

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **S P O O R T S** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



BASEBALL

LAS VEGAS, NEV. -- Coach Fred Dallimore begins his fourth season as the UNLV head baseball coach this weekend as the Rebels open the 1977 season by hosting Brigham Young University in a three-game series on the UNLV campus field Friday and Saturday. The Rebels and the Cougars will play three nine-inning games, a single game at 1:30 p.m. on Friday and a doubleheader on Saturday starting at 11:00 a.m.

Dallimore, the former All-American pitcher at Nevada, Reno, has announced a starting line-up for Friday's opener which includes six returning players from last season's record-setting 31-25 team.

Starting in the infield for the Rebels will be Sophomore Mike Guerra at firstbase, junior Vance McHenry at secondbase, junior Ron Mears at shortstop, and senior Bill Robison at thirdbase. Guerra was a reserve last season, hitting only .158 in brief appearances, but he has come on strong in pre-season drills this fall and spring.

McHenry is a junior college transfer and in pre-season exhibition games this spring hit .310. Ron Mears, also a jc transfer, hit .360 in the pre-season 10 games and Dallimore feels that McHenry and Mears could give the Rebels the best fielding team ever.

Robison returns after starting for the Rebels last season as a junior college transfer. Robison hit .300 for the Rebels last year, appearing in

54 games and in the 10 pre-season games this spring, had a .440 average at the plate.

The starting Rebel outfield against BYU will be an all-veteran unit with junior Mike Slavenski in leftfield, senior Bob Yount in center, and junior Mike McLellan in rightfield. Last year, Slavenski hit .279, Young .288 and McLellan carried a very active .315 average at the plate.

The battery for the Rebel opener will be junior college transfer Jonn Freitas behind the plate and senior three-year letterman Manny Abeyta on the mound. Freitas, from San Lorenzo, California, hit .470 in the Rebel pre-season games and Abeyta was the top pitcher on last year's squad, compiling an 8-4 record with a 3.16 earned run average for 94 innings pitched.

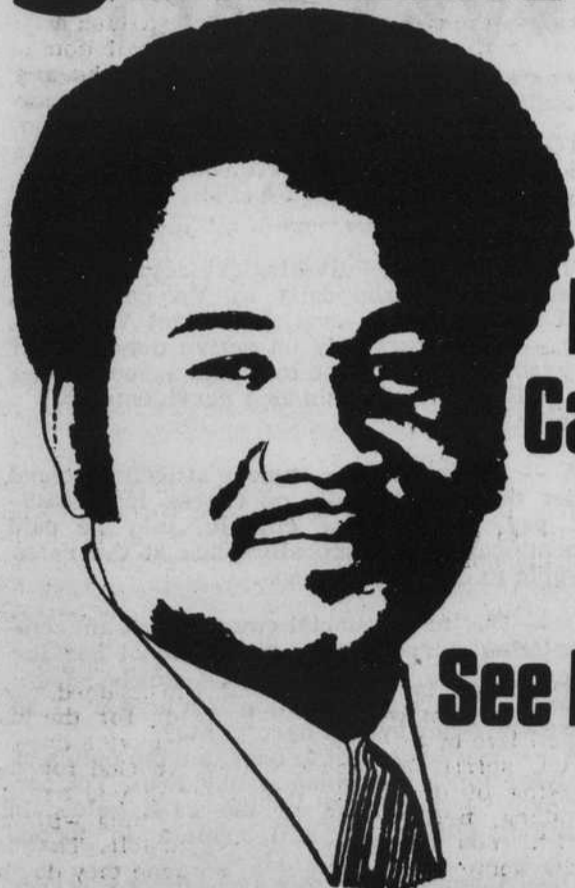
Dallimore is very confident about the chances of this year's Rebels doing very well, despite a rugged 65-game schedule which includes three teams who were in the final eight in the College World Series last year.

Commented Dallimore, "This is the furthest along we've ever been before a season started, and, talentwise this is the best club we've ever had at UNLV. We've got more depth at every position, good fielding, and I know we can score runs."

With all that optimism, Dallimore feels the real key will be pitching as he hopes his eight-man staff can stay healthy during the course of his tough schedule.

After this weekend season-opening schedule with BYU, The Rebels will be on the road on Monday and Tuesday playing at the University of California, Riverside, and Cal State, Northridge, before returning home for another weekend series on the UNLV campus diamond against Northern Arizona University.

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