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# *Las Vegas* **sports** magazine

lvsportsmagazine.com  
April 2007

**Lisa King**

*The*  
**Black**  
**Widow**



***Fueling the Obsession***

Neon Garage at LVMS

**Sweet Run for Rebels**

UNLV Returns to National Spotlight

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**Muay Thai  
Fighter**



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**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**April 8<sup>th</sup> - April 29<sup>th</sup>**

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04/13/07	vs. TCU	6:30 p.m.
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04/15/07	vs. TCU	1:00 p.m.
04/27/07	vs. Utah	6:30 p.m.
04/28/07	vs. Utah	2:00 p.m.
04/29/07	vs. Utah	1:00 p.m.
05/15/07	vs. Southern Utah	6:30 p.m.
05/17/07	vs. Air Force	6:30 p.m.
05/18/07	vs. Air Force	2:00 p.m.
05/19/07	vs. Air Force	1:00 p.m.
05/23/07	MWC Tournament	TBA
05/24/07	MWC Tournament	TBA
05/25/07	MWC Tournament	TBA
05/26/07	MWC Tournament	TBA

**Remaining Home Softball Games**

Apr. 5	Utah (DH)	5:00 pm
Apr. 6	BYU	7:00 pm
Apr. 7	BYU	2:00 pm
Apr. 21	San Diego State	6:00 pm
Apr. 22	San Diego State	2:00 pm
Apr. 27	Colorado State (DH)	5:00 pm
Apr. 28	New Mexico	6:00 pm
Apr. 29	New Mexico	12:00 pm
All Times Pacific		



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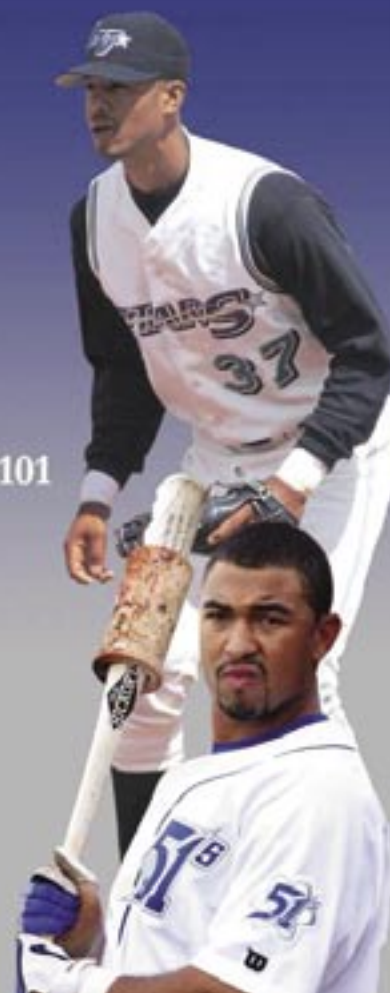
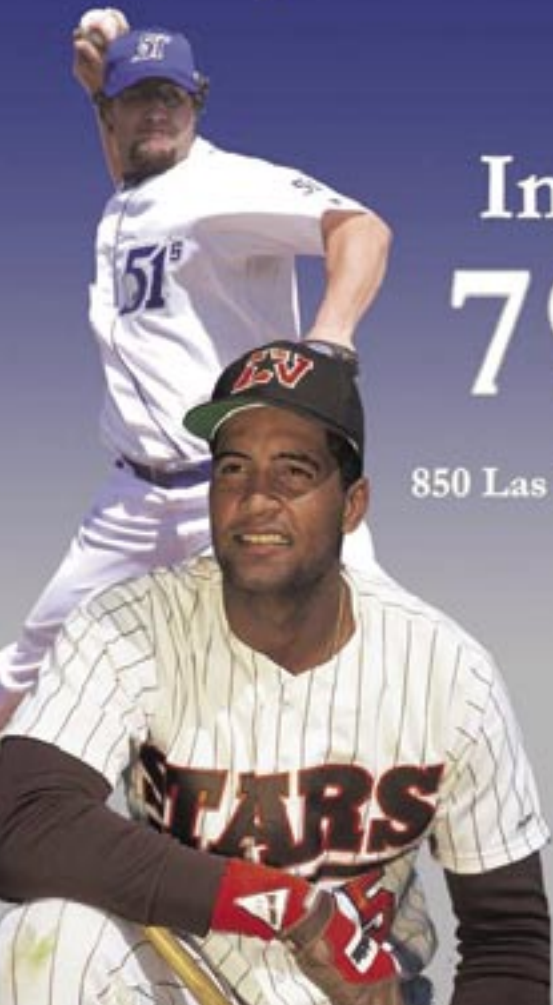
**51s T-Shirt Night - Friday, April 20 @ 7:05 p.m.**

