



Rebel golf is rained out



Rain forces the cancellation of final 18 holes

By Ray Brewer
Sports Editor

On the way back from the Golf Digest Collegiate, none of the Rebel golfers had "Singin' in the Rain" blasting from their headphones.

If anything, the team was rewording the lyrics of this tune to "Cryin' in the Rain."

The No. 1-ranked Rebel golf team placed second at the prestigious 15-team Golf Digest Invitational played at the par-72, 7,018-yard TPC Woodlands in Houston, Texas this past weekend, as rain forced the cancellation of the tournament's final round.

After two rounds of play, New Mexico held a slim one-shot advantage over the Rebels. With the final round being washed out, the Lobos won the tournament with 588 total strokes, one better than the Rebels' 589.

"There is nothing you can do to control that type of situation,"



Anderson

Rebel Coach Dwaine Knight said. "That's golf."

The Rebels, who were defending champions of the event, got a taste of what they'll be facing down the road, as every team in the field will be in contention for the national title.

"We did a good job," Knight said. "This was a good test to see where we stood."

The squad fired a 298 in the first round, then followed with a 291

in the second round. The overall wetness of the course led to some high scores for all teams involved, with the Rebels finishing at 13 over par.

"The wetness of the course on the first day was kind of rough," Knight said.

"They were real anxious to put up a good round."

Individually, the Rebels were led by sophomore Ted Oh and junior Bill Lunde, who both

shot 146, good enough for eighth place overall. Freshman Jeremy Anderson, in his first tournament back on the traveling team, shot a 147 for a 13th place tie.

Senior Mike Ruiz carded a two-round 152, while senior Gilberto Morales posted a 153 total. After firing a first-round eight over par 80, Morales got back on track with a second-round 72.

According to Knight, tournaments like this are instrumental in preparing the team for the long haul and also in providing the drive

Golf Digest Collegiate

TPC Woodlands 54 holes

Par: 72

Yardage: 7,018

Final Results

1. New Mexico	299	289	588
2. UNLV	298	291	589
3. Clemson	295	297	592
4. Houston	296	299	595
4. TCU	301	294	595
4. Arizona State	302	293	595
7. North Carolina	300	296	596
8. Virginia	307	291	598
9. SMU	299	300	599
10. Texas	295	305	600

Individual Results

T8 Ted Oh	73	73	146
T8 Bill Lunde	74	72	146
T13 Jeremy Anderson	74	73	147
T37 Mike Ruiz	77	75	152
T43 Gilberto Morales	80	73	153

for a school-first national championship.

"We are playing well in big, prime-time tournaments," Knight said. "Our schedule and the courses we play really set us up for the national championship."

Last season, the squad was one step away from the coveted national title, placing second out of 30 teams in the NCAA Champi-

onship Finals. Arizona State squeezed by the Rebels by three strokes, carding a four-day 1186, compared to UNLV's 1189.

With several high finishes this season, including two team tournament titles, the Rebels appear to be in control of their own fate.

"By post-season, we'll be ready," a confident Knight said.

Positive attitude is key to Lunde's success

Rebel golfer is parlaying a big success on the greens

By Ray Brewer
Sports Editor

What a difference a year makes.

And for Rebel golfer Bill Lunde, what a difference a positive attitude makes.

Lunde, a junior from Poway, Calif., spent all of last year battling for a spot on the Rebels' traveling squad.

On most occasions he was left off, only participating in five tournaments in the 1995-96 season.

But this season it's been a different story for Lunde, as he has parlayed his new and improved positive attitude into a big success on the greens.

Not only has Lunde restored his golf career, he has also given the Rebels another weapon for



Lunde

their drive for a national title.

"Him stepping up has made us an immediate contender," UNLV Head Coach Dwaine Knight said of Lunde. "He has made an effort toward the game and staying positive ... He's turning into a solid player."

For Lunde, a positive attitude is everything.

"I've seen a change in my attitude," he said.

"I'm more patient and more confident."

Lunde has seen several benefits resulting from his hard work—primarily, winning his first collegiate tournament. After carding an impressive opening-round 65, seven under par, Lunde went on to be crowned medalist at the Taylor Made Big Island Classic in Kong, Hawai'i (a three-day 210).

"The win in Hawai'i opened the window for his confidence," Knight said.

"He is trying to let his clubs do the talking for him."

After his heroics in Hawai'i, Lunde found his stroke in the Rebels' preceding tournament.

He placed in a tie for eighth place last weekend at the Golf Digest Invitational, firing a 143, the best on the Rebel roster. A few weeks ago at the Adilla Collegiate Golf Classic, he shot a three-day 226, good enough for a 37th place tie.

"I'm trying to work on staying positive," Lunde said.

"Hopefully, I can build off of every tournament and prepare for the NCAA's."

Knight couldn't be more pleased with the improvements his "sleeper" has made.

"I think his confidence has improved a lot, as well as his ability to drive the ball into play," Knight said of Lunde.

"The confidence he found has grown each week."

Lunde's efforts haven't gone

Bill Lunde
6-2, 175-pound, Junior
Poway, Calif.

Rounds: 20
Strokes: 1,472
Average: 73.60
Top-20: 4
Top-10: 4
Top-5: 1
Rounds Under: 6

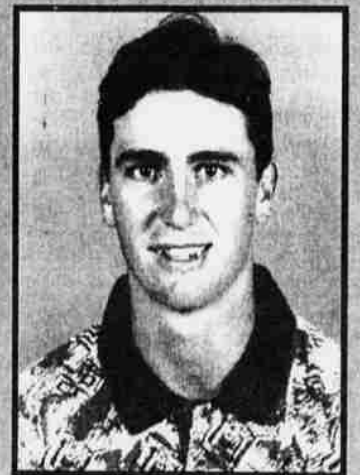
Team season records:

All of these records were set at the Taylor Made Big Island Classic, where he took medalist honors.

Low individual score (3 rounds): 210, 6-under
Low individual round: 65, 7-under

Spring Season Results

Medalist— Taylor Made Big Island Classic, 210
T37— Adilla Collegiate Golf Classic, 226
T8— Golf Digest Invitational, 146 (two rounds)



unnoticed.

He was recently featured in *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd" section and he also received some notoriety in *Golfworld*.

Has all of this attention changed the man who once was just another golfer on the course?

Of course not.

"I'm the same person," Lunde said.

"It hasn't affected me in any way. I can't let it get to my head. I have to keep playing."

Lunde credits his teammates for his improvements on the greens.

"What helps me is everyone on the team," Lunde said.

"We have so much depth. Competing (for a spot on the traveling team) has helped me individually."

With this first place finish in Hawai'i and a strong spring season, Lunde has been ranked No. 32 in the nation.

But for this Rebel golfer, there's plenty of eye-opening performances left in his golf bag.

"It was only one tournament," Lunde said.

"I need to work to be stronger and more consistent."

"Him stepping up has made us an immediate contender...He has made an effort toward the game and staying positive ... He's turning into a solid player."

—Dwaine Knight,
UNLV head coach on
Rebel golfer Bill Lunde