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Signed, sealed, but not delivered

Runnin' Rebels let first road victory slip away in second half

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

It was in the bag. With UNLV up by 15 points early in the second half, it looked like the Runnin' Rebels first road win of the season was on its way Saturday night.

The Rebels played through a sea of flying tortillas, hurled from the UC Santa Barbara students, and then held the UCSB Gauchos to just 18 points in the

first half. That also included a span of 12 minutes, which leaked over to the second half, where the Gauchos could not make a field goal.

But somehow the Rebels found a way to lose this one.

The Runnin' Rebels moved to 7-13, 4-8 in the Big West Conference, and have now dropped six of their last seven games. They are also still winless on the road at 0-8.

The Rebels were up 26-18 at the half, and had controlled most of the first frame. They took their biggest lead, 34-19, with 18:27 left on the strength of a "Sunshine" Smith three-pointer. Everything looked good for

the Rebels until the 12-minute mark hit, where the Rebels were up 44-37.

UCSB's Phillip Turner moved in on a screen the Rebels were playing and used an elbow to get past Clayton Johnson. Johnson was looking for the foul to be called, but received no help from the referee.

Instead, they gave Johnson a technical foul for yapping with the referee.

Turner hit both foul shots, and the momentum the Rebels had was lost in a matter of a minute. The Gauchos went on a quick seven-point run, with Leland McDougal hitting a jumper and Prince Danee nailing a three-pointer to tie the

game at 44-44.

Johnson did not return for the rest of the game, instead head coach Bill Bayno went with Wes Reed in the final stretch.

The final seven minutes saw the rest of the Rebels demise as Warren Rosegreen and Kevin James hit the Rebels' only field goals. Smith also hit a pair of free throws but it was no match to the Gauchos' comeback late in the game.

Another problem that plagued the Rebels Saturday night was their poor shooting from the field. They hit just 37 percent for the game.

Tony Lane led all Rebel scorers with 18 points, while Rosegreen came away with 13

rebounds and 10 points. Chancellor Davis also came up big on the offensive side with a career-high 12 assists.

Smith also scored in double figures with 12 assists and Johnson had 10 in 20 minutes of work.

The Rebels will face University of Pacific on Thursday in what could be the biggest game of the season for the Runnin' Rebels. Currently, Pacific is sixth in the BWC and beat the Rebels once at the Thomas & Mack this season.

The Rebels are ninth and looking to get into the BWC tournament.

The game is at 9 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN (cable 19).



PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Third baseman Kevin Eberwein fields a shot against Utah

Hustlin' Rebels sweep Utah

BY MARCUS HOSKIN
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Hustlin' Rebels got out their brooms and swept the University of Utah under the rug in a three-game series over the weekend at Wilson Stadium, to improve their record to 4-2.

"Three game sweeps are hard to come by," head coach Fred Dallimore said. "We're playing with a little confidence right now. There's no substitute for winning."

The UNLV bats came alive in the opener on Friday. The Rebels blasted seven doubles and right-hander Tom LaRosa pitched another gem to lead UNLV to a 9-1 victory before a crowd of 571 fans.

LaRosa threw for seven innings and gave up only one run on six hits and struck out eight for his first win of the young season.

LaRosa's only blemish came in the first inning. With the bases loaded and only one out, LaRosa gave up an RBI single to Utah first baseman Michael Heidemann. LaRosa then punched out center fielder

Matt Eeles and got right fielder Dusty Atkinson to ground out to short and escape what could have been a big inning for the Utes.

Catcher Stacy Kleiner paced the Rebels going 3-for-4 with two RBIs, and right fielder Ted Wilkes was 2-for-5 with a 2-run home run and three RBIs.

Wilkes' RBI double in the first tied the score at one, and Kleiner singled to center to score Paul Tanner and the Rebels never looked back.

Wilkes finished off the Utes in the sixth inning when he blasted a two-run homer to left field making the score 8-1.

"I'm just happy we won," Wilkes said. "I'm happy to contribute to our win, and hopefully it will get us on a roll."

On Saturday, a crowd of 612 watched as UNLV came back from a 3-1 deficit and scored three runs in the fifth inning as the Rebels beat Utah 6-4.

Shortstop Paul Tanner started the fifth inning rally by singling and stealing second. Stacy Kleiner followed with a single that moved Tanner to third. Tanner scored on a wild pitch by Utah pitcher

Doug Dent, and Brian Anthony's single sent Kleiner home.

Anthony, who entered the game hitting .133, went 3-for-3 on the day with a double and an RBI.

"I got (my confidence) back a little today," Anthony said. "Down at UCLA I struggled a bit, but it was all in my head. I was just happy to get the win."

Left-hander Mike Bauder was the winning pitcher for UNLV. Bauder pitched 6 1/3 innings and allowed four runs (two earned) on eight hits, struck out six and walked four.

Rob Luce picked up his first save pitching a perfect ninth inning while striking out one.

In the series finale on Sunday, Paul Tanner smacked a bases loaded, two-out single in the bottom of the 10th inning to help UNLV to a 5-4 win and series sweep that sent the 560 Rebel fans in attendance home happy.

"It's pretty exciting this being my first year in the program," Tanner said. "It's nice to come into a situation like that, come up clutch and do

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Lady Rebels lose weekend homestand

BY JEREMY MARTIN
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The Lady Rebels lost both games in a two-game homestand to increase their losing streak to eight just days after Coach Jim Bolla announced his resignation effective at the end of the season.

UNLV (3-17, 2-11 in the Big West Conference) lost to the UC-Santa Barbara Gauchos Friday night 76-63 and the Long Beach State University 49ers came into the South Gym Sunday afternoon and won 83-68.

In Friday's game UNLV got within five points late in the game but the Gauchos' deep rotation was too much for the short-handed Lady Rebels. UNLV is down to a seven-player roster and UCSB went with eleven players.

Sunday's game was a hard-fought battle most of the way through. The first half saw the

lead change hands seven times and the Lady Rebels went into the locker room with a 34-33 lead.

UNLV played strong the start of the second half but the 49ers relentless full-court press created 25 turnovers and the Lady Rebels could not take advantage of some opportunities.

Bolla thinks that some of his players hearts weren't in the game.

"I told (the team) I thought they quit," Bolla said. "If you are going to lose you are going to go down fighting. You just don't give up and say 'it's your game'"

To make matters worse for UNLV, LBSU first-year coach Dallas Boychuk said five of her players got food poisoning Saturday night at a strip Las Vegas restaurant on the Strip. Three 49ers did not even play in

the game. One player who was sick, forward/center Kim Barfield, scored 32 points and grabbed eight rebounds despite the food poisoning. Six-foot-four starting center Janet Davis was also sick and was limited to just 22 minutes on the floor.

"Some of our players were vomiting in the locker room during the game," Boychuk said. "A couple of our players were up all (Saturday) night."

"If you want to be an All-American center—come play against us. All you have to do is look at the last eight games and see what the centers have done against us," Bolla said.

UNLV did not attack the press effectively the whole 40 minutes and LBSU took advantage of the confusion.

"If they feel you are intimidated by the press then they are going to be very effective," Bolla said. "We didn't attack



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Loreissa Randle defends against an UCSB player in Friday's loss.

it enough times and they had one stretch that just killed us."

Bolla has five more chances to get his 300th career coaching win but with a seven-player roster and a team that is not playing 100 percent, it might be an insurmountable

challenge.

"It breaks my heart to say it, but we gave up," Guard Loreissa Randle said after the loss to the 49ers. "It doesn't matter if you are down by 20 or 30 as long as you play hard and never give up."