**Firework Night - Friday, April 27 @ 7:05 p.m.**

For complete home and promo schedule - [www.lv51.com](http://www.lv51.com)

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**ON THE COVER**  
*Lisa King*

Photo Courtesy of  
Las Vegas Gladiators



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Las Vegas  
**sports**  
magazine

Las Vegas Sports Magazine

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The fans do make a difference

I would like to congratulate the UNLV men’s basketball team on a wonderful year and thank every one of the players and coaches for being such a pleasure to cover throughout the season.

It has been sixteen years since we last felt the fever. It has also been that long since the community got behind the men’s basketball program. Shame on the Las Vegas community for being what everyone refers to as “bandwagoners!” I also hear the excuse that everyone moves here from somewhere else and have their own teams from back home. Well, I am tired of hearing that after so many years and it is time for everyone who calls this great city home to make it their own and start supporting their community.

How about as a community we say we’re sorry and try to make up for the lost years. Next season whether UNLV is winning or losing, we keep the fever going and come out to the games to be the sixth man. This year proved that the fans do make a difference.

On the cover this month is Muay Thai World Champion, Lisa King. Lisa is a good friend of Las Vegas Sports Magazine as we covered her over a year ago. We want to congratulate her on the recent victory and wish her continued success.

Also, in this month’s issue are two other great teams to get behind and support. The Las Vegas 51s, our longest running professional sports franchise to call Vegas home and the Las Vegas Gladiators. The Gladiators are three-year residents who fought with the league to move closer to you and make the game better for the fans by moving to the Orleans Arena. These are two exciting teams I recommend getting behind and showing your support as a Vegas resident.

Enjoy this month’s issue, check out our advertisers, and keep sending your comments. Support your local athletes by attending a few games!

Thomas J. Love

Editor in Chief

HAPPY EASTER!



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Las Vegas Sports Magazine is a family-oriented, monthly, sports periodical with a focus on the prolific sports activity in our rapidly growing Las Vegas Community. It offers general sports coverage within the youth, amateur, and professional levels of local competition. Las Vegas Sports Magazine also underlines how these levels of sport in Las Vegas relate to, and impact, the national sports community. Its primary focus however, is to continue highlighting and cultivating youth and amateur sports in Las Vegas to help make our local sports community ever stronger.

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Sports calendar

CONTACT LAS VEGAS SPORTS MAGAZINE AT 222-0233  
TO LIST YOUR SPORTING EVENT IN THE SPORTS CALENDAR.

UNLV April

4/5 Softball vs. Utah, 5 p.m. (DH)  
4/6 Softball vs. BYU, 7 p.m.  
4/7 Softball vs. BYU, 2 p.m.  
4/13 Baseball vs. TCU, 6:30 p.m.  
4/14 Baseball vs. TCU, 2 p.m.  
4/15 Baseball vs. TCU, 1 p.m.  
4/21 Softball vs. San Diego State, 6 p.m.  
4/22 Softball vs. San Diego State, 2 p.m.  
4/27 Softball vs. Colorado State, 5 p.m. (DH)  
4/27 Baseball vs. Utah, 6:30 p.m.  
4/28 Softball vs. New Mexico, 6 p.m.  
4/28 Baseball vs. Utah, 2 p.m.  
4/29 Softball vs. New Mexico, 12 p.m.  
4/29 Baseball vs. Utah, 1 p.m.

