

## Kickin' Rebs Nab Five

After last season's 5-14 record, the worst in school history, the UNLV soccer team received some new blood with the signing of five recruits Tuesday.

Coach Barry Barto announced the signings of three high school players and two junior college players for Fall 1995.

The players are junior forward Scott Graham, junior midfielder Reine Akebrand, freshman defender Marqui "TJon" Akins and freshman forwards Lasse Anderson and Michael Griego.

Graham is a NJCAA All-American from the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill. The six-foot, 160-pound Graham led his team to a record of 26-1-0, and a fourth-place national finish last season. He contributed 24 goals and six assists, and was MVP runner-up in his region. In 1993, he helped DuPage capture the NJCAA National Championship with a record of 23-1-1.

Akebrand, a 5-11, 175-pound native of Borgmas-

tarev, Sweden, attended Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho.

Akins (5-10, 165 lbs.) attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He helped his team finish second in the state tournament, with a record of 22-3-2. Akins was a first-team all-state selection, as well as county player of the year.

Anderson comes to UNLV from Roskilde, Denmark. Anderson (6-0, 165 lbs.) lived in the United States previously, graduating in 1993 from West Carrollton High School in Dayton, Ohio. He left the school as its all-time leading scorer with 45 goals, and was an all-state selection as a senior.

Griego (6-0, 155 lbs.) is a member of the Dallas Texans club team, and is also on the U.S. under-18 national team. He attended Andress High School in El Paso, Texas. Griego is a two-time city MVP and all-district selection.

—Sean DeFrank

## Hustlin' Rebs Spank Spartans

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS  
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV baseball team pulled off the trifecta by beating San Jose State last weekend, 9-8, 5-1 and 11-9.

The sweep snapped the Hustlin' Rebels three-game losing streak and moved their season record to 28-15, improving them to fourth place in the Big West with a conference record of 9-6.

In Sunday's finale, the Rebels went into the top of the ninth inning trailing 9-8 when catcher Travis McClendon hit a lead-off triple. He then scored the tying run on a balk.

After loading the bases, the Rebels scored the winning runs on Teddy Foster's single. The win went to Tom LaRosa, raising his record to 3-5 on the season.

"Definitely the biggest hit of

the weekend," UNLV coach Fred Dallimore said about McClendon's hit.

In Friday's opener, Rebel pitcher Nate Yeskie (10-2) took a 9-3 lead into the bottom of the ninth when the Spartans suddenly went to work, scoring five runs in the inning before falling short. Yeskie fanned 14 batters and was supported by the Rebels' six runs in the top of the eighth inning.

In Saturday's game, junior southpaw Denny DeMartini fanned a career-high 13 batters to cruise to a 5-1 victory.

Third baseman Ryan Hankins (.376) paced the Rebels with a fourth-inning two-run homer to give the visitors a 2-0 lead. Hankins also scored a pair of runs and finished with three hits. Hankins and Anthony share the team lead in RBIs with 39.

In Sunday's game, the Spartans, who fell to 17-28-1 and 3-12 in the Big West, fought hard to avert the impending sweep by forcing the Rebels to battle from behind three times in the game.

"We're playing well," Dallimore said. "We just have to keep taking care of business. We've played well against Santa Barbara in the past and right now they're struggling, although they've been getting good starting pitching and team defense."

The Rebels host UC Santa Barbara in a three-game series this weekend at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

Yeskie is scheduled to start in Friday's 7:05 p.m. opener, while DeMartini is slated to pitch in Saturday's 1:05 p.m. game. Dallimore said he was undecided on the starter for Sunday's 1:05 p.m. finale.

## Rebel

continued from 11  
throwing at them intentionally," Yeskie said. "That's just part of the game. If they take offense to it, that's their problem."

Having already notched 18 wins in his one-plus seasons with the Rebels, and sporting a team-best 3.72 ERA this season, it's just a matter of time before Yeskie departs UNLV for a big-league contract.

"Every opportunity that you have, whether it's being drafted out of high school or being drafted out of college, you have to take a serious look at it and see if that's your window of opportunity," Yeskie said about leaving school early. "If that's the case,

and that opportunity presents itself, and that looks to my best advantage, then it's something I have to take into consideration."

Yeskie was drafted out of Carson High School in Carson City, Nev., by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the sixth round of the June 1993 draft. And while he may not have been ready for the jump to the pros at that time, he seems to be getting closer with every start for the Hustlin' Rebels.

"That's something that I set for myself as a goal," Yeskie said. "Out here playing baseball, if you want to do something you might as well do it the best that you can."

Yeskie said that he has no preference for any specific major league club.

"When you talk about prefer-

ence, it's just about who's going to give you the best opportunity to obtain your goal," Yeskie said. "If they provide you an avenue to get there as quick as possible, then that's what you want to do."

So in the meantime, Yeskie will continue to make life miserable for Rebel opponents. With a presence far beyond the realm of a typical 20-year-old, Nate Yeskie carries an unbeatable aura with him into each start.

"The bottom line is you've got to win," Yeskie said. "And you can't let anything interfere with what you want to accomplish."

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Here is the no-frills edition of my 1995 baseball predictions.

In the American League: East — New York Yankees, Central — Chicago White Sox, West — Oakland Athletics, Wildcard — Cleveland Indians.

In the National League: East — Atlanta Braves, Central — Cincinnati Reds, West — Colorado Rockies, Wildcard — Houston Astros.

A.L. Championship: N.Y. over Chicago in six games

N.L. Championship: Atlanta over Cincinnati in five games

World Series: Atlanta over N.Y. in six games.

The addition of Marquis Grissom to a lineup that features Dave Justice and Fred McGriff, along with the return of the best starting rotation in baseball, ends the Braves' label of under-achievers.

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With today's start of the NBA playoffs, why not some hoop picks also?

In the East, look for the Indiana Pacers and the Chicago Bulls to make it to the conference finals. Although I hate to say it, Michael Jordan's return changes the face of the playoffs. However, the Bulls will fall in seven games to the Pacers. The Pacers should have made it to the Finals last year. With their defense and rebounding, along with the addition of Mark Jackson to direct the offense, the Pacers will not be denied.

They will, however, fall to whichever team comes out of the West. And that team is the Utah Jazz. The Jazz will defeat the San Antonio Spurs in six games in the conference finals. Although lacking a solid center since Felton Spencer was lost for the year, the Jazz possess the best half-court offense in basketball and finally have the depth needed to bring Karl Malone and John Stockton their long-awaited championship crown. Let's call it the Jazz over the Pacers in seven games.

—Sean DeFrank is  
the Sports Editor  
at The Rebel Yell.

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