

Commentary

Destruction of a dynasty

It was not too long ago that Runnin' Rebel basketball and March Madness went hand in hand.

The Rebels were fixtures at the Big Dance from 1983-1991. At 732, UNLV holds the

third-highest winning percentage in the history of the tournament, behind Duke and UCLA.

At the start of the decade, it looked like the Rebels were going to make a run at being the team of the 90s, becoming as dominant as UCLA was back in the days of John Wooden.

One thing for sure, the madness is still here. But it's a different kind of madness.

UNLV started the decade in 1990 by demolishing Duke 103-73 for the national championship, the biggest margin of victory in any college basketball championship game.

The Rebels had an impressive 35-5 record in that same year, when they were crowned kings of college basketball. The following year, 1991, saw the squad lose only once, going 34-1.

In a two-year span, they were on the way to being the team of the 90s, going 69-6 with one national championship and two Final Four appearances.

From March 1, 1990-March 23, 1991, the Rebels won 45 consecutive games. The streak was halted against Duke in the semi-finals of the 1991 tournament, with the Rebels falling 79-77.

In the next year, the dynasty that was so firmly built began to fall like the Berlin Wall. Coach Jerry Tarkanian left UNLV (although many believe he was forced out by the administration), leaving the team without a real leader for the next three years.

In Tark's final season, 1991-92, the Rebels went 26-2, but an NCAA probation kept them from competing in post-season play.

In the first three years of the decade, they were an astonishing 95-8, and an impressive 52-2 in Big West competition.

Those same three years brought the Rebels glory, the fourth saw mediocrity, and the last three to date were disappointing.

In 1992-93 the university hired Rollie Mas-

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Rebels take three from SJSU

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

Who needs pitching when you can put up 35 runs in two games?

In 35 games this season, UNLV baseball has scored 10 or more runs 14 times, three of those times hitting the 20-plus mark, and have lost once in those 14 times.

The Hustlin' Rebs stayed true to form this weekend when they took a three-game series from Big West Conference opponent San Jose State, 24-8, 11-10 and 4-3.

With a bit of help from the wind Friday night, the No. 24 Rebels (26-8 overall, 3-0 in the BWC) showed why they are ranked. The Rebels scored in every inning except for the ninth and scored 10 runs in the sixth.

There were also nine home runs on the Rebels side, with each player knocking one out. The last time that happened was on May 11, 1986, ironically against San Jose State.

Tom LaRosa (5-0) went seven innings for the Rebels, giving up five runs (four of which were earned) on 12 hits. He struck out six and walked two. Fred Koehne finished up the game, coming in to relieve LaRosa in the eighth. Koehne allowed three runs on five hits, but struck out five in two innings of work.

Second baseman Sean Campbell and catcher Stacy Kleiner both had huge days for the Rebels. Campbell was 4-for-6 with four runs scored and two RBIs, while Kleiner also went 4-for-6 with three runs and three RBIs. Center



PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Rebel pitcher Rob Luce pitched in relief and had a win and a save.

fielder Scott Vincent went 4-for-5 with three runs and two RBIs.

An early four-run lead by the Spartans was not enough to keep the Rebels off, though, as they came up five in their half of the second inning to take the lead. The Rebels stayed one step ahead of the Spartans for the rest of the game, and even held off a last inning charge by SJSU, winning the battle, 11-10.

The biggest bat came from left fielder Chris Adolph, who was 4-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs scored.

Tista Perri got the start for coach Fred Dallimore's squad and went 7 1/3 innings, giving up nine runs on 15 hits while striking out six. Perri is now 6-2 on the year and Luce, who finished the game, grabbed his sixth save of the season.

Sunday's finale between the two schools also saw the end of a 32-game homestand by the Rebels. It was a home-

stand which saw UNLV go 26-6 during the stretch.

"It's over now," Dallimore said. "The key to our success (during this homestand) has been our starters going six or seven innings. Now we're kind of excited about going on the road. The players are tired of playing here and the coaches are tired too."

San Jose jumped out early again in the series finale when Spartan Brian Forman lined a base hit into right field, scoring two Spartan players in the second inning.

The Rebels collected their first two runs in the fifth inning to tie the game and went ahead in the sixth when first baseman Kevin Eberwein brought in right fielder Ted Wilkes on a base hit.

With the Rebs up by one in the ninth, 3-2, the Spartans were looking for a rally. And rally they did, as Rebel pitcher Chad Berry walked one and then gave up double to For-

man, scoring SJSU pinch runner Adrian Phillips from second.

The Rebels had to mount a rally of their own in the bottom half of the inning to put this game away. Adolph led the inning off with a base hit, then moved to second on Kleiner's ground ball. Campbell then reached first on a base hit while Vincent flied to center.

