

Rebels Take Revenge on Pacific

Baseball: UNLV travels to UNR this weekend

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV baseball team opened conference play by taking two of three from Pacific last weekend at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

The Hustlin' Rebels (21-10) took the first two games (3-1, 8-2), but lost their sweep attempt Sunday with a 10-6 loss.

"We got swept up there last year," coach Fred Dallimore said after Saturday's win. "We're on a mission this year. Our goal is to put the hurt on them."

But Dallimore and his club didn't get their preferred sweep. In SUNDAY'S GAME, the Rebels allowed four runs in the first inning from a combination of bad pitching and bad defense.

UNLV hurler Tom LaRosa struck out the side and only allowed one infield single in the inning. But he also walked two Tigers, hit one and committed an error before a double steal and first baseman Brian Anthony's error helped cause the big inning.

The Rebels had chances late in the game to catch the Tigers, but LaRosa allowed two runs in the eighth before being pulled, and Erik Oliver allowed two more in the ninth.

The UNLV offense also wasted late opportunities by leaving the bases loaded in the eighth and stranding two in the ninth.

"When you get behind like that early, it's hard to keep coming back every time," senior Ryan Plughoff said. "It seems like whenever we lose games we miss opportunities—like the bases loaded ... you've got to come up big when it counts."

The Rebels also had runners



Junior left-hander Fred Koehne came on in relief in Sunday's loss to the Tigers.

PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

thrown out at home and second in the fourth to compound the bad day.

"It was just one of those days," Dallimore said. "Everything went against us. We didn't get any breaks."

According to Dallimore, LaRosa's inconsistent pitching this year may result in a demotion to the bullpen.

"We may have to make a change," Dallimore said. "I don't know. I've got to think about it yet."

LaRosa (0-4) went seven innings and allowed eight runs, five earned, on nine hits. He struck out seven and walked four.

Two Rebels who won't be yanked from the lineup anytime soon are infielder Stacy Kleiner and Plughoff. Kleiner went 5-for-11 over the weekend, extending his hitting streak to 13 games, and lifting his average to a team-leading .373.

"I don't care if you hit him first, second, third or ninth—he's going to take his hacks, and he's going to get his hits because he's aggressive," Dallimore said of Kleiner. "He believes he can hit."

Plughoff displayed his hitting prowess over the weekend also. The outfielder/designated hitter from Omak, Wash., batted .692 (9-13) against UOP to gain Big West Conference Player of the Week honors. He had three straight three-hit games to lift his season average to .330.

"It's nice because it's conference play," Plughoff said. "Now these games actually mean something. It's a lot better for the team to get hot during this time of year."

SATURDAY: The Rebels pounded out 13 hits and UOP left 14 runners on base in the 8-2 UNLV victory.

Denny DeMartini (5-4) picked

up the win. The junior left-hander pitched seven scoreless innings, but struggled all day allowing six hits while walking seven.

"We didn't get good pitching," Dallimore said. "Denny didn't pitch good. He pitched the worst game he's had in the three years he's played for me."

"He just didn't throw with any consistency, but they didn't take advantage of it."

DeMartini was just relieved to have escaped with the win.

"I did get the job done," DeMartini said. "But I hope for an easier job next time. ... Anytime I had a problem I just pitched my way out of it. But I put myself in a lot of bad predicaments today."

Kleiner and Plughoff paced the offense with three hits apiece. Catcher Travis McClendon had two hits and two RBIs, while Shaw Casey had two hits and knocked in one run.

FRIDAY: Nate Yeskie rebounded from his first bad outing of the season to spin his fifth complete game in the 3-1 triumph.

Yeskie (8-1) allowed one earned run on six hits, while striking out eight and walking none, to lower his team-leading ERA to 2.89.

Yeskie said last year's sweep by the Tigers inspired him to come through with a big game more than his 10-run, 13-hit pounding at Fresno State March 18 did.

"The little extra incentive that was added was from losing to these guys last year," Yeskie said. "And having to bounce back from going there and losing three games, and just having to deal with the way that they treated us."

"They talked trash the whole game, and were just real mouthy. So it was a good satisfaction to be able to beat them."

