

Hustlin' Rebels take two wins from No. 2-ranked Rice

By Eric Gruzen
Staff Sports Writer

UNLV's Hustlin' Rebels baseball team raised their overall record to 15-11, 3-3 in the Western Athletic Conference with two huge wins this past weekend against the No. 2-ranked Rice Owls, which had a perfect 6-0 record in the WAC before traveling to Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

The opening game of the series was perhaps the best played game of the season for the Rebels. Both teams were scoreless through 10 innings until the Rebels scored the game's only run in the bottom of the 11th inning, for the 1-0 win.

The bases were loaded when Chris Adolph stepped up to the plate and hit a lazy fly ball to the outfield. Ryan Hankins, who was on third, returned to the base to tag up. The ball was caught, the Rice outfielder gunned the ball home, beating Hankins to the plate. But in a spectacular collision, Hankins ran over the catcher and jarred the ball loose to give the Rebels the victory.

The Rebels' victory can be attributed to their pitching.

Starter Jerimiah Tipton threw a great game. He went seven-and-one-third innings, allowing only four hits and striking out 10. Jimmy Smith came in and held Rice in check in his two-and-two-thirds innings. Chris Humphries (2-0) struck out two in his one inning of work and got his second victory of

the year.

"The 1-0 game really surprised me," Hustlin' Rebels Head Coach Rob Soesbe said. "They have such good stats and are such a good offensive ballclub."

"I wouldn't have bet a dime to win a million dollars that it would have been an 11-inning 1-0 ballgame," he continued. "It was a great ballgame by both teams. But Saturday was completely different. They had a bunch of errors and so did we."

On Saturday Rice defeated the Rebels, 20-12. Fifteen of the 32 total runs were unearned due to UNLV's three errors and Rice's 10 errors.

The Rebels scored nine unearned runs to stay competitive in the game, but it wasn't enough as Rice sealed the victory with a four-run eighth and ninth inning.

Starter Tista Perri (3-3) suffered the loss. He went three-and-one-third innings, giving up eight runs, six earned and allowing eight hits.

Of the relievers, Ryan Woodward was the most unlucky. In his one-and-two-third innings, he allowed seven runs, three of which were earned.

Offensively for the Rebels, Kevin Eberwein went 2-for-3 with his fourth home run of the season. He scored three runs and had two RBIs.

Ryan Ludwick added two hits, two runs scored and two RBIs in the Hustlin' Rebels' loss.

In the concluding game of the

series, the Hustlin' Rebels came out firing against Rice. Rice got on top with a run in the first inning, but the Rebels came back in the second with 11 runs of their own and they cruised to a 15-8 victory.

The Rebels exploded offensively, hitting four home runs.

Catcher Toby Hall went 4-for-5 with three RBIs and three runs scored. He also hit his first home run of the season.

Second baseman Clay Belding went 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI.

Curt Anthony hit his third home run of the season, while Jesse Pryor hit his second in a 2-for-3 game. Eberwein hit his second of the weekend and his fifth of the season in the finale.

Starting pitcher Mike Zipser (4-2) went seven innings, striking out five and allowing three earned runs for the victory.

"I was happy with the two out of three," Soesbe said of the weekend games.

"We needed at least two wins to keep us in the race. It keeps us one game out of first place in the WAC. But we've got a lot of tough teams to play and it's a long haul to go."

The long haul continues Tuesday when the Hustlin' Rebels take on in-state rivals, the University of Nevada, Reno.

The game begins at 3:05 p.m. at Wilson Stadium.

The Rebels will be at Utah next weekend to take on the Utes for three games.

