

SPORTS



UNLV Baseball

"We believe."

Those two simple words, straightforward as they might appear, were the complicated formula this season for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' record-breaking Hustlin' Rebel baseball team.

With perhaps the toughest schedule of any collegiate baseball team in 1978, few people outside the immediate Hustlin' Rebel family would give them credit to win any more than 20 games.

But did the heads turn.

"We believe" became more than just a slogan; it became a philosophy to live by. And when all the chalk had finally settled in 1978, UNLV finished the season with a best-ever 44-20 record and a third-place finish in the Rocky Mountain District Playoffs, the school's first appearance in NCAA post-season play.

The Hustlin' Rebels opened the tournament in Tempe, Ariz., with a spirited 17-10 beating of defending national champion Arizona State. But a 5-4 loss to Gonzaga University, the darkhorse of the tournament, sent UNLV up against Arizona State once again. This time, the Sun Devils, who did not enjoy being embarrassed in front of their hometown fans, came back and throttled the Hustlin' Rebels, 30-5, to eliminate them from the double-elimination tournament.

"Of course, that loss looks bad to us,"

said UNLV head coach Fred Dallimore. "But just getting there (the playoffs) says an awful lot for this season's team. Person for person this wasn't the most talented team I've ever had, but it was the team with the most spirit and desire.

"We had eleven freshmen on this year's team, and finished with a 44-2j well of their ability. We had our peaks this year (like winning 25 of their last 30 regular season games) and we had our valleys (like struggling through a string of 17 games in 17 days, played in March). But, above all, we proved that we are a program on the move. It was great in '78, but it'll be better in '79."

Four seniors--pitcher Herb Pryor, second baseman Vance McHenry, left fielder Mike Slavenski and center fielder Mike Randolph -- wrapped up their collegiate careers with the completion of the playoffs.

Pryor, returning to UNLV following a 3 1/2-year stint in the U.S. Army, finished the 1978 season with a team-leading 14-4 record and 2.42 ERA. McHenry, a member of the Hustlin' Rebels' record-breaking double play combination, ended the season with a .348 batting average, while Randolph in a late-season surge, finished with a .354 batting average and a record-setting 26 stolen bases. Slavenski, a four-year starter, ended 1978 with a .255 average.

UNLV Woman's Track

Sophomore pentathlete Ann Crump has been selected as the recipient of the Terrance Walsh Memorial Award as the Most Valuable Performer on the 1978 UNLV Women's Track and Field team, head coach Al McDaniels announced Wednesday.

"Ann has done a very good job for us this season," commented McDaniels, "She was our high scorer for all scoring meets, really helping us in alot of ways. When she wasn't competing in the pentathlon, she was entered in four of five events and nearly always scored some points for us. She is doing a great job and if she continues to improve next year the way she has her first two seasons, she will be one of the very best in the country next year again."

From Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada, Crump had a best of 3,947 in the Pentathlon this year, breaking her old record of 3,628 by more than 300 points. She led the Rebel women in team points with 98.5 for the season.

After ranking second after the initial three events in the AIAW national pentathlon championships last week, she faltered a bit in the 800 meters and finished 8th in the meet. Her 3,974 total is still the fourth best mark in the country this year by collegians.

While Crump was awarded the MVP award for 1978, fellow sophomore and fellow Canadian Cecilia Branch was given recognition for the most outstanding performance during the season. Senior Jackie Stevenson was selected the most improved athlete and June Bongirno was awarded the most outstanding freshman award by McDaniels.

Branch, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, set a pair of Rebel records this year with a 13.8 in the 100 meter hurdles and a 64.0 in the 400 meter hurdles.

A senior from Rancho High in North Las Vegas, Stevenson threw the shot put a school record 44-9 while Bongirno, from Las Vegas' Clark High, set UNLV records in both the 1500 meters (4:52.7) and the 3000 meters (10:48.5).

"On an individual basis, we had many improved performances," concluded McDaniels.

UNLV Wrestling

UNLV's wrestling coaches Dennis Finrock Bill Murdock and Jim Duschen, continuing to make every effort to upgrade and improve the university wrestling program, have announced the agreement that Frank Santana, an NCCAA champion and three-time All-America from Iowa State, will attend UNLV next fall, and work with the team as a graduate assistant coach.

Frank Santana, Iowa State's 190-pounder from Skokie, Ill., will begin his graduate studies this fall in business administration. The articulate, 3.0-GPA student, earned his undergraduate degree this past May from Iowa State.

For Finrock, his staff and the young Rebel wrestling program, the addition of Santana has to be the biggest coup in the program's three-year history.

"The addition of Frank Santana is the single biggest step in our three-year program. He has the skills, drive, determination and back-ground to help us make the important step to becoming a major college wrestling team," stated the head coach optimistically. "We think he can help us improve on our 30th-place finish in this year's NCAA Tournament," added Finrock. "If only one-tenth of his stamina and mental toughness can rub off on our kids - with the type of recruits

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