

Commentary

Spring sports hit the ranks

Straight from the I Didn't Know That department:

UNLV has 14 varsity sports, five of which are ranked in the top 50 and four in the top 25. Now take a guess how many of those five are fall semester sports? Two? Nope. Three? Not even close. One, you all ask, hopefully? They could only wish.

So, you eagerly ask, which ones are they? How about golf? Try the third-ranked team in the nation. Next up: softball? That's right, the ladies are ranked 11th in the country. What's that you say, how about baseball? How does No. 20 sound? And what about men's tennis? Same as the last team mentioned (No. 20 for those of you scoring at home). And although women's tennis is ranked, their ranking has been on a downward spiral but they haven't crashed yet, still holding tight at No. 49.

So go ahead, ask yourself this question now: What makes these sports so good? Glad you asked.

Looking at golf, which is technically a year-round sport played from Sept. 15 to May 29 (if they are lucky enough to make it to the NC double-A championships; if not, then they play through April 30), it has been marked by the quick rise of some young talent. Players like Charley Hoffman, who sent a wild Rebel crowd into a near riot-like frenzy at the IGT Rebel classic (somewhere in that phrase there is a contradiction. Here's a hint: golf and near riot-like frenzy), with an 80-foot putt to win the tourney on the final day. Plus, you have Ted Oh, who, at that same tournament, shot a 71 on the final day to win the sucker.

There is also a strong balance of veterans on the squad. Gilberto Morales, Chad Campbell and Chris Riley (the pearl in the oyster for coach Dwaine Knight) have played consistently all season and have shown leadership on the links.

But there is more to this club than just some good golfers. They also have heart. They have

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Off the Bench

MICHAEL
MELISSA

Late inning homer sends crowd into frenzy

UNLV softball snaps a two-game losing skid

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

If the Rebel softball team was falling on hard times, Wednesday's double header should elevate them back on their feet.

The 11th-ranked UNLV softball team snapped its two-game losing skid with an impressive 3-1 victory over Cal State Fullerton in the first half of the deuce.

And in the second game of the twin bill, the Rebels pulled off a come-from-behind victory, overcoming a defensive collapse in the fourth inning.

The sweep over the Titans lands UNLV in third place in the Big West Conference with a 15-9 conference record, 32-17 overall.

In the first game, UNLV received a pitching gem from pitcher Teresa Branch (20-8), who yielded one run and struck out three in a seven-hit complete game effort.

Branch got all the offensive support she needed from shortstop Kim Ron-



PHOTO BY MIKE LACY

Teresa Branch fires a strike in the Rebels' 3-1 win over the Titans in the first game.

na and left-fielder Amy Alves. Rondina was 3-for-3 with an RBI single and a stolen base. She finished up the double-header going 5-for-6 with a home run and three RBIs.

Alves was 2-for-3 in the first game with an RBI and a stolen base.

With the game knotted at one in the bottom of the third, Alves ripped an offering into right-center, scoring Sara

Mallett who reached base earlier in the inning.

Then in the bottom half of the fifth inning, Alves singled to right and stole second. Rondina proceeded to rip a single up the middle scoring Alves, and giving the Rebels an insurance run.

With the traditional strong Rebel pitching and defense in full effect, UNLV held the Titans scoreless in the final in-

nings, securing a much-needed conference win.

The second game saw the Rebels win an exciting thriller that overshadowed some defensive woes that the team endured.

In the top of the first inning, the Titans jumped on the scoreboard with a Chris Zboril homerun off of hurl-

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UNLV golf stumbles on final day of tournament

Golf loses four-stroke lead on final day

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Last Sunday at the PGA Masters tournament in Augusta, Ga., Greg Norman gave up a huge lead on the final day leading to an upset by Nick Faldo.

Norman's struggle on the final day was exactly what happened to the third-ranked UNLV golf team on Tuesday at the Karsten Creek Collegiate tournament in Stillwater, Okla.

Ahead of the University of Florida by four strokes going into the third and final day of the final tournament of the season, it looked as if the Rebels were going to golf their way to their third championship of the season.

When the day began, UNLV was four strokes up on the Gators in first place, but when the day was over, the Rebels were 24 strokes off and in third place behind the champion Gators.

The three big guns for the Rebels, Chris Riley, Gilberto Morales, and Ted Oh, each had final days which they soon wish to forget.

Riley, the team's leading golfer, continued his late sea-

son slump firing a final day 84, 14 shots over par. This was Riley's worst round of golf in Rebel spikes.

His three-day total, a 234, landed him in a tie for 49th place.

Oh, who is making big contributions as a freshman, golfed a final day 84, helping the team stumble down the leaderboard.

His three-day total was 230, good for 28th place.

Morales golfed an 83 on the final day, and finished with a three-day total of 231 and in 33rd place.

Chad Campbell golfed better than the above mentioned golfers on the final day golfing a 77, but still finished with a

231 and in a tie for 33rd.

The lone highlight for the Rebels was Mike Ruiz, who finished in a ninth-place tie for the tournament, 11 shots behind medalist Josh McCumber of Florida.

Chris Berry, who was a qualifier for the trip, representing the sixth man, golfed a 223 for 11th place.

This tournament saw the Rebels fall from first to third place thanks to their second worse round of golf as a team this season. They did use the same line-up for the second consecutive tournament, and hope to rebuild from the loss when they play in the Big West Conference tournament in San Jose at the end of the month.

UNLV loses major athletic donor

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

Marilyn Redd, a major donor to and support of UNLV athletics, died Wednesday after a battle with cancer. She was 60-years-old.

Redd donated funds for reconstruction and renovations to the men's and women's basketball offices in the Thomas & Mack Center. She also made the initial donation to create the Si Redd room at the T&M, in honor of her husband, William "Si" Redd, on his 70th birthday.

"The UNLV Athletic Department is saddened by the news

of Marilyn's death," UNLV athletic director Charles Cavanaugh said. "She was a critical part of our athletic family. She and Si were so generous with their major donations to UNLV. She truly loved the university."

In 1994, the Redd's donation allowed for the construction of the Marilyn and Si Redd Athletic Training Complex, which has been one of the biggest additions to the Lied Athletic Complex.

She also gave the UNLV golf team stock in the International Gaming Technology company, of which she and her husband are founders.

Another addition to UNLV

athletics Redd contributed to was the four-sided scoreboard above the T&M arena. The scoreboard has color video screens for replays and game action and is dubbed Redd Vision. The Redd's provided the largest portion of money for the addition.

She has also given contributions to the women's softball team, the Jean Nidetch Women's Center and the UNLV foundation.

The Redds also own the Oasis Resort Hotel in Mesquite. The resort flew their flags at half mast today in tribute to their owner.

Redd is survived by her husband, Si; son, Roy J. Bunch;

mother, Lucille; stepfather, Raymond Shaw; sister, Marjorie Francisco; granddaughters, Corina and Janette; and great grandson, Dominique.

A public viewing will be held at the Palm Mortuary, 7600 S. Eastern Ave., on Friday from 4-7 p.m. Memorial services will be conducted at Palm Mortuary on Saturday at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the UNLV Athletic Department, where a Marilyn S. Redd Scholarship Fund has been established. The funds for the annual scholarships go to students worthy of the award at both UNLV and UNR.