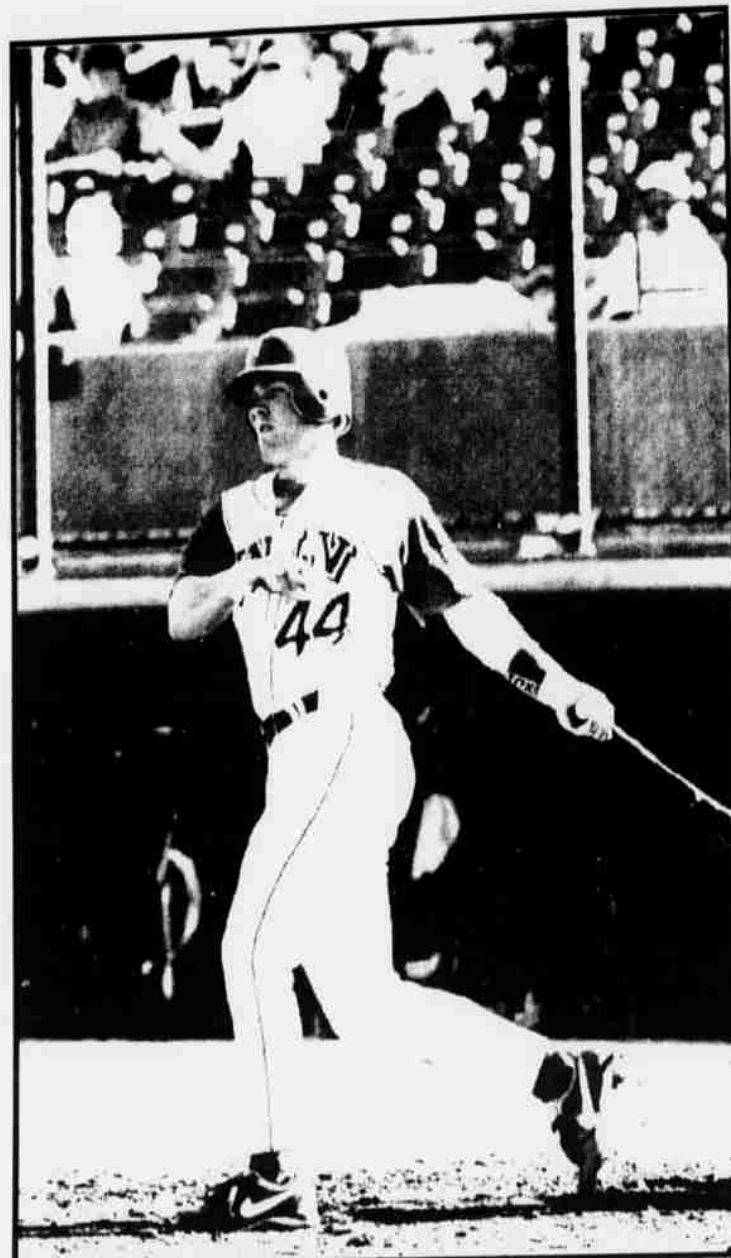


Photo: Gregg Benson/Rebel Yell

Catcher Toby Hall takes a big swing for the Hustlin' Rebels.

RUNNIN' REBELS,

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UNLV jumped ahead in overtime with a 5-0 run and held the Rainbows scoreless for the first four minutes in overtime. The Rebels led 81-76 with 50 seconds remaining, thanks in part to Clark and Nesby, who scored 10 points between them in the final period.

The Rainbows would get no closer than three points for the remainder of the overtime period as UNLV kept the defensive pressure on Hawai'i.

Smith hit two free throws to make it an 84-80 game with 20.2 seconds left to play and it appeared those shots iced the Rebel win. He added two more free throws and Nesby hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to put the game to rest.

"If it wasn't for our defense we wouldn't have been in this game," Clark said. "Everybody played hard and not one player made this game. It was a five player game."

Nesby led the Rebels with 26 points while Clark had a double-double, scoring 22 and grabbing 15 rebounds. Smith had 13 and Warren Rosegreen finished with 12. James had a strong game at point, coming off the bench and getting eight assists.

Ambrozich paced the Rainbows with 22 points and 10 rebounds, while Alika Smith added 16.

UNLV out rebounded Hawai'i, 39-33, and had just 12 turnovers to the Rainbows' 20. The Rebels shot 42 percent from the field while Hawai'i hit at a 53 percent mark.

Women's track and field leaves competition in dust

By Ray Brewer
Sports Editor

Welcome to UNLV's version of Jeopardy.

CATEGORY--- Athletics.

ANSWER--- Talented, hard working, united and full of potential.

QUESTION--- What is the 1997 women's track and field team.

In the Rebels' spring season opener this weekend, they dominated a field of six universities, easily capturing a majority of the events at the 1997 UNLV Desert Classic at Myron Partridge Stadium.

Southern Utah, Cal Lutheran University, Cal Poly Pomona, College of Southern Idaho and Utah Valley State all competed.

UNLV, which placed seven out of 13 teams in the Western Athletic Conference Indoor Championships, dedicated this meet to Head Coach Karen Denise, who has temporarily left the team to attend



Denise

to family issues.

"We are dedicating this meet to our coach," junior sprinter Hydianna Harper said. "We love our coach and put our best efforts for her."

Assistant Coaches Fred Sowerby and Lisa Austin filled in for Denise this weekend, as it was business as usual for the team.

"The kids have done a real good job helping out--a total team effort," Sowerby said.

UNLV's performance over the weekend speaks for itself.

They posted seven first place finishes and four second place finishes in 18 events.

"The team looks like it has a lot of potential going into conference," sophomore Michelle Henry said.

According to Sowerby, the Rebels' strength is the 4x100 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay.

"In the 4x100, we expect to be in the top six in the country," Sowerby said. "We have one of the

best 4x400 teams in the country."

In the 4x400 meter relay, UNLV's women's team won with a time of 4:05.06. In the 4x100 meter relay they won with a time of 45.04.

Harper, who registered a meet-record time of 23.58 in the 200 meter at the WAC Indoor Championships, won the 100 meter race in 11:44. Harper is also an instrumental part of the winning relay teams.

"My goal is to get everybody to the nationals, a big team," Harper said.

Junior Alicia Tyson won the women's 200 meter in 23.69, while sophomore Angela Harris won the women's 400 meter hurdles (1:02.27).

Sowerby believes the Rebels will be stronger once Harris and Tyson run to their abilities.

"We're waiting for some girls to run to their All-American potential," he said. "We have showcase events that are taking care of themselves all year."

Henry placed second in the 1500 meter, clocking in at a time of 4:47.37, while Nadine Nembhard took second in the women's 800 meter (2:14.88).

Christine Arroyo, a senior from Basic High School in Henderson, won the women's triple jump (36-5) and placed second in the long jump, with a jump that measured 16-9.

Rebel Safiya Ingram won the women's shot put, throwing the shot 46-5.5.

The team will be back in action March 29 at the Fresno Relays.

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"We are dedicating this meet to our coach... We love our coach and put our best efforts for her."

—Hydianna Harper,
Track & Field Junior sprinter