

Commentary



Chris Riley

An Inner Drive

What drives the elite athlete?

Is it a fear of failure? An unquenchable thirst for success? Or is it simply in the make-up of the athlete, that which makes him excel in his specific sport?

Chris Riley has reached

the pinnacle of his sport, and coach Dwaine Knight's fourth-ranked Rebel golf team has

reaped the benefits of his success. But even Riley does not know the answer to the question—what drives you?

"I don't know," he said. "I just want to be the best in this sport in college."

Lofty aspirations? Hardly. Riley was, after all, the National Freshman of the Year two seasons ago, was the 1994 Big West Player of the Year and was named All-America entering his junior year this past fall.

Sound like he's ripe for a letdown? It happened in the fall, Riley said.

"I felt like I didn't work as hard because I had a great sophomore year," he said. "I sat down with Coach Knight and told myself I was going to really push myself to really work hard on my game and work hard in school."

The extra push has earned Riley a spot in his first pro tournament as an amateur. He'll be leaving Monday to compete in the Buick Invitational of California in La Jolla, near his San Diego home. Riley earned the bid in a field of 100 amateurs (two qualified) after beating Charley Hoffman in a playoff. Hoffman, a high school senior, has signed a letter-of-intent to play at UNLV next year. Teddy Oh, another Rebel recruit, was just two shots behind.

"I was trying not to think about it," Riley said of facing his future teammate in sudden death. "But all the guys on the team would have given me a lot of crap if I'd lost to a guy who was going to be a freshman. That gave me an extra push, but I felt like I was

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In This Corner



PAUL GUTIERREZ

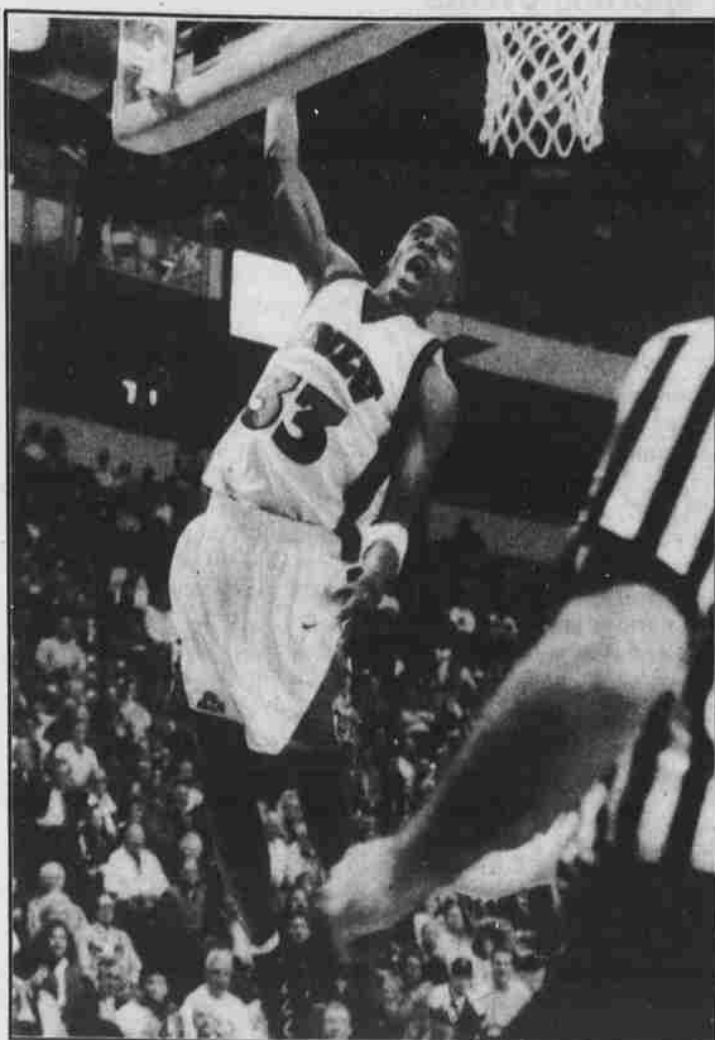


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Patrick Savoy goes up for a monster jam.



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Clayton Johnson scored a career-high 24 points against SJSU.

Rebels' Win Streak Snapped at LBSU

Basketball: Cle Edwards assumes reins of program

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV men's basketball team pulled itself back into the Big West race last weekend, only to lose some of its momentum by losing at Long Beach State, 74-73, in overtime Monday.

The loss dropped the Runnin' Rebels to 7-8 overall, 4-5 in conference, while the 49ers improved to 9-6 and 5-3.

The game was the Rebels' first

after interim head coach Howie Landa, 63, resigned to move to an administrative position with the team. Cle Edwards, 46, has now taken over as interim coach.

UNLV was repeatedly beaten inside for easy buckets by Long Beach, which won despite playing without forward Mike Atkinson, and guards James Cotton and Everett Ratleff.

"I think we're doing a pretty good job with our perimeter defense, and our post guys are working hard," assistant coach David Rice said. "But at times, we have a tendency to let down a little bit."

Damian Smith led the Rebels with a career-high 22 points.

Clayton Johnson capped his best week as a Rebel with 16

points. Patrick Savoy scored 14, while Kebu Stewart was held to 10.