Gladiators

Sunday, April 1st  
Las Vegas Gladiators vs. Utah  
Orleans Arena, 3:00pm  
Sunday, April 8th  
Las Vegas Gladiators vs. Kansas City  
Orleans Arena, 3:00pm  
Sunday, April 29th  
Las Vegas Gladiators vs. Orlando  
Orleans Arena, 3:00pm

51's Baseball

April 13, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Salt Lake Bee's  
Cashman Field  
April 14, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Salt Lake Bee's  
Cashman Field  
April 15, 12:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Salt Lake Bee's  
Cashman Field  
April 16, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Salt Lake Bee's  
Cashman Field  
April 17, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox  
Cashman Field  
April 18, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox  
Cashman Field  
April 19, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox  
Cashman Field

April 20, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox  
Cashman Field  
April 26, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Tacoma Rainiers  
Cashman Field  
April 27, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Tacoma Rainiers  
Cashman Field  
April 28, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Tacoma Rainiers  
Cashman Field  
April 29, 12:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Tacoma Rainiers  
Cashman Field  
April 30, 7:05pm  
L.V. 51s vs. Sacramento River Cats  
Cashman Field

UNLV May

Tuesday, May 15  
UNLV Baseball vs. Southern Utah, 6:30 p.m.  
Eller Media Stadium, Las Vegas, NV  
Thursday, May 17  
UNLV Baseball vs. Air Force, 6:30 p.m.  
Eller Media Stadium, Las Vegas, NV  
Friday, May 18  
UNLV Baseball vs. Air Force, 2:00 p.m.  
Eller Media Stadium, Las Vegas, NV  
Saturday, May 19  
UNLV Baseball vs. Air Force, 1:00 p.m.  
Eller Media Stadium, Las Vegas, NV  
May 23-26  
Mountain West Conference Baseball Tournament  
Eller Media Stadium, Las Vegas, NV

Gladiators

Sunday, May 6 @ 3:00pm  
Vs. Los Angeles Avengers  
Orleans Arena

51's Baseball

May 1, 7:05 pm  
vs. Sacramento River Cats  
Cashman Field  
May 2, 7:05 pm  
vs. Sacramento River Cats  
Cashman Field  
May 3, 7:05 pm  
vs. Sacramento River Cats  
Cashman Field • Budweiser Dollar Beer Night

May 8, 7:05 pm  
vs. Oklahoma Redhawks  
Cashman Field  
May 9, 7:05 pm  
vs. Oklahoma Redhawks  
Cashman Field  
May 10, 7:05 pm  
vs. Oklahoma Redhawks  
Cashman Field  
Budweiser Dollar Beer Night  
May 11, 7:05 pm  
vs. Oklahoma Redhawks  
Cashman Field  
May 12, 7:05 pm  
vs. New Orleans Zephyrs  
Cashman Field  
Fireworks  
May 13, 12:05 pm  
vs. New Orleans Zephyrs  
Cashman Field  
Kids Carnival / Calendar Night

May 14, 7:05 pm  
vs. New Orleans Zephyrs  
Cashman Field  
May 15, 10:30 am  
vs. New Orleans Zephyrs  
Cashman Field  
Cox Communications School day  
May 25, 7:05 am  
vs. Portland Beavers  
Cashman Field  
Fireworks  
May 26, 7:05 am  
vs. Portland Beavers  
Cashman Field  
L.A. Dodger Fleece Blanket (first 2,500 fans)  
Carl's Jr. Family Night  
May 27, 12:05 am  
vs. Portland Beavers  
Cashman Field  
May 28, 12:05 am  
vs. Portland Beavers  
Cashman Field

Other Events

Saturday, May 5  
Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Oscar De La Hoya  
Mandalay Bay Events Center

Saturday, May 5  
Amp'd Mobile Supercross Series  
Sam Boyd Stadium





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## FROM THE SPORTSBOOK

### 2007 Baseball Season Preview

#### Stay away from favorites

By Mark Franco

The baseball season has started and this year will be more interesting than most. Barry Bonds finished last year with a National League record 735 career homers and 26 on the season. That figure was the most ever for a player who celebrated his 42nd birthday during the course of the season and leaves him only 21 behind Hank Aaron's all-time Major League home run record of 755.

The record will be tainted for sure whether Bonds is found guilty or not of doing steroids or any other performing enhancing drugs, as it's very clear that ball players in this day and age are cheating baseball records and themselves.

The season will be a long grind to make profits but here is some betting advice that you will need to remember when betting on baseball.

Avoid the chalk. Staying away from wagering on big favorites is one of the simplest, but hardest rules to follow. Just because a team is performing great and should have a huge advantage with more talent and a clear shot at the postseason doesn't necessarily translate into a good wager when laying a big price.

