday, but Campbell was tied for the individual lead with Texas A & M's

Anthony Rodriguez after shooting a 5-under-par 67.

Campbell was unable to hold on and earn his first major college title, shooting 77 Wednesday to finish in a five-way tie for fifth at 218.

"I just didn't play real well," Campbell said. "I struggled all the way around."

Rodriguez took advantage of Campbell's struggles to win the individual championship with a final round 1-under-par 71. For the tournament, Rodriguez shot 71-70-71-212. Rodriguez finished three strokes ahead of Zinnecker and Kevin Rhoads of UCLA.

The Rebels did manage a good showing in the individual standings, with three players in the top 10. In addition to Campbell and Morales, Chris Riley tied for 10th after a final round 75.

Riley managed to recover from a horrendous front nine, where he bogeyed three holes.

Because UNLV hosted the tournament, it was allowed to field two teams. The Rebels' second team, which consisted of Bill Lunde, Chase Whitaker, Brandon Nottingham, Matt Todd and David Lee, finished 13th in the 15-team tournament.



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Above, Senior wide receiver Randy Gatewood finished with 88 receptions this year. Right, Senior linebacker Keith Clough led the team in tackles.

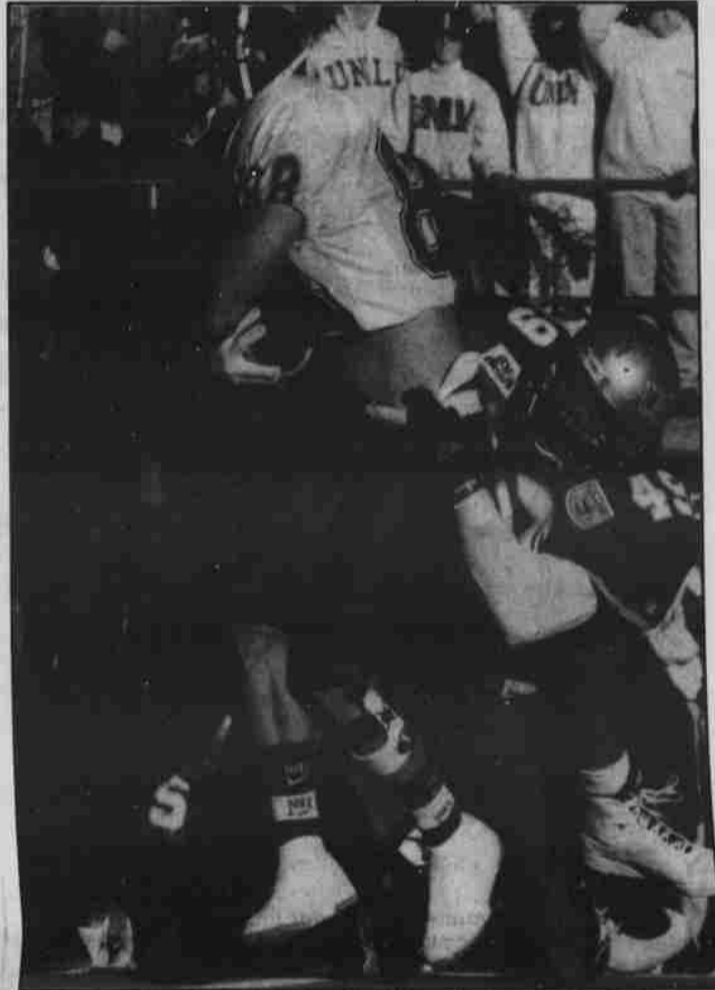


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Valley

continued from 11
broke the school's single season record, to finish at 20 1/2. "To lose like this after that game last week," said Byers, "We're just better than that and now we blew a chance to

get some respect because we're not ready mentally."

Trailing 21-3, the Rebels drove from midfield to the 5-yard line before Branch fumbled it away 1:32 before halftime.

"I knew we were in trouble when that happened," Horton said. "If we score, it's 21-10 going

into the locker room. I felt we were still in the game when we were down 21-3."

UNLV will now focus on its rematch against Central Michigan in Las Vegas Bowl III at Sam Boyd Stadium Dec. 15th. The Chippewas beat the Rebels 35-23 in UNLV's second game of the season.

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