The win proved costly though as second baseman Willie Mosher suffered a fractured left wrist when he was hit by a pitch from UOP's Dan Reichert.

"(The doctors) say 'two weeks in a cast,' and then after that it's just how fast I can get back," Mosher said. "I'm going to do everything to get back."

"If I miss more than a month, I'd like to get a medical redshirt. It just depends if we're in the (NCAA) tournament or not."

Plughoff had three of the Rebels' nine hits, while Ryan Hankins collected two hits to drive in one run and score one.

THIS WEEK: The Rebels travel north to face rival No. 16 Nevada-Reno for three games.

The Wolf Pack enter the series with a record of 19-8, 0-3 in conference after being swept by Long Beach State.

UNLV leads the career series 47-25. The Rebels defeated UNR 10-8 March 17 at the Pepsi/Johnny Quik Classic in Fresno, Calif., and took two of three games last year.

Softball

continued from 11
up seemed to be falling into shallow right field but became part of Titan second baseman Chris Zbori's glove on a circus grab that doubled up the Rebels at first base.

Lady Rebel pitcher Teresa Branch, 12-3, went the distance with four strikeouts and four walks.

"We're not peaking yet," said McDonald, "for a team that has its sights on winning the conference."

The Lady Rebels, 26-7 overall, 7-1 in the Big West, face Hawaii Friday in a 1 p.m. doubleheader at Rebel Diamond.

Lady Rebels Go 3-2 in Arizona Tournament

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
STAFF REPORTER

After winning some tough games, the UNLV softball team was ousted from its final tournament of the year by top-ranked Arizona, 8-4.

The No. 4 Lady Rebels moved their record to 25-6 overall and 6-0 in the Big West.

"We did a good job even though we gave up some runs," assistant coach Carolyn Spanks said. "They found confidence in the fact that they can play against them and score runs against them."

"It was just that our defense hurt us in that game."

With the game knotted at four apiece after five innings, the Lady Wildcats struck again as they

scored four more in the top of the sixth, to put the final nail in the Lady Rebels' coffin. The bases were loaded with two gone when what should have been the final out the inning, a fly ball to left fielder Alyson Henderson, was dropped. All four runs scored on the error.

Amie Stewart was tagged with the loss (12-4), her third straight. Although she gave up three earned runs, it was the five unearned runs that haunted her. Spanks explained that Stewart pitched a strong game, but the offense and defense didn't help her out like it usually has.

The Lady Rebels started the tournament by beating Minnesota, 6-2. In the game, first baseman Cyndi Parus doubled home the team's first runs in the third,

and shortstop Kim Rondina added some more when she popped her sixth home run of the year. The two-run shot tied a team record for home runs in a season, which Rondina set last season.

Rondina leads the team in most offensive categories including batting average (.422), hits (43) and RBIs (30).

Pitcher Teresa Branch came out with the victory, moving her season record to 11-2. She has a team leading 1.42 ERA, with four shutouts, and just 17 earned runs allowed in 84 innings of work.

In the second game on Friday, the Lady Rebels dropped a tight one to No. 14 Southwestern Louisiana, 2-1. usl took an early lead when Hida Alfaro hit a two-run single off of Stewart, and that proved to be enough to beat the

Lady Rebels.

Stewart tried to help her own cause by smashing a home run and two singles. She allowed just four hits in the loss.

Stewart came up big at the plate again, when she hit her second homer of the tournament against Oregon State. She bused open a 1-0 game in the sixth with a three-run blast, which gave Branch room to breathe and collect her second win of the tournament. She only gave up two singles in the contest. The Lady Rebels won it 5-0.

Catcher Julie Crandall gave the Lady Rebels the lead against Bowling Green on Saturday by knocking her fourth homer of the year in the second, before doubling in the go ahead run in the fifth.

To Advertise, Please Call
895-3479

COUPONS

Space Available
To Advertise
Your Business
Call 895-3479



4632 Maryland Pkwy.
597-1191
Open 7 Days a Week

Haircuts* \$10
Shampoo/Cut/Condition
* Long hair and designer cuts
slightly higher

Nail Specials
Full Set \$19.95
Fills \$15

Tan Wolff System
10 Sessions \$25