Proof of this can be seen with the New York Yankees. Year in and year out this team emerges as the top record holder in wins. Take last year when the Yankees tied for the best record in the majors with the N.Y. Mets at 32 games above .500 with a 97-65 overall record, but their money line record tells a different story. Sitting at -366 for the season (if you bet \$100 you would be down \$366), the Yankees were obviously not the team to put action on regularly in the hopes of making money.

However, a team like the Kansas City Royals, which finished the year 38 games under .500, was a bread winner. If you would have invested \$100 in every game the Royals played, your assets would have netted a gain of \$1,164.

There are exceptions to this rule, just like in any money-making venture. Examining the other New York team under the microscope, the Mets were the top earner in the National League. Not only did they share the best record in the league with the Yankees, but their yearly profit report of +\$1,658 (bet

\$100 to make \$1,658) was third best overall.

The main point, more often than not, is that a good performing team doesn't equate to a positive income. In fact only nine teams in the MLB were on the plus side in the money line for the season, with Florida and Kansas City (two of the lower tier teams) both ranking as top producers in the gambling economy. Remember when betting on baseball try and stay away from the big favorites and you should have a profitable season. ▲



#### ODDS TO WIN THE 2007 WORLD SERIES

Team	Open	Current
New York Yankees	4/1	4/1
New York Mets	5/1	11/2
Chicago White Sox	10/1	10/1
Detroit Tigers	10/1	10/1
Los Angeles Dodgers	12/1	10/1
Boston Red Sox	12/1	12/1
St. Louis Cardinals	14/1	14/1
LA Angels of Anaheim	5/1	15/1
Minnesota Twins	12/1	15/1
Oakland Athletics	18/1	18/1
Philadelphia Phillies	18/1	18/1
Toronto Blue Jays	25/1	25/1
San Diego Padres	20/1	28/1
Atlanta Braves	25/1	30/1
Chicago Cubs	75/1	30/1
Cleveland Indians	30/1	30/1
Florida Marlins	30/1	30/1
Houston Astros	30/1	30/1
San Francisco Giants	50/1	35/1
Cincinnati Reds	50/1	50/1
Milwaukee Brewers	50/1	50/1
Texas Rangers	50/1	50/1
Baltimore Orioles	60/1	60/1
Seattle Mariners	60/1	60/1
Arizona Diamondbacks	60/1	75/1
Colorado Rockies	75/1	100/1
Pittsburgh Pirates	100/1	150/1
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	150/1	150/1
Kansas City Royals	250/1	250/1
Washington Nationals	200/1	300/1



## ***The Black Widow***

***Muay Thai fighter, Lisa King, proves a lethal force in recent wins***

By Andrew Brannon

Photos by Bennie Palmore

**D**on't tell Lisa King she can't do something. With a combination of beauty, brains, and brawn, her excellent Muay Thai kickboxing skills may be hard to grasp.

"I'm OK with people underestimating me," the kickboxing beauty said.

Nicknamed the "Black Widow," King recently proved doubters wrong by knocking out a formidable Muay Thai fighter not once, but twice.

One of three of the best female fighters chosen to represent the United States in "Fight Girls," a reality show airing on the Oxygen Network, King and two other local Muay Thai fighters, Ariana Ramirez and Kourtney McCarty, traveled to the birthplace of Muay Thai last year to challenge the best. Needless to say, they were heavy underdogs.

"Everybody said we would get slaughtered," she said.

Their trip to Thailand had all the plot twists comparable to a classic Jean-Claude Van Damme flick. The fighters fell ill during the 17-hour flight to Thailand. They endured wet, humid conditions during training. All to prove that they could defeat the best of the best Muay Thai fighters in the world.

"It felt like you were in a sauna," King recalled. "It was so sticky I had to hold my breath between rounds."

If being in enemy territory wasn't challenging enough, the Americans were not taken seriously, an unusual display in a sport that prides itself on respect and tradition.

"My opponent, Jiranan Pardubmuk, was 100% confident that she would knock me out," she said.

At press conferences, Pardubmuk would laugh at her, but the Black Widow took all that disrespect and bottled it up. She knew what she could do in the ring.

"Thai fighters use their legs more than we do," she said. "I knew my hands would be more accurate and faster than hers."

King put her fist where Pardubmuk's mouth was, and knocked her down in the first round.

