

Northern Exposure

Baseball: Hustlin' Rebs drop two at UNR; NMSU in town this weekend

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

After spotting their intrastate rivals big leads in each contest, the UNLV baseball team dropped two of its three games at No. 20 Nevada-Reno last weekend.

The Hustlin' Rebels (22-12, 3-3 in the Big West) lost Friday's opener 7-5, won 13-11 Saturday and were beaten 8-7 in Sunday's 12-inning battle.

FRIDAY: UNLV committed four errors in the first three innings, including three in the third, as they spotted the Wolf Pack a 6-1 lead en route to the 7-5 loss.

The Rebels, who were coming off a 10-6 loss against Pacific March 26, dropped back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Nate Yeskie went the distance on the mound for UNLV. Yeskie, who dropped to 8-2, allowed seven runs, five earned, on eight hits and one walk, while striking out five.

The Rebels' offense, which gained 11 hits, was paced by catcher Travis McClendon's 4-for-4 day. McClendon hit his fifth homer and a double, but also committed two of the team's errors. Stacy Kleiner homered leading off the game for UNLV to extend his hitting streak to 14 games to supply the only other Rebel highlight.

UNR lefthander Josh Bendik pitched eight innings to improve his record to 4-0. Rico Lagattuta pitched a scoreless ninth to record his seventh save.

SATURDAY: The Rebels trailed 11-1 after three innings, but used

six home runs and solid relief pitching to rally for the 13-11 triumph.

Brian Anthony hit a pair of homers in the first four innings, giving him eight for the year, to pull UNLV to within 11-4.

In the fifth, Ryan Hankins and McClendon hit back-to-back dingers to cut the margin to 11-7.

The Rebels tallied a deuce in the sixth before Ryan Plughoff hit a three-run shot in the seventh, giving Fred Dallimore's club a 12-11 lead. Hankins closed out the scoring with his second blast of the game, and fifth of the season, in the eighth.

Meanwhile, after Rebel starter Joel Garber allowed eight earned runs in 2/3 of the first inning, Tom LaRosa quieted UNR's bats enough to let UNLV get back in the game.

LaRosa, taken out of the starting rotation due to his ineffectiveness, allowed three runs on nine hits in 6 2/3 innings, improving his record to 1-4. He struck out seven and walked five.

Erik Oliver and Fred Koehne pitched scoreless relief over the final 1 2/3 innings, with Koehne notching his third save.

SUNDAY: The Rebels rallied again, this time from a five-run deficit, but lost 8-7 when UNR's Andy Dominique led off the 12th inning with a homer.

The Wolf Pack led 5-0 heading into the ninth, but UNLV exploded to send the contest into extra frames. Pinch hitter Teddy Foster's RBI double and Hankins' RBI single were the big hits.

The Rebels took a 7-5 lead in the top of the 11th on McClendon's two-run double, but UNR prolonged the affair, on Junicio Cacal's two-run single, to set up the win.

Koehne took the loss, evening his record at 1-1, after allowing three runs, two earned, on two hits and three walks in 1 2/3 innings.

The Rebels pounded out 15 hits on the day. Scott Vincent, Hankins and Anthony all collected three apiece, while Hank Crosby and McClendon had two each.

FOR THE SERIES: McClendon led UNLV by going 8-for-14, raising his average to a team-leading .362. He slammed two homers, giving him six for the season, and had four RBIs. He also leads the Rebels with 15 stolen bases in 19 attempts.

Hankins and Anthony both went 6-for-14 with two homers over the weekend. Hankins improved his average to .345, while Anthony's climbed to .318. Vincent went 5-14, lifting his average to .280.

Kleiner was only 3-for-13 against UNR, but managed to extend his hitting streak to 16 games. He is batting .360 for the year.

UNLV's team average is .295, compared to .293 for the opposition. The Rebels have outhomered their competition 39-29, and are 61-for-82 in stolen-base attempts, compared to 29-for-56 for their opponents.

THIS WEEKEND: UNLV takes on conference rival New Mexico State for three games at Earl E. Wilson Stadium. Friday's game is scheduled to begin at 7:05 p.m., while Saturday's and Sunday's games are slated for 1:05 p.m. starts.

The Aggies enter the weekend as the surprise team in the Big West with a record of 26-13, 3-3 in conference. The 26 wins surpasses the team's total from last year when they went 21-31, and finished last in the conference with a 4-17 record.

The Rebels lead the all-time series against NMSU 15-2. UNLV swept last year's three-game series at Las Cruces, N.M. (29-10, 17-15, 10-9 in 11 innings).

No. 1 Cal State-Fullerton follows the Aggies with three games at Wilson Stadium April 13-15.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY
Catcher Travis McClendon went 8-14 at UNR last weekend, raising his average to a team-leading .362.

UNLV to Host Invitational

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS
STAFF REPORTER

The Lady Rebel track & field team returns home Saturday to host the UNLV Track & Field Invitational at Myron Partridge Stadium, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Last week, the Lady Rebels participated in the Bob Mathis Fresno Relays in Fresno, Calif.

The 4 x 400-meter relay team of Judy Fraser, Andrea Burnside, LaTasha Prothro and Kamara Mayberry raced to a first-place finish with a time of 3:52.10 in the finals. The quartet also took a third-place finish in the 4 x 100-meter relay with a time of 47.22.

Fraser also had a pair of third-place finishes in the 200-meters with a time of 24.91 and she was clocked at 55.06 in the 400-

meters. Burnside and Prothro took fourth place behind Fraser in the 200-meters with times of 25.06 and 25.42 respectively.

With the conclusion of the women's basketball season, forward LeAnn Kazmer returned to field events and placed second in the high jump with a mark of 5-7.

This weekend's invitational will be a non-scoring meet with men's and women's teams from Southern Cal., Southern Utah and Michigan State and other top club participants.

The Trojans have a strong history in sprinting areas and will feature Udem Ekpenyong on the men's side and Glory Dolphin on the women's side.

This will be the only home meet for UNLV.



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