Swingers End Three Year Run

Golf: UNLV finishes four shots behind

BY KEVIN C. LEWIS
STAFF REPORTER

The fourth-ranked UNLV golf team carded a final-round, one-over-par 289 to finish four shots behind New Mexico State at the 1995 Big West Championships Tuesday, snapping the Rebels' three-year winning streak at the event.

Individually, UNLV was paced by a 209 total from Mike Ruiz, who finished one shot behind medalist Ryan Janasa of nmsu. Ruiz, who led the field after two rounds, was up four on Janasa going into Tuesday's final round. Ruiz was nipped by Janasa's uphill-birdie putt on the par-five 18th hole.

"It's disappointing because I played so well (Monday) and we played well as a team," Ruiz said. "But we're playing well. I know we'll do well in the regionals."

Rebel Chad Campbell tied for third with a 211. Big West defending-individual champion Chris Riley finished tied for 16th with a 217. He was two shots under par through 17 holes, but triple bogeyed the final hole.

"He wanted to play it safe," coach Dwaine Knight said. "But I felt we were playing for the championship and we needed it."

Instead Riley's approach hit a tree and caromed away along with the title.

"That ball almost cleared that tree and it would have placed us in good shape," Knight said. "But that was not to be."

The 1994 All-American was named the conference's Player of the Year, for the second straight year, by league coaches. NMSU's Ross Nettles received Coach of the Year honors. Riley was the only Rebel on the All-Big West first team, but teammates Campbell, Morales and Ruiz were named to the second team.

The NCAA Western Regionals are in Albuquerque, N.M., May 18-20, and the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio are May 31-June 3.

Football Shoots for Sellout

The UNLV Athletics Department unveiled plans Tuesday for a community-based campaign designed to bring a record crowd to the football team's 1995 home opener at Sam Boyd Stadium.

Coach Jeff Horton announced the list of community leaders that will spur the grass-roots effort. Their goal is to surpass the crowd of 32,207 fans that watched UNLV defeat Wisconsin in 1986.

"These guys believe in Rebel football," Horton said about the supporters at the press conference in the Si Redd Room at the Thomas & Mack Center. "And they will support it to get it where it needs to be before we move to the (Western Athletic Conference). And we want the biggest crowd in Nevada."

Members of UNLV's Stadium Sell-Out Committee will be responsible for selling blocks of tickets to expand the fan base for Rebel football as the program prepares entrance into the WAC in fall 1996.

The defending Big West Co-Champion Rebels face conference foe Arkansas State for the first time in school history on Saturday, Sept. 9, beginning at 7 p.m. That game follows the season opener at Rice Sept. 2.

—Kevin C. Lewis

Awards

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1982 mark of .410. Rondina has already set school records this year for runs scored (47) and doubles (22) in a season.

Rondina, UNLV's Rookie of the Year in 1994, is an All-American candidate. She was recently named Louisville Slugger's National Collegiate Player of the Week after she went 15-for-27 (.556) over eight games.

Horton, 37, took over a Rebel squad that had finished 3-8 under Jim Strong the previous year, and led them to a 7-5 overall record. For his efforts, Horton was named Big West Co-Coach of the Year.

Horton's Throwin' Rebels finished atop the Big West with a 5-1 conference record. The Rebels clinched the title with a thrilling 32-27 victory over intrastate rival Nevada-Reno at Boyd Stadium Nov. 19.

Representing the Big West in Las Vegas Bowl III Dec. 15, in a nationally-televised game on ESPN, Horton's squad manhandled Central Michigan 52-24. It was UNLV's first bowl appearance since Harvey Hyde's 1984 squad defeated Toledo in the California Bowl, 30-13.

Horton became UNLV's seventh head coach on Nov. 23, 1993 after posting a 7-4 record in one season at UNR.

The sports staffs of *The Rebel Yell* and KUNV-91.5 FM selected the award winners. Each voter selected a top three in each category, with a first-place vote receiving three points, two points for second and one point for third. The votes were then tallied to select the winners.

Gatewood received 13 points to finish ahead of rodeo star Zane Davis and baseball's Nate Yeskie. Davis received eight points, while Yeskie gained seven.

Rondina had 15 points to finish ahead of swimmer Xiaohong Wang and basketball's Tracy Titus. Wang tallied 10 points, while Titus received five.

Horton received all six first-place votes for 18 points. Baseball coach Fred Dallimore finished second with six points, while softball coach Shan McDonald had five points.

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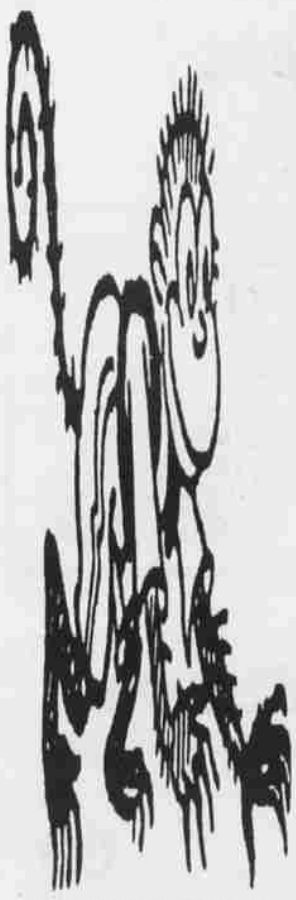

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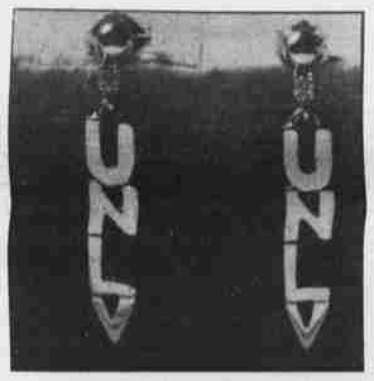

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