

Rebels sweep the deuce

Strong pitching helps defeat University of Missouri in doubleheader

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

With the wind blowing and the rain falling, the UNLV softball team was still able to pull off a doubleheader sweep Wednesday, beating the University of Missouri 9-0 and 6-4.

The seventh-ranked Rebels moved their record to 19-6 with their sweep of the Tigers.

"Both wins were very important," head coach Shan McDonald said. "Anytime we play

somebody from a different region, and Missouri is one of the top teams from their region, it is good for us."

And good it was, as the Rebels used nine runs on 11 hits to shut out the Tigers in the first game, and end the game early due to the eight-run mercy rule.

The mercy rule states that anytime a team is up by eight or more runs and the other team does not score in their half of the inning, the game is then called.

The Rebels used six runs in the fourth inning to put the game away. Right fielder Ronnie Salcido led the inning off with a base hit. Then, center fielder Sara Mallett ended a 8-game home run drought when she hit one over the fence in left field, a shot which cleared the bleachers by a good 10 feet.

The hit parade followed with six consecutive Rebels reaching base safely on either base hits or doubles. Heather

Markowitz broke the game open with a double, which scored both Julie Crandall and Kim Rondina, who had both reached base on singles.

Teresa Branch went the distance for the win, striking out six, walking two and allowing just three hits.

As for the Rebels offense, Mallett went 2-for-3 with three runs and two RBIs. Markowitz also had a big game for the Rebels, going 1-for-3 with a double and two RBIs.

In the second half of the twin bill, the Rebels had to fight through a three-run deficit to come back for the victory.

Down 3-0 in the fourth, UNLV got two back in the bottom half of the inning when Rondina smacked a home run, scoring Crandall who had singled earlier.

The Rebels then tied it up in the fifth when Markowitz doubled into left field and scored on Andrea Long's base hit.

The following inning saw the

Rebels bust the game open when they exploded for three more runs. Crandall scored on a Heather Siegal single. With the bases full of Rebels, Missouri pitcher Robyn Acton walked Audrey Munoz, scoring Rondina. The Rebels put one more run in for good measure before they were retired for the inning.

"They jumped on us (in the third inning)," McDonald said. "You don't like to see that, but what you do like to see is that we didn't falter. We came back, though, and did a really good job."

"We're fortunate throughout the year that you get tested in different areas and continue to meet the challenge and win the test, to win the challenge. It's all part of becoming a better team," McDonald said.

Both Crandall and Rondina had the big bats in the second game, going 2-for-3 and two runs scored a piece, while Long and Rondina both had two RBIs.

Tanya Edwards went the full seven innings for the victory, giving up nine hits and allowing four runs. However, Edwards also struck out eight and walked just two Tigers in the game.

Edwards is one of four freshman who are starting for the Rebels, and they have all become a big part of a so far successful season for the Rebels. This is true especially for Edwards, who is the Rebels starting pitcher and is currently 10-3 on the year.

"I am just honored," Edwards said. "I didn't think I would be playing as much as I am. So I am just really excited that I am playing and not so much sitting on the bench. I just like being out here and cheering for my team."

The Rebels' next opponent is Northwestern University in the Pony Tournament in Fullerton, Calif., on Thursday. They will be home on March 27 to face Big West opponent, UC Santa Barbara.

Pitching helps UNLV beat San Diego

Good pitching always beats good hitting

BY MARCUS HOSKIN
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

UNLV got three excellent performances by their starting pitchers, including a perfect Friday game through five innings by junior right-hander Tista Perri.

The 24th-ranked Hustlin' Rebels completed their fourth three-game sweep of the season beating the University of San Diego 9-8, 13-0 and 8-6, improving their record to 22-7.

"We came through a tough stretch in the schedule here," head coach Fred Dallimore said. "The only thing that saved us was we got good pitching out of our starters."

On Friday behind Perri, the Rebels cruised past USD 13-0. Perri, a ground ball pitcher, was very much on his game baffling the Toreros into 14 ground outs.

He struck out three in eight innings and allowed only two hits. Perri picks up his fourth consecutive win and improves his record to 4-2 with a 3.83 earned-run-average.

"Everything was working today," Perri said. "I felt real comfortable, I threw strikes and I had control of all three of my pitches."

Perri got a little help from his teammates as second baseman Henry Jones and shortstop Paul Tanner both made outstanding defensive plays in the third and fourth innings respectively, to keep the no-hitter alive.

In the sixth, USD catcher Mickey Lippitt legged out an infield hit for the Torero's first hit of the game.

Tanner was on at the plate as well, smacking four hits and knocking in three. Scott Vincent was 3-for-5 with three RBIs and Jones was 2-for-5.

In the series opener on Thursday, the Rebels blew a 5-0 lead forcing some late inning heroics by Tanner, who singled with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth for the 9-8 victory.

Kevin Eberwein led off the ninth with a single to right. Jones dropped down a bunt that the Toreros threw to second too late, and both Eberwein and Jones were safe.

Chris Adolph then reached on a bunt single that loaded the bases. That's when Tanner came up and rapped the first pitch into left field past a drawn-in infield to break the 8-8 deadlock.

Starter Tom LaRosa, who will miss his next start due to soreness in his elbow, ran into a wall in the sixth as the Toreros scored five runs, including a grand slam by right fielder Jeb Dougherty.

