

Rebel golfers shooting for WAC title

By Ray Brewer
Sports Editor

For the UNLV golf team, it's time to get down to business.

It's post-season time.

When dreams become a reality and the cream of the crop rises to the top.

The UNLV golf team will hit the greens today at the Western Athletic Conference Championships at the Poppy Ridge golf course (Par 72—7,121 yards) in Livermore, Calif.

The Rebels, who are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation by all three major golf polls, are in search of their first-ever WAC Championship.

UNLV shot a 286-287-286—859 in last year's competition to finish second out of 16 teams, seven strokes back of team champion TCU.

Individually, two players finished in the top five, as Jeremy Anderson fired a 70-70-73—213 to place third and Gilberto Morales finished in a four place tie with a 73-70-71—214.

This time around, the Rebels fell they can bring home the title.

"We have had a very consistent year," UNLV golf coach Dwaine Knight said. "We have six wins, which is an all-time high even with post-season victories."

It has been a record breaking season.

In addition to winning a school-record six tournaments, the Rebels rewrote the record books in winning the John A. Burns In-

tercollegiate on Feb. 18-20. The win was the Rebels' best showing ever, as they shattered six marks.

•It was the first time UNLV has recorded three straight tournament wins.

•It was the first time UNLV won more than four events in an season.

•UNLV's third round total of 267 set the record for the Rebels' lowest round ever. The old mark was 271 at the 1992 NCAA West Regional.

•UNLV's 21-under par third round set the record for the



Rebels' lowest under-par round ever. The old mark was a 17-under par the the 1992 NCAA West Regionals.

•UNLV's tournament total of 829 set the record for UNLV's lowest-ever tournament total. The

"We have had a very consistent year. We have six wins, which is an all-time high, even with post-season victories... We are very excited about having a chance to compete at the WAC Championship."

Dwaine Knight,
UNLV golf coach

old mark was 832 at the 1990 NCAA West Regional.

•The Rebels' 35-under par tournament set the record for

UNLV's lowest-ever under-par total. The old mark was 32-under par at the 1990 NCAA West Regional.

Plain and simple, the Rebels are on fire.

That includes a win in their latest outing at the BELLSOUTH Yellow Pages Intercollegiate in Cary, N.C.

The Rebels posted a 287-283-298—868 to win the event.

"Winning in North Carolina, which is a place we don't usually have much success, shows the strength and consistency of this team," Knight said. "We have won

all over the country, which I think is very impressive."

The title at BELLSOUTH was Knight's 30th tournament championship with UNLV.

The Rebel have a distinct advantage over the competition they will be facing as they have an impressive 32-8 record this season against the field of 15 other teams.

UNLV has a winning record against every team in the field except UTEP, which they are 1-1 against. They are undefeated against nine WAC teams this year and haven't faced San Jose State or Wyoming.

Competing for the Rebels this week are: senior Bill Lunde, junior Chris Berry, junior Charley Hoffman, sophomore Jeremy Anderson and freshman Scott Lander.

Of this group, Anderson is the most consistent.

In winning the BELLSOUTH, Anderson, who is ranked third in the nation, became the first Rebel since Chris Riley (3) and Edward Fyrratt (2) to win more than one tournament in a season.

He also won the GolfWorld Invitational back in November.

Anderson has finished in the top 10 in seven out of 11 events this season and was named WAC golfer of the week for the weeks of April 15 and Feb. 18. Recently, Anderson was selected to represent the United States at the Palmer Cup in St. Andrews Scotland.

Lunde, who placed 25th in last year's tournament with 73-73-73—219, is ranked 11th in the nation by the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings. He has been selected to represent the United States as part of the US vs. Japan Matches in Chiba, Japan this summer.

This tournament will mark Hoffman, Berry and Lander's first WAC Championship.

Hoffman is ranked 15th in the nation and has three top-5 finishes this year, while Berry is 79th in the nation and has recorded four top-20 finished the season.

Lander has turned in two top-20 finishes this year and posted a career best-seventh place finish at the Cleveland Golf/Morris Intercollegiate back in March.

DWAINE KNIGHT/ head coach



JEREMY ANDERSON/ sophomore

STROKE AVG. 71.81
LOW TOUR. SCORE 203
LOW ROUND 65 (-7)
BEST '97-98 FINISH 1ST (TWICE)
BEST CONF. FINISH 3RD (213), 1997

CHRIS BERRY/ junior

STROKE AVG. 73.90
LOW TOUR. SCORE 203
LOW ROUND 65 (-7)
BEST CONF. FINISH T11TH (226), 1996

CHARLEY HOFFMAN/ junior

STROKE AVG. 72.72
LOW TOURN. SCORE 207
LOW ROUND 68 (-4)
BEST '97-98 FINISH 2ND
BEST CONFERENCE FINISH NONE

SCOTT LANDER/ freshman

STROKE AVG. 74.03
LOW TOUR. SCORE 215
LOW ROUND 69 (-3)
BEST '97-98 FINISH 7TH
BEST CONFERENCE FINISH NONE

BILL LUNDE/ senior

1997 ALL-AMERICAN
STROKE AVG. 72.25
LOW TOUR. SCORE 207
LOW ROUND 65 (-7)
BEST '97-98 FINISH 3RD
BEST CONFERENCE FINISH T25 (219), 1997

UNLV GOLF

Winner of 4 of last 7 tournaments

UNLV vs. THE WAC (32-8)

Air Force	1-0	San Jose State	0-0
BYU	3-0	SMU	4-0
Colorado State	2-1	TCU	4-3
Fresno State	2-0	UTEP	1-1
Hawaii	2-0	Tulsa	2-0
New Mexico	7-2	Utah	1-0
Rice	1-0	Wyoming	0-0
San Diego State	2-0		

CURRENT RANKING:

1st MasterCard Rankings
1st Golfweek
1st College Golf Coaches Association

1997 WAC FINISH: 2nd (286-287-286—859).

1997 WEST REGIONAL FINISH: 1ST (289-280-278—847)

1997 NCAA FINISH: 22nd (300-293—593) missed the cut

1997-98 TEAM TITLES: PING/Golfweek Prev., Rolex Match Play Champ., PING Arizona Inter., Taylor Made/Waikoloa Inter., John A. Burns Inter., BELLSOUTH Yellow Pages Inter.