

Hustlin' Rebels Looking For Improvement

Baseball: Dallimore's squad wants to avenge consecutive losing seasons

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF WRITER

After two straight losing seasons, this year's UNLV baseball team is looking to make it to the NCAA tournament—something it hasn't accomplished since 1989.

"Our expectations are real high," head coach Fred Dallimore said. "We're looking for a conference championship and post-season play. We feel that we have that type of ballclub."

Heading into his 22nd season as coach of the Hustlin' Rebels, Dallimore said youth played a role in last year's 27-28 record, which included an 8-13 record in Big West play.

"Last year we had a disappointing year," Dallimore said. "But taking into consideration we had 15 or 16 freshman on the roster, maybe we played about where we should have played. But all those guys are one year older."

UNLV opens its season Friday at Earl E. Wilson Stadium at Roger Barnson Field with a 3:05 p.m. start against Loyola Marymount.

Dallimore said much of this season's success will hinge on the arms of its young pitchers.

"I think our pitching's good," Dallimore said. "It's young. We're going to start three sophomore pitchers this weekend."

The Rebels will go with righthanders Nate Yeskie and Tom LaRosa, sandwiched around lefty Mike Bauder.

Yeskie and LaRosa carried much of the pitching load last year, and are expected to do much of the same this season.

Yeskie finished last year with an 8-5 record and a 7.12 ERA in 108.2 innings. He led the Rebels in wins, and in complete games with seven, which was second in the Big West.

LaRosa was 6-5 last season, with a 5.74 ERA in a team-leading 109.2 innings pitched. Yeskie and LaRosa tied for the team lead with 15 starts each.

"They both know that they can pitch at this level, because they're seasoned guys now," Dallimore said. "We had to put those guys right out in the fire last year, and I think the experience they gained last year, coupled with what they did over the summer, will be a real positive thing for them."

Bauder finished last season with a record of 0-1, and an ERA of 6.84 in 50 innings.

Dallimore also has junior lefthander Dennis DeMartini, who was third on the staff in starts, with 11, and innings pitched, 90, last season. DeMartini was 5-6, with an ERA of 6.20.

Other contributors to the staff will be

"Our expectations are real high. We're looking for a conference championship and post-season play. We feel that we have that type of ballclub."

—Fred Dallimore



Thompkins, who was slated to start in center field, is academically ineligible for the season.

Even without Thompkins, who was 25-for-29 in stolen base attempts in 1993, the Rebels will have plenty of team speed.

"Our team speed is a little better than it's been in years past," Dallimore said.

Travis McClendon will see the bulk of the action at catcher. McClendon, a senior, hit .259 last year.

Sophomore Alex Amelburu and freshman Bobby McNiel will back-up McClendon.

At first base, the Rebels return junior Brian Anthony. Anthony hit .292 last season, with 8 homers and 33 RBIs.

Willie Mosher, a junior transfer from Dixie College, will play second base. Sophomore Teddy Foster, who hit .280 last year for UNLV, will also see plenty of action.

Sophomore Stacy Kleiner will start at shortstop. Kleiner was second on the team in batting last year with a .327 average.

Third base will be manned by freshman Ryan Hankins. Dallimore said Hankins is still a little weak defensively, but should have no problem handling the bat.

Sophomore Shaw Casey may take over at shortstop once he recovers from off-season surgery. Casey hit .205 last season.

If Casey does move into the starting lineup, Kleiner could move over to third base if Hankins falters.

Newcomers Chris McClure, a junior transfer from Trinidad State, and freshman Henry Jones will back-up in the infield.

UNLV's first 17 games are at home, and they will play nine teams that are ranked in *Collegiate Baseball's* Top 40 preseason poll, including No. 11 Long Beach State, No. 16 Cal State Fullerton and No. 23 Georgia Tech.

**THERE'S NO EXCUSE
FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

For information on how you can help stop domestic violence, call us.

1-800-777-1960

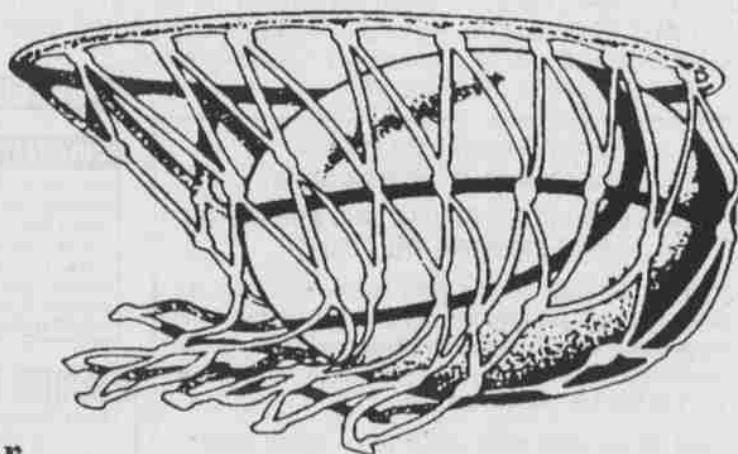


Family Violence Prevention Fund

PRESEASON BASKETBALL

**UNLV
INTRAMURALS**

Trophy to
Tournament Winner



TOURNAMENT

sponsored by

UNLV Sports Official's Association

Entry Fee - \$20.00
per team



Entries are due Wednesday, February 1st
at 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm in MSU - Lounge 201

Single Elimination Tournament Starts Friday, Feb. 3rd
MPE - North Gym

Competition is open to all current UNLV students and faculty/staff
For more information contact Campus Recreation MSU 111 895-3221