

Cross Country opens season at Fullerton Invitational

BY RON HIBBLE
STAFF WRITER
AND
MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

It has been eight years since a UNLV cross country team has finished better than fifth place in the Big West.

The Rebels are ready to change all that this season.

"We lost a couple of key peo-

ple from last year's team, so we need some young people to step up and meet the challenge," Head Coach Karen Dennis said in a press release.

The team is young, there is no escaping that fact. The Rebels will be returning four players from last year's squad, of which none are seniors. The veteran is junior Katie Durham, who will lead this inexperienced team as captain.

"We didn't have a consistent front-runner last year, and I doubt we will see one this year. This squad should run more as a pack, and that will only make us stronger," Dennis

said.

Dennis is starting her fourth season as the Rebel skipper and is hoping that this year will be a real breakthrough. She has led the cross country team to respectability as they finished the best they ever have last year.

Three sophomores will be filling other spots. Amy Carling, Sarah Feliz and Kamara Mayberry should provide a solid core for this team.

Freshman runner Michelle Henry is the final link to the chain for the Rebels. Dennis hopes she will step up quickly to fill the gaps.

Last season the Rebels fin-

ished fifth in the Big West, which was their best finish since 1987. Junior Usila Chepkemboi took 12th place at the league championship meet last season which proved to be one of the larger highlights of the year for the Rebels. Julie Crook was also named to the All-Big West Academic Women's Cross Country team last season.

The Rebels first test of the season was this weekend at the Cal State Fullerton Invitational where UNLV finished ninth out of a field of 12.

The Rebels had 239 points while the top finisher was Arizona with 26 points. With a 105 total runners in the match, the Rebels placed three in the top 50. Henry led the Rebel pack with a time of 20:17.62, and finished 38th.

The Rebels battled against Arizona, Asics Track West, Cal Baptist, Cal State Fullerton, Fresno State, La Verne, Long Beach State, San Diego State, Southern Methodist and UC Irvine in the 3.1 mile race.

The race was held at Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea, Calif.



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	Conference			PCT	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
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UNLV	1	0	0	1.000	28	23
Arkansas State	1	1	0	.500	44	45
Louisiana Tech	1	0	0	.000	00	00
Pacific	0	0	0	.000	00	00
New Mexico State	0	0	0	.000	00	00
San Jose State	0	0	0	.000	00	00
Northern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	00	00
SW Louisiana	0	1	0	.000	14	38
Utah State	0	1	0	.000	17	21

	Overall			PCT	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
UNR	2	0	0	1.000	83	38
UNLV	1	1	0	.500	28	61
Arkansas State	1	1	0	.500	44	45
Louisiana Tech	2	0	0	1.000	47	28
Pacific	1	1	1	.500	32	51
New Mexico State	1	1	0	.500	69	62
San Jose State	0	2	0	.000	40	92
Northern Illinois	0	2	0	.000	34	79
SW Louisiana	1	1	0	.500	70	59
Utah State	0	2	0	.000	31	59

Football

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saw an increased role due to the absence of injured starter DeJohn Branch.

"It feels great to get the chance to play," the exhausted Wilson said. "I am happy I had a chance to help us win."

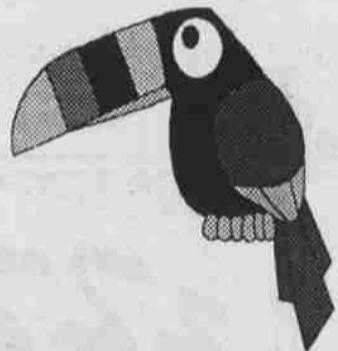
The 6-2, 235 pound Wilson continually pounded the ASU defensive line. The more Wilson ran, the more ASU gave in.

"I saw they were worn out and my plan was to keep pounding them," he said.

Brown, who threw for 199 yards, was pleased with the way the offense played.

"We are young at the receiver spot but we have some hogs in the backfield," he said. "Our receivers will mature. As the season goes along we can give them some confidence."

The Rebels finished the game with 334 yards rushing on 66 carries.



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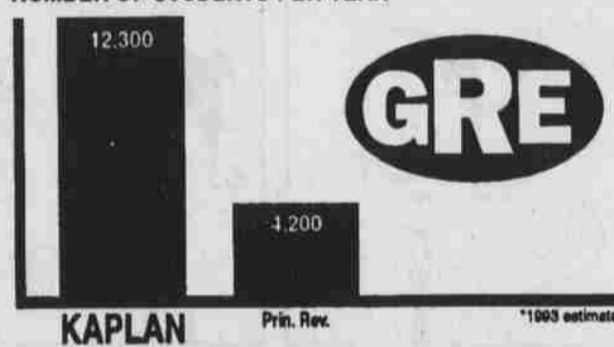
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