The loss came after home wins Jan. 26 and Saturday over Pacific and San Jose State, respectively.

In the 83-78 win over the Tigers, Reggie Manuel hit a 3-point shot with 28 seconds left to give the Rebels a 79-78 lead. Stewart hit four free throws at the end to provide the final margin.

Manuel finished the game with 23 points. Stewart had 18 points and a season-high 17 rebounds.

Savoy pitched in with 14 points, while Johnson had 13.

Against the Spartans, the Rebels struggled early before exploding in the second half, out-

scoring San Jose State 46-32, en route to a 21-point victory, 80-59.

Johnson had a career-high 24 points on 9-12 shooting. Stewart contributed with 19 points and 14 boards.

Savoy played only nine minutes after spraining his left ankle in the first half.

The Rebels play tonight at UC Irvine and Saturday at Cal State Fullerton. Both games will be broadcast on KRLR-TV-21 and KUNV 91.5 FM.

Coach Tim Grgurich will travel with the team, but his status for coaching this weekend's games is still day-to-day, according to trainer Jerry Koloskie.

UNLV Sandwiched by LMU

Baseball: Rebels win one in opening series

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV baseball team began the 1995 season by losing two of its three games against Loyola Marymount last weekend at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

The Hustlin' Rebels dropped their home opener Friday by a score of 10-5.

UNLV trailed 5-0 going into the home half of the fifth inning before chipping away to tie it at five, on Scott Vincent's two-out double, heading into the ninth.

In the ninth, Rebels' pitcher Denny DeMartini (0-1) let the game get away by giving up all five runs with two outs. DeMartini committed a balk and an error in the inning to compound his problems on the mound.

Nine of LMU's 10 runs were scored with two outs. The Lions scored 16 two-out runs for the weekend.

"Whenever a team gets 16 runs

with two outs, you've got to question what you're doing," UNLV coach Fred Dallimore said. "...We just didn't do the job we had to do from the mound, and consequently we lost two ballgames."

UNLV starting hurler Nate Yeskie pitched six innings, and allowed five runs, three earned, while striking out four.

Stacy Kleiner, Ryan Hankins and Hank Crosby led the Rebels with two hits apiece.

LMU first baseman Andy Collett had two hits, including a home run, for four RBIs, while designated hitter John Mastandrea also had a home run for the Lions, among his three hits.

On Saturday, the Rebels broke out to an early 7-0 lead en route to an 11-8 victory.

Center fielder Scott Vincent sparked the victory with a grand slam in the second inning. Vincent, a junior, finished with two hits and five RBIs.

The Rebels pounded out 15 hits in the ballgame, including three by Hankins, who also had three RBIs.

Ryan Plughoff, Travis McClendon, Brian Anthony and Kleiner were the other Rebels to finish

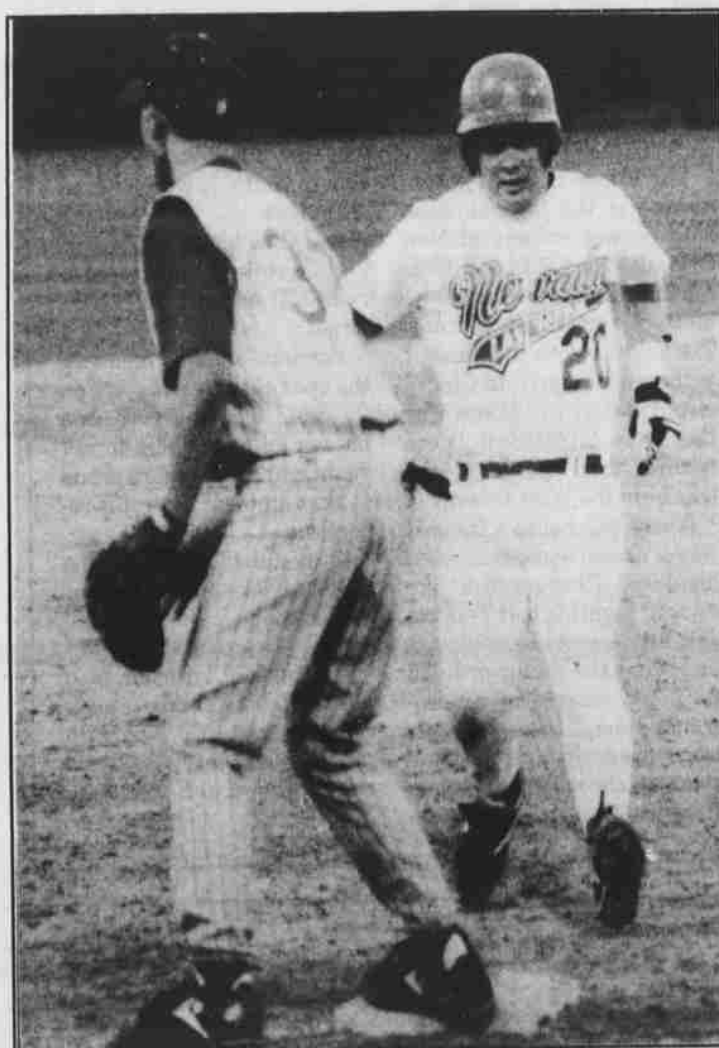


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY
Rebel Chris McClure hustles back to first base.

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