

Rebels Run Down In Cal

The UNLV track and field team wasn't up to the task at last weekend's Mt. San Antonio College Relays in Walnut, Calif.

The Sprintin' Rebels were run down by teams from the Big Eight, PAC-10, Big West and Western Athletic Conference.

Andrea Burnside and Tamara Archibald finished fifth and seventh, respectively, in the 100-meter dash, posting times of 12.33 and 12.88 seconds.

Judy Fraser was the only Rebel to qualify in the 200-meter dash, finishing in 24.91 seconds to finish eighth. Archibald finished with a time of 26.06.

Fraser also finished eighth in the 400-meter run, posting a time of 55.01. LaTasha Prothro finished with a time of 58.82, while Porchia King finished in 1:00.64.

In the high jump, Shannon Brick placed ninth, jumping a height of 5 feet, 3 1/4 inches.

—Sean DeFrank

Rugby Team Finishes Season in Santa Barbara

BY DONALD R. HICKEY
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The UNLV rugby squad finished up play for the year at the 30th Annual Santa Barbara Rugby Tournament earlier this month. They played a grueling five games in two days and went 2-3 in the process.

Going into the match, the Rebels were worried that their play would be rusty following a four-week layoff. Even though practices were decent, assistant coach Neil Knappenburg still fretted over the down time.

"Hell yes I'm worried," Knappenburg said. "Plus there will be a lot of other coaches watching us to see how we do for next year."

Next year the Southern California Rugby Union will be moving UNLV to Division II, up from its current status of Division III.

At the tourney, the Rebels played Santa Clara, Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, Loyola Marymount, Occidental and, on the second day, Westmont Christian. The scores were 0-15, 12-8, 0-21, 10-14, and 14-0, respectively, with

wins coming against Cal-Poly and Westmont.

The first game versus Santa Clara was an early wake-up call for UNLV. Although the Broncos lost their scrum half due to a broken ankle, they seemed to roll through the Rebels defense, scoring two tries.

Rebel team captain Shinzo Koizumi was the man the coaches were relying on to gain control, but the pressure was evident. "At first I was nervous," Koizumi said. "But after the first game my skills came back."

With Koizumi playing fly half and fellow countryman Daitsumi Seki at scrum half, they were quite lucid against Cal-Poly. But the highlights of the game came from senior Brett Conetta, who flew by Cal-Poly defenders to score two consecutive tries.

"I didn't know I'd score two tries like that," Conetta said. "I just take 'em as they come."

The next game was against Loyola Marymount. This was the best team the Rebels had to face in their two-year history, and most of the Rebels were apprehensive about this challenge,

considering they'd already played two games, with only an hour break afterward.

The Lions executed almost flawlessly against UNLV, and left the Rebels scoreless at the end of the match.

"They had a more solid scrum," UNLV hooker John Dimock said. "They were tighter and had more experience."

After all that, UNLV had to go up against Occidental, who was still reeling from a last-second 8-7 defeat to the Rebels last month.

Koizumi, who's kicking was poor throughout the day, scored

a penalty kick for three to pull the Rebels within four. But it was not enough as Occidental "unleashed the Tiger" on the exhausted Rebels.

The next day, the squad had to play Westmont. In a sloppy game, UNLV blew out Westmont 14-0.

Until play starts up again in November, the Rebels are left to view this summer's Rugby World Cup in South Africa.

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a member of the
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Rebel

continued from 15
during his collegiate career.

Post players are also at a premium for UNLV. With Eric Lee and Clayton Johnson being the only prime returners from last season's frontcourt, Bayno needed to shore up that area also.

The Rebels received long-term help from Friday's signing of Hempstead (N.Y.) High School's Norris (You Can Ring My Bell Bell, a 6-7, 195-pound forward, averaged 19.4 points, 10.8 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 2.8 blocks and 2.7 steals last season, and was a Street & Smith High School All-America honorable mention.

Chaffey (Calif.) College's Warren Rosegreen, a 6-foot-5 forward, hasn't signed his letter-of-intent at this time, and is supposedly wavering between UNLV and Georgetown. Rosegreen has led California junior colleges in rebounding the past two seasons, and would help fill the void left with Savoy and Stewart's departures.

While Stewart's absence isn't guaranteed, the prospects for his return look slim. With his imminent loss, the Rebels desperately need further inside help, even if Rosegreen does sign with UNLV. Without Rosegreen, the weakness is compounded.

While the shape of next year's team is still incomplete, Bayno appears to be on the right track. Don't expect an NCAA tourney bid immediately however. Give Bayno a couple of years though, and postseason play may once again become a regular part of Runnin' Rebel lore. It's just a matter of finding the pieces to the puzzle.

—Sean DeFrank is
the Sports Editor
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