Rebels tennis crowned champs

UNLV tennis in command of opponents on home court

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The 36th-ranked UNLV men's tennis team played stingy hosts, as they denied the competition en route to capturing the UNLV Invitational title this past weekend at the Frank and Vicki Fertitta Tennis Complex.

Led by contributions from every player, the Rebels (3-2) shut out Utah State in the opening round 7-0, then cruised by the University of Oklahoma in the semifinals 6-1. Then they defeated the University of Colorado 4-1 to capture the tournament.

Against the Aggies of Utah State, the Rebels rested 17th-ranked singles star Roger Pettersson, leaving Pettersson's double partner Luke Smith in the No. 1 singles position.

Smith responded with a straight set, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Aggie Dave Perry.

The Rebels received points from the remainder of the singles roster, and captured the doubles point to close out the 7-0 shut-out, pushing them into the tournament semi-finals against Oklahoma, who shut-out Weber State 7-0.

Back from his one match rest, Pettersson paced the Rebels as he won in No. 1 singles by defeating Sooner Marek Medonos 6-4, 6-4.

UNLV accumulated points from the singles victories of Smith, Tim Blenkiron, Asaf Tishler, and Dominic Boulet. They proceeded to sweep all three doubles matches, earning them their final point in the 6-1 domination of the Sooners.

Next up for the Rebels, 47th-ranked University of Colorada, who defeated defending tournament champions Tulsa 5-2, on the way to the finals.

Pettersson led the squad with a straight set victory, 6-2, 6-2 over 56th-ranked Marc Bauer. Smith and Boulet also had straight set wins in the tournament finale.

The Rebels also took two doubles matches with Pettersson/Blenkiron and Smith/Tishler both coming away with Rebel wins.

The match was called once the Rebels picked up their fourth point to clinch the tournament championship.

The Rebels will be in action again on Friday, when they host New Mexico State and then again on Sunday, hosting San Jose State at the Fertitta Tennis Complex.
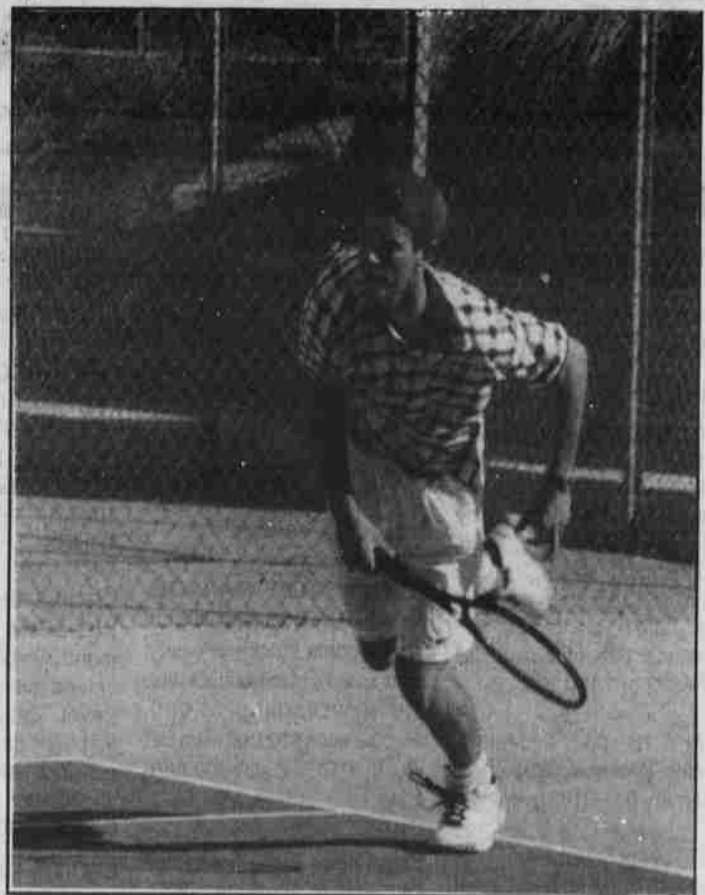

PHOTO BY MIKE LACY
Rebel, Tim Blenkiron, propelled UNLV to a tournament win.

Bench

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Okay, it's roll call at the Bench for next year's Runnin Rebels. Everyone who believes they will be playing in the scarlet and gray please step forward. Oh sorry, not you Chancellor Davis, Reed Berglund, Kevin James, Grant Rice and Eddie Corbett...

Was sitting here and thinking (shaddup!) about last season compared to this season. Last year they had three coaches and seven BWC wins and still got into the little dance. This year the Rebels have one coach and need three wins to get to the little dance in Reno.

I remember the days when I was a wee lad, sitting on my parents hardwood floor in Idyllwild, Calif., watching the Rebels on our 14" Zenith television, knowing that the Rebs would breeze through the BWC tourney, then travel out to the Big Dance, and the only question was, how far were they going to get? Now the only question is: Where will they be watching the BWC tourney at?

Speaking of winning, I looked over the women's basketball standings and couldn't help but notice that the Lady Rebels haven't won this week, or the week before, or the week before, or the week...

I wonder if there is an underground line on whether or not head coach Jim Bolla will get his 300th win. Word around the camp fire is that he is getting pretty used to that No. 299...

Did you happen to see the recruit list for the Rebels football team next season? Horton and Co. went out and found themselves a bucket-o-defense. Boy, why did they grab so many, it wasn't like they had the worst defense in NCAA DI football, was it?

And a score in from that ever-efficient Bench scoreboard (which your tuition dollars bought this semester): Tennessee Volunteers 27, UNLV Rebels 0. Tennessee QB, Peyton Manning, has already thrown for 285 yards and two TDs...

-Michael Melissa is the Sports Editor at the Rebel Yell