"I think that deflated her ego a little bit," she said. King eventually won the three-round fight by decision and earned the respect of the predominantly Thai crowd.

The two fighters met again at the Las Vegas Sports Center last March for "Fight Girls Revenge." Once again, the cameras were focused on King and she was more than ready.

"I trained twice as hard," she said. "I figured [Pardubmuk] would work on her boxing and assumed she would come back with a vengeance."

Before a large crowd itching to see blood, Lisa King received the loudest ovation of the night before entering the ring.

Pardubmuk clinched and kicked in the first two rounds but the Black Widow was willing to oblige.

"I trained my knees a lot," King said. "Every time she grabbed me she was going to the mat."

All that rumbling and tumbling eventually wore down the smaller Pardubmuk and King caught her with a straight punch in the third round that bent her over backwards to the mat and knocked her down. The crowd howled with approval and King won with a unanimous decision.

"She wasn't getting her revenge on me," a confident King exclaimed.

Born in Las Vegas and raised in Oregon, King returned to Las Vegas to pursue her dreams of being a Muay Thai fighter. She studied the martial art under world-renowned instructor Master Toddy and Master Chen for 11 years. King credits Master Toddy for instilling the warrior mentality within her.

# THE BLACK WIDOW Strikes Twice



# Lisa King

"He doesn't give you an opportunity or an opponent that he thinks you won't be successful against," she said.

When preparing for an upcoming fight, the Muay Thai fighter spends 8 to 12 weeks in a variety of programs. She runs three miles a day and does sprints to increase her stamina. She trains at the gym to work on her speed and timing. King also trains with sparring partners heavier than her 115-pound fighting weight to gain strength.

"That gives me the diversity I need in the ring," she said. "Once you are pushing people around

**"She wasn't getting her revenge on me."**



who are 160 and 170 pounds and you get in the ring with someone your same weight, it's like a walk in the park."

Currently Lisa is training new fighters for the next "Fight Girls" series airing in June.

The 34-year-old kickboxing beauty is much more than a pretty face. She is a devoted mother of two, a businesswoman, an outdoors enthusiast, and a model.

It was her family that she credits for giving her the Black Widow nickname. Her family is also the reason she has remained a force in the Muay Thai circuit. Her daughter Courtney, 16, serves as her sparring partner on occasion and trains other fighters. Her 6-year-old son, Porter, is active in Tae Kwon Do. Being involved in Muay Thai has helped form a strong bond with her children, especially her daughter.

"We fight over chores at home," she laughs. "We work out our differences without saying a word."

For more information on Lisa King visit her Web site at [TheBlackWidow.us](http://TheBlackWidow.us)

# LAS VEGAS SPORTS FEST II

**Saturday, May 19, 2007  
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# FUELING THE OBSESSION

The NEON Garage at LVMS

## FACTS:

### Neon Garage

- 52,000 square feet
- Two-deck, Four-building structure.
- Three upper and lower deck views into each garage.
- 51 individual garages.
- Sold-out opening weekend.
- Approximately 12,000 fans visited each day.
- The Neon Garage is available for company and business rentals throughout the year.



By Jeanette Chan-Rivera  
Photos by Bennie Palmore

**B**eware NASCAR fanatics, the newly-opened Neon Garage will take your obsession into overdrive. Don't let the name fool you, you won't find the spectacle of neon lights Las Vegas is known for. No, this one-of-a-kind garage was made for fans that eat, sleep, and drink car racing; whose Sundays aren't complete without someone yelling the phrase "Gentlemen, start your

engines."

Nestled in the infield at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, this 52,000-square foot, diamond-shaped structure includes upper and lower decks with views into each of the 52 garages. Fifty-one of these individual garages are used by teams while one is designated specifically for official NASCAR engine inspections.

No binoculars needed here, these views are close enough to see the engines turn and the duct tape wrapped on the tail end of a car that just came from a rough encounter with the wall. Sure HD television has its perks, with its crystal clear pictures



and sound, but the garage will get you close enough to smell the burn of tires, see the swift reshaping of a mangled nose, or glimpse of an intense Casey Mears team making repairs after the #25 car slams into the fence on Lap 9. The Neon Garage is a must-see in the life of a NASCAR junkie. And that's only half of it.