Now the table was set for Tanner.

On a 2-0 fastball, Tanner rocked the pitch to center, bringing in the winning run for the Hustlin' Rebels.

Tanner was 2-for-5 with the game-winning RBI and Campbell went 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Adolph also had a strong game, going 2-for-4 with two runs scored.

"I was looking for a fastball and got it," Tanner said. "We've been struggling as a team against lefties and I don't know what the problem is. Their lefty shut us down today."

Jason Davis, the Spartan starter, struck out seven and walked four while giving up just five hits to the Rebels.

"We didn't hit the ball well today," Dallimore said. "I thought Mike Bauder pitched well for us. But the key to the ballgame was that they made two defensive mistakes we make zero."

Rob Luce finished up the game and got the win for the Rebels, moving his record to 4-1 on the year. Bauder was given the start for the Rebs and went 7 1/3 innings, giving up two runs on six hits and striking out three.

Tennis wins close calls over weekend

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The 16th-ranked UNLV men's tennis team was barely beat out by No. 5 Fresno State, 4-3, at home Sunday and the 41st ranked Lady Rebels tennis team beat the University of New Mexico, 5-4.

The men's match against the FSU Bulldogs saw the top two singles slots of 6th-ranked Roger Pettersson and 30th-ranked Luke Smith destroy FSU's two top guns in single sets, 7-6, 6-3 and 6-3, 6-4, respectively.

The 3-6 spots weren't as fortunate. UNLV's Tim Blenkiron, who plays in the No. 3 spot, was defeated by FSU's Blago Petrov, 6-2, 6-0. No. 4 Asaf Tishler fell to the Bulldog's Bryan Junio 6-3, 7-5. No. 5 Rob Howarth lost to FSU's Ryan Junio, 6-1, 6-2, and No. 6 Dominic Boulet succumbed to the Bulldog's Jake Bragonier, 6-2, 6-2.

In men's doubles play, the Rebels earned a point by sweeping all three matches. The team of Smith and Tishler beat the Bulldogs combo of Junio and Fredrik Giers, 9-8.

FSU's Fredrik Bergh and P.J. Dormire fell to the team of Blenkiron and Pettersson, 8-6, and Howarth and Boulet beat the team of Bragonier and Kelly Gullet, 8-6.

"We had some good wins," head coach Larry Easley said. "It shows our guys are tough. Our top two guys can beat anybody in the country. (FSU) had a little more depth but we hung right in there with them."

"All of our guys are getting steadily better. I am hoping that all of our guys will peak (around the time of the Big West Championships that

start a month from today)."

The Lady Rebels, led by 8th-ranked Marianne Vallin, had a close call, defeating UNM 5-4 among high winds at the Fertitta Tennis Complex on Saturday.

Much like the men, the Lady Rebels needed to rely on a doubles point to gain the win. They earned the point by winning two out of three matches in doubles and that proved to be the difference.

The team of Vallin and Sofia Alenius beat UNM combo

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UNLV golf team takes fifth in invitational

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The third-ranked UNLV Swingin' Rebels finished fifth at the Morris Willaims Intercollegiate, played at the par-72 6,954-yard Hills of Lakeway golf course March 17-19.

The University of Florida shot a three-day 886, to defeat last year's champion UNLV, by 21 strokes.

Coming off a come-from-behind victory at the Golf Digest Collegiate Invitational, the Rebels looked to have more success, but finished with a total of 907.

"I thought we'd play better

in Austin," head coach Dwaine Knight said. "(We) just did not have a good week," he concluded.

On the final day of play, they erased eight shots from their second round deficit, but stayed in the same fifth place spot on the leaderboard.

UNLV was paced by senior three-time All-American Chris Riley who finished in sixth place on the individual leaderboard, with a 73-74-75-222 performance.

"He is real close to playing excellent golf," Knight said. "He is hitting the ball well, having good attempts for bird-

ies, and great putts."

Despite the team's fifth-place performance, Knight said there is room for improvement.

"We need to be a better short-game team," said Knight. "We are working on the short game in practice."

Freshmen Ted Oh continues to be a great addition to the squad, placing eighth for the tournament with a 77-74-74-225. This marks the fourth time in his inaugural season that he has finished in the top 10 of the leaderboard.

Senior Chad Campbell avenged a dismal first two

days were he shot a 79 and 80, finishing his final day at 72 and tying for 25th place with a 235.

Freshmen Charley Hoffman finished in a tie for 31st place with a 234, Chris Berry tied for 36th place with a 235, and Bill Lunde finished with a 252 in 52nd place to round out the Rebel scoring.

Knight believes that with an improvement of the short game, they will be in good shape.

"We are not good around the greens, that is why we finished fifth," said Knight. "We need to be more consistent."