

1996 WAC Volleyball Tournament hosted in Las Vegas

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

The MGM Grand Garden will play host for the first Western Athletic Conference women's volleyball championship tournament this year.

The tournament will be played Nov. 26-30 in the 15,000-seat Grand Garden Arena. First-round action will start on Nov. 26, and Nov. 27 will feature four second-round battles. The semifinals will fall on Nov. 29 and the championship match will be played on Nov. 30.

The tournament will take the top 12 of the 16 WAC schools and the top two teams from each of the four divisions will receive a first-round bye.

"We are extremely pleased to be showcasing our volleyball championship at the MGM Grand," WAC Commissioner Karl Benson said. We are proud to add volleyball to the list of WAC championships the city of Las Vegas will be hosting during the 1996-97 season."

UNLV will be joining the WAC on July 1, 1996 and beginning next fall semester it will also be sporting a women's volleyball team. Having the tournament in Las Vegas will help the new UNLV volleyball program.

"It's a great opportunity for the people of Las Vegas to see volleyball," head women's volleyball coach Dietre Collins said. "It is also great exposure for volleyball. It is definitely a big help (recruiting wise) for Las Vegas. It tells people that it is a place to see and play volleyball."

The WAC is currently a 10-team division, with schools such as Air Force Academy, Brigham Young University, Colorado State, Fresno State, University of Hawaii, University of New Mexico, San Diego State, University of Texas-El Paso, University of Utah and University of Wyoming. However, Air Force and Hawaii are just now adding the women's program.

Joining the WAC next year, besides UNLV, will be Rice, San Jose State, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University and Tulsa University.

Also hosting WAC championships in the Las Vegas area will be the 1996 WAC Football Championship game, to be played on Dec. 7 at Sam Boyd Stadium, as well as the 1997 Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament, which will be played March 3-8 at the Thomas & Mack Center.

25th-ranked Rebels host another weekend home series

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

And the home stand continues.

UNLV baseball, in the middle of a 32-game home stand, will host Southern Utah University tonight at 7 p.m. They will continue the weekend stand when Southern Illinois comes to visit Earl E. Wilson Stadium for a three-game series.

Saturday and Sunday's game will both start at 1:05 p.m., while Monday's first pitch will be at 3:35 p.m.

The Hustlin' Rebels, ranked 25th by the *USA Today Baseball Weekly* poll for the second consecutive week, are 15-6 on the season and have won 14 of their last 18 games.

As for Southern Utah, they are 2-11 on the season, and played Mesa State University Wednesday, however results were unavailable at press time.

Southern Illinois, on the other hand, has only seen limited action this season and are currently 4-2 on the year. They finished up last season with a

21-30 record.

Recently, UNLV took three out of five games against Toledo University (3-2, 15-0, 13-3) and also split two with San Diego State (a 2-1 loss in 11 innings and 1-0 win on Sunday). The series saw the pitching for the Hustlin' Rebels tighten up and come through when head coach Fred Dallimore needed it the most.

Once again Dallimore will be looking to his pitching crew to pull them through another series. As a team, the Rebels have a 4.00 ERA with 123 strike outs to 99 walks. Opponents are hitting just .257 against Rebel pitching with only 15 homeruns given up on the year.

The Rebels also have three pitchers who have pitched more than 10 innings and have ERAs under 3.00. The big man who has filled the shoes of injured junior, Nate Yeskie, has been junior Tom LaRosa.

Undefeated on the year at 3-0, LaRosa has come in and proven himself as the ace of the staff. In 41.2 innings of work, LaRosa has a 2.59 ERA with 33 strike outs and 15 walks while allowing just 38

hits on the season.

Also contributing to the Rebels' pitching success, coming in from the bullpen, is junior Rob Luce, 2-1 with a 2.25 ERA and 10 strikeouts in 12 innings of work.

But a team cannot live on pitching alone (although the 1988 Dodgers would disagree) and it appears as though the Rebels have already thought of that.

As a team the Rebels are batting .307 with 227 hits and 28 home runs, in comparison to the opposition, which is batting .259 with 180 hits and 15 home runs. The Rebels also have almost double the amount of RBIs than the other squad (160-92).

The Rebels are looking much like the Cleveland Indians did last season, with six players batting over .300, and one batting over .400.

Ryan Hankins, last season's First-Team Freshman All-American, has continued on the same vein he was playing on last season when he batted .383 with 12 home runs and 49 RBIs. He led in both batting average and RBIs, and was second on the team in

home runs, behind Anthony (13).

This season, after somewhat of a slow start, Hankins has gone on a hitting binge. Right now he is batting .432 with six round trippers and 26 RBIs, all of which are tops on UNLV baseball boards. Not to mention, Hankins has struck out just eight times in 74 at bats.

One of the biggest surprises this season has been the emergence of another freshman for UNLV, Kevin Eberwein from Green Valley High School. Eberwein is batting .328 in his rookie year as a Rebel, with four home runs and 16 RBIs in 20 games.


He also filled in for senior Brian Anthony for a few games when Anthony went down with an injured wrist.

However, Anthony has come on of late and has brought back the power he used last season to hit 13 dingers and 49 RBIs. Despite starting the season slow and missing four games, Anthony has still produced big numbers for UNLV. He is second in batting with a .382 average and has knocked three out of the yard to go along with 19 RBIs.


THE BATTLE FOR THE BEST UNSIGNED BAND

IN THE COUNTRY STARTS HERE.

FREE SHOW → ARTEMUS HAM CONCERT HALL
MARCH 14, 1996 @ 7:00 P.M.

HOSTED BY:  **THE EDGE**
REDG

W/ SPECIAL GUEST **MAGIK ALEX**



MAGNAVOX
PRESENTS
UNVAILED
THE ULTIMATE BAND & BOARD EVENT

Be in on the big search for the best unsigned band in the country. Watch five of the hottest regional bands compete for the top spot at UnVaileTM, the Ultimate Band & Board Event — where the best unsigned bands around the country battle it out in **VAIL**, Colorado, March 29-31, while the best snowboarders thrash it out. Top band wins a recording contract.

YOU CAN WIN! AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIP TO VAIL, COLORADO

PORTABLE CD PLAYERS COMPACT DISCS \$50 TRAVELERS CHECKS MANGA ANIMATION VIDEOS

