

Rebels take two from Lions

UNLV climbs up ranks after Long Beach State sweep

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

After being quiet in a tough Big West Conference series over the weekend, the Rebel bats came alive against Loyola Marymount.

In a two-game sweep of LMU, UNLV scored 24 runs and collected 28 hits. And in each game they used big innings to secure their wins.

UNLV (32-11, 6-3 in the BWC) also moved up in the collegiate baseball ranks. The Rebels moved up four spots in the USA Today/Baseball Weekly poll, released Monday, to No. 21 in the nation.

With the help from the latter half of the lineup, the Rebels were able to post a 12-8 win over the Lions in a Tuesday afternoon affair. The

five through nine batters for the Hustlin' Rebs were 10-for-20 with four home runs, 12 RBIs and eight runs scored.

Enjoying the glory of the last half of the lineup was catcher Stacy Kleiner who was 3-for-4 with a home run, a double, three runs scored and three RBIs.

Centerfielder Scott Vincent also came up with a strong performance, going 3-for-5, bringing five runs, scoring two and knocking one out of the yard.

The Rebels jumped out to an early lead in the first, 5-0, and kept in front of the Lions for the rest of the game. UNLV scored once in the second, and four times in the third.

That was enough to put LMU off balance, but not enough to keep them down as they tried to mount an eighth inning rally, which fell four runs too short and translated into a UNLV lead.

Something that also helped the Rebels' cause was the five Lion errors and the nine players they left on base.

Getting the start for the Rebels was Bill Scheffels, who made his second start of the year. Scheffels pitched a solid five innings, allowing two runs on four hits with five strikeouts and three walks.

Rob Luce, who came into the game in the eighth inning, recorded the win, moving his record to 6-1 on the year.

In the first game of the series, it was the bat of Brian Anthony that gave the Rebels that extra kick they needed after the tough LBSU series. It was Anthony's grand slam in the second inning that led to a six-run outburst by the Rebels and 12-7 victory over LMU.

A single by freshman first baseman Kevin Eberwein started the Rebel second inning off. Vincent then reached base on a fielder's choice. Second baseman Sean Campbell made it aboard on an LMU error and right fielder Ted Wilkes walked to load up the bases.

A deep fly ball to right center by left fielder Chris Adolph scored Vincent, and shortstop Paul Tanner reloaded the bases with another base hit.

This set everything up for Anthony.

Anthony drove the offering from Lion hurler Jason Hueth into the right field wall where the ball became lost in the ivy of the outfield wall. After a bit of searching, first base umpire Joe Burleson signaled that it was a home run.

Vincent added some more runs in the fourth, taking a Lion pitch out of the park for a three-run homer, his 11th of the season.

The Lions tried to make this a game again in the sixth, with the Rebels already up 12-3, by putting four runs across home plate in the inning.

That was as close as they would get, as the Rebel pitching tamed the Lion's bats for the rest of the game.

Rebel pitcher Mike Bauder got the win, upping his record to 6-3 on the year.

The Rebels will be in action this weekend when they face off against conference rivals, the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos in Santa Barbara.



PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Scott Vincent tries to catch-up with an LMU fastball in Tuesday's 12-8 victory. It was the Rebel's fifth straight win.

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