Pre-pole adjustments, official inspections, the reach-out-and-touch-someone distance between you and your favorite teams' haulers, and 360 degree access to turn views will get you all revved up as you race to get a personal look at the behind-the-scenes action that is the Neon Garage. Just when you can't take any more excitement, you are there, at the winner's circle. That's right NASCAR fans, the winner's circle.

Last month, Neon Garage guests experienced the exhilaration of Jimmie Johnson driving into the winner's circle for a third straight win at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Johnson, Mears, Jeff Gordon, and Kyle Busch were among the drivers that could be seen at the Neon Garage; and for you pop culture followers, celebrities Nick Lachey and Vanessa Minnillo were also a part of the commotion, while a live band played in the background. Lucky fans walked away with autographs, personal photos, even sponsor caps worn by the winning team.

And if the race itself wasn't enough, the Neon Garage was packed all weekend with entertainment that included a host of live bands, celebrity impersonators, the Blue Man Group, and

the Dueling Guitars. The garage is fully loaded with food stands, a sports bar, and two jumbo screens showing the race and all the worthy instant replays.

"This is an area that is unique to all of motorsports," Las Vegas Motor Speedway's Senior Director of Public Relations Jeff Motley said. "We believe this has set a new standard for fan amenities at speedways across America."

There is no doubt that the Neon Garage is where NASCAR fans can truly become kids again. 





# Welcome to Our House

New location hopes to draw more fans and interest for Gladiators



Quarterback, Shaun King

By Emerson Rivera  
Photos by Bennie Palmore

It houses a variety of screaming fans during every event throughout the year, whether it's a concert, a show, or a Las Vegas Wranglers hockey game. Now, fans at the Orleans Arena have another reason to get excited, as the Las Vegas Gladiators will take a permanent residence there.

"We are excited to have the Gladiators

call the Orleans Arena home," Steve Stallworth, Vice President of the Orleans Arena, said on the Gladiators' Web site. "We pride ourselves in having top notch events that the community will embrace and we feel the Gladiators playing at the Orleans showcase a great opportunity for this community to support their local professional sports team."

The move from the Thomas & Mack Center on the UNLV campus was the beginning of hopes for a larger fan base for the Gladiators. The home opener brought 6,593 cheering fans to the first of eight home games this season. It was considered to be a good turnout as more than half of the 9,008 seat arena was filled in a game against the New Orleans VooDoo.

The move has definitely pleased a lot of fans looking for that opportunity of a "near the strip" feeling.

Las Vegas resident and long time Gladiator fan Daniel Cruz says that having the home games inside the Orleans Hotel and Casino allows familiarity with those unknown with the sport.

"Anyone can watch the Gladiators play, even if they're not from here," Cruz said. "The guests who stay in the hotel can find out what arena football is like rather than lose their money in the

casino. The place is set perfect for arena football."

One person who agrees with Cruz is Mayor Oscar Goodman. The mayor says that it will not only help improve the city but also the Arena Football League (AFL) in general.

"People will be surprised that the change has been made and hopefully, it will draw more fans as the season goes on," Goodman said.

Not only has the relocation provided a better venue for fans to witness the fast-paced game, it has also helped new players adjust.

"The move to the Orleans Arena will allow us to create a great home-field environment," Gladiators Head Coach Danton Barto said on the Web site. "Having a full training camp complex, with a field and the walls set up, and with the players staying onsite at the Orleans Hotel, will be great to acclimate the young players to Arena Football."

The Gladiators still have a contract with their former landlord, the Thomas & Mack Center, for the next three years and plan to honor it. It is the first time, since the team moved to Las Vegas in 2003, that the Gladiators have called any place, but the Thomas & Mack, home.

Still, the Gladiators' old home will stay connected with the AFL, serving as the host for the 2008 Arena Bowl. ▀



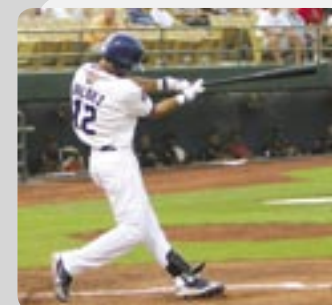
TM

By Brian Geark  
Photos by Bennie Palmore

The crack of the bat and sunflower seeds on the ground, could only mean one thing: it's baseball season. Our very own Las Vegas 51s, open their 25th PCL season on Thursday, April 5 in Salt Lake City against the Salt Lake Bees, Triple-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

It will mark the beginning of another promising season as the 51s look to build on the solid first half they had, last season. Led by first-year manager Lorenzo Bundy, the roster is full of so many Major League prospects the Los Angeles Dodgers keep calling them up. This helps the organization remain successful, however, it took a toll on the 51s as they finished the year at 67-77, third place in the Southern Division.

