

Hustlin' Rebels Fall Short in Fresno

Baseball: UNLV opens BWC play this weekend against UOP

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV baseball team made it to the championship game at last week's Pepsi/Johnny Quik

Classic in Fresno, Calif. before falling to host No. 19 Fresno State, 11-0.

Bulldogs' pitcher Robert Donnelly hurled a two-hitter against the Hustlin' Rebels. Donnelly (2-3) struck out 15 batters and walked four in the complete-game victory.

UNLV hurler Nate Yeskie suffered his first loss of the season, bringing his record to 7-1. Yeskie allowed 10 runs, eight earned, on 13 hits in his six innings of work.

Josh Kaitfors paced FSU with three hits, while Bulldogs' catcher Giuseppe Chiaramonte hit a double and his third home run.

The loss gave UNLV a record of 4-2 for the tournament, and an overall record of 19-9. Both of the Rebels' tournament losses came at the hands of FSU.

Friday

The Hustlin' Rebels advanced to the championship with their

10-8 win over No. 17 Nevada-Reno.

UNLV shortstop Stacy Kleiner, the Big West Co-Field Player of the Week, led the 11-hit offensive attack, collecting two hits and scoring four runs. Kleiner, a sophomore, hit .440 (11-for-25) with seven runs scored, three doubles and four RBIs for the week. He leads UNLV with a .365 average for the season.

The Rebels were helped by five UNR errors, three by shortstop Junio Cacal, which parlayed into four unearned runs.

Mike Bauder gained the victory for the Rebels. Bauder (2-0) allowed six runs, three earned, on 10 hits in 6 2/3 innings. Fred Koehne pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings to gain his second save.

Ryan Hankins collected three hits with two RBIs and two runs scored for UNLV.

Brent Husted (0-1) suffered the loss for the Wolf Pack.

MARCH 16: Joel Garber tossed a four-hit shutout to lead the Rebels to a 7-0 triumph over Wyoming.

Garber, the Big West Pitcher of the Week, allowed three walks and struck out 10. He improved his record to 2-0 for the season while lowering his ERA to 5.40.

Ted Wilkes and Kleiner both delivered two hits and two RBIs for UNLV.

Javier Macias (1-3) took the loss for the Cowboys.

March 15

FSU pitcher Brendan Behn hurled a five-hit shutout to beat the Rebels 7-0. Behn (5-1) struck out 14 and walked two.

Tom LaRosa (0-3) allowed six runs on nine hits in eight innings to take the loss.

Home runs by Joseph Freitas, Matt Curtis and Quentin Stone highlighted the Bulldogs' 10-hit attack.

Travis McClendon and Kleiner both had two hits for UNLV.

March 14

The Rebels withstood a late comeback effort by Portland before holding on to win 7-6.

UNLV held a 7-3 lead entering the bottom of the eighth before Portland began chipping away at Rebels' starter Denny DeMartini.

Erik Oliver entered the game in relief after the Pilots scored a run in the ninth to cut the margin to one. Oliver then set the next three batters down in order to gain his second save.

DeMartini gained the victory, running his record to 4-4, allowing six runs, five earned, in eight innings. He allowed one walk and struck out seven.

Chandler Martin (0-2) received the loss for Portland.

Hank Crosby, Kleiner and McClendon each had two hits for the Rebels.

March 13

UNLV came from behind, scoring one run in the ninth inning and two in the top of the tenth, to defeat Missouri, 4-3, in the opening game of the tournament.

The Tigers scored once in the bottom of the tenth, but they couldn't push across the tying run as Yeskie struck out the last batter with two runners on.

Missouri scored twice in the second inning off Yeskie, who pitched all 10 innings to gain the victory, before he settled in, allowing the Rebels to get back in the ballgame.

McClendon hit his fourth home run, while Willie Mosher had two hits and two runs scored, to lead the Rebels' offense. Kleiner and Hankins also added two hits each.

Yeskie allowed three runs on eight hits, while striking out 10 and walking two.

Chris Giuliani (0-3) was pinned with the loss.

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The Hustlin' Rebels return to Earl E. Wilson Stadium this weekend, taking on Pacific to open the Big West Conference season.

The Tigers enter the three-game series with a record of 18-7. UOP had a conference record of 8-12 last season, good for fifth place, and was 36-18 overall.

Friday's first pitch is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. Saturday's and Sunday's games are slated to begin at 1:05 p.m.

Last season, UOP swept the Rebels in three games (5-4, 6-5 in 10 innings and 12-3).

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