LaRosa gave up six runs on 11 hits in 6 1/3 innings. Rob Luce (3-1) got the win by shutting out the Toreros in the final 1 1/3 innings.

Ryan Hankins broke out of a 1-for-21 slump by going 5-for-5. Brian Anthony and Vincent were both 2-for-5 with three RBIs, and both slugged their sixth home runs of the year.

Ted Wilkes was 3-for-4 and Tanner, Eberwein and Jones each had two hits.

The Rebels won their third straight game against USD Saturday 8-6, and picked up their 21st win of the season.

Leading 4-2 through seven innings, UNLV scored four much-needed insurance runs on six consecutive hits in the eighth and took an 8-2 advantage.

In the ninth, USD got a lead-off walk by Lippitt. Reliever Fred Koehne retired the next

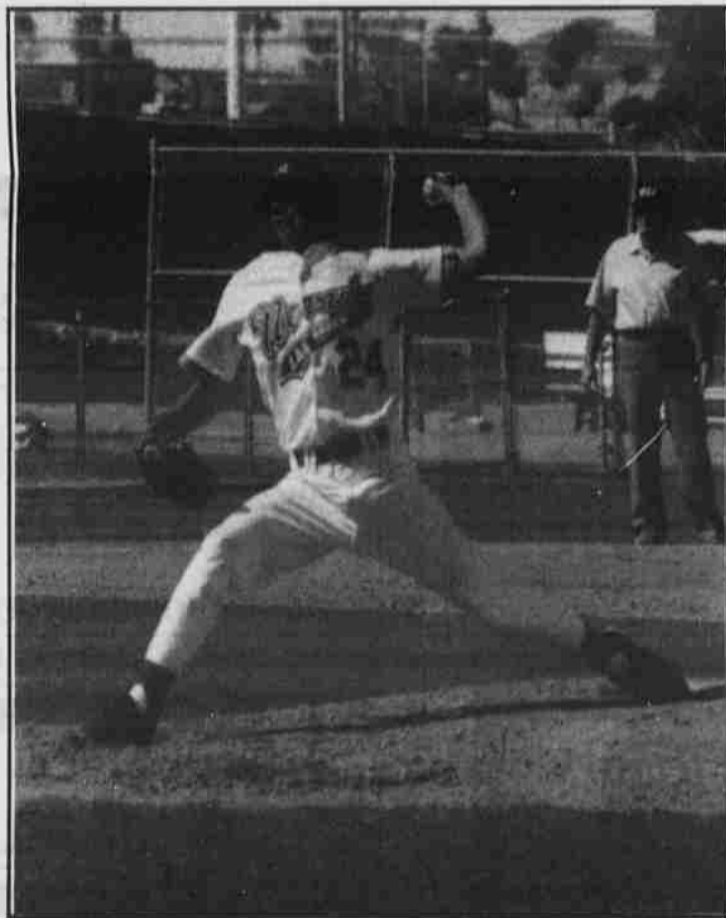


PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Rebel pitcher Mike Boudier pitched a UNLV win over USD.

two batters, but USD second baseman Matt Kuseski followed with a double that advanced Lippitt to third.

Dougherty hit a grounder to second base that should have ended the game, but Jones booted it and two runs scored. Torero third baseman Andy Kerr then lined a single to right, followed by a double by Karl Schmidt down the right field line, scoring Dougherty and Kerr and bringing USD within two runs.

Dallimore had seen enough and brought in closer Luce who got Kevin Schramm to ground out to third for the final out. Luce picked up his fourth save.

"It's a good thing we got the runs in the eighth," Dallimore said. "It just goes to show you that you can never get enough runs in this ball park on a windy day. You've just got to

take advantage and get every scoring opportunity and take advantage of it."

Mike Boudier improved to 4-2 with the win, pitching eight solid innings and allowing only two runs.

Vincent continued to swing a hot bat, going 4-for-5 with three RBIs and launched his seventh home run in the fourth inning.

Vincent was 9-for-15 on the series with two homers, eight RBIs and five runs scored. He improved his season average to .394.

The University of Washington came in Monday for a three-game series that will last through Wednesday.

Scores were unavailable at press time for Monday's game. Tuesday and Wednesday's games will start at 3:05 p.m. at Earl E. Wilson stadium.

Sprinters rush ahead

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Rebel track and field team opened its 1996 outdoor season by defeating two of three schools when they hosted the UNLV Desert Classic on Saturday at Myron Partridge Stadium.

UNLV beat the No. 3 ranked University of Texas 74-36, the University of Southern Utah 91-37 and lost to Idaho State University, 56-82.

All-Americans and fellow native Canadians Cheryl Allen and Judy Fraser finished first and third in the women's 400 meter race. Allen had a time of 54.65 and Fraser finished with 55.24. UNLV also finished first in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 47.16.

In the women's 100-meter hurdles event, freshman Francis Sealy earned the top slot with a time of 14.35 and sophomore Angela Harris came in second in the 400-meter hurdles event at 1:00.64.

The Rebels captured third and fourth place finishes in the women's 800 meter race. Michelle Henry clocked in at 2:20.71 and Katie Durham finished at 2:21.57. Amy Carling finished third in the women's 5000 meters with a time of 19:46.00.

Christine Arroyo finished third in two events. She recorded 17-2.75 in the long jump and 36-0.25 in the triple jump. Shannon Brick recorded a 5-3 mark and a second place finish in the women's high jump.