Here's a look at six prospects identified by MLB.com, in 2006, that may turn some heads in 2007:



## Andre Ethier, OF

Joining the Dodgers last offseason in the Milton Bradley trade, it didn't take long for him to make his presence known

in Los Angeles. After hitting .349 in his first month with Triple-A Las Vegas, the outfielder got the call and never went back. Though he tailed off in September, he still put up tremendous overall numbers for a rookie, hitting .308 with 11 homers and 55 RBIs in 396 at-bats, enough to garner some Rookie of the Year votes.

## Andy LaRoche, 3B

LaRoche's 2006 season was filled with ups and downs. On the upside, he had another tremendous season with the bat, hitting a combined .315 across Double- and Triple-A with 19 homers, 81 RBIs and a .410 on-base percentage. But he also suffered a torn labrum that eventually required surgery. How that might effect the start of his 2007 season remains to be seen, but when he's healthy again, he should be poised to make a contribution in Los Angeles soon.



## Chad Billingsley, RHP

Another member of the "Baby Dodgers," Billingsley's Triple-A career lasted less than three months. He made his big-league debut on June 15 and finished with a 3.80 ERA and seven wins over 90 innings. He turned just 21 in late July, so there's plenty of time for him to improve on his command (90 walks in 160 2/3 combined innings). Assuming he stays healthy, he should be a mainstay in the Dodgers' rotation for a long time.

## Matt Kemp, OF

After a ridiculous Fall League season in 2005, Kemp went from Double-A Jacksonville to Triple-A Las Vegas all the way up to the big leagues. His overall Minor League numbers are those of a guy who doesn't need to be there anymore: .346 average in 381 at-bats, .414 OBP, .543 SLG, 25 steals. Even though he struggled in the latter stages of his callup, he still hit seven homers and drove in 23 runs in 52 games. Most of that came in June, when he slugged all seven of his homers and drove in 16 in 82 at-bats.

## Scott Elbert, LHP

With the ascension of Francisco Liriano to the big leagues, Elbert assumes the title of top lefty pitching prospect. Pitching for most of the year at age 20, Elbert split time between Class A Advanced Vero Beach and Double-A Jacksonville. He struggled a little with his command - 85 walks in 146 combined innings - but he also struck out 173 and held opponents to a .190 batting average (97 hits). Lefties with plus, plus stuff don't grow on trees, and the Dodgers are taking good care of him, sending him home instead of to the Arizona Fall League as initially planned.



## Delwyn Young, OF

Still living in the shadow of some of the Dodgers' bigger name prospects, Young had a pretty good 2006 season with Triple-A Las Vegas and earned his first big-league call up. The 2002 fourth-round pick spent his first season playing the outfield and hit .273 with 42 doubles, 18 homers and 98 RBIs. The 5-foot-8 switch-hitter is on the Dodgers' 40-man roster, though it's unclear how he'll fit into LA's crowded outfield picture.

# Season Preview

Bundy spent the last four seasons with the Arizona Diamondbacks organization, the last three as their Triple-A hitting instructor. His guidance helped the Tucson Sidewinders compile last season's best record of 91-53, and earning the Triple-A Championship, with a .289 batting average and 844 runs scored. Bundy looks to bring that same kind of success to the 51s.

Las Vegas' home opener will be on Friday, April 13 against the Bees at 7:05 p.m. at Cashman Field. The 51s have an exciting list of promotions for the 2007 season. A total of 35 promotion dates will be featured during the home season. The traditional fireworks shows and 51s and Dodgers giveaway items will highlight the promotion dates. Season tickets and mini-plan packages (10, 20, 33-game plans) are available by calling the 51s office at (702) 798-7825. For more information go to: [www.lv51.com](http://www.lv51.com) ▀



# Sweet run for Rebels

## Upsets over Georgia Tech, Wisconsin returned UNLV to national spotlight

By Tann Summers

**M**arching into the Sweet 16 of the NCAA men's college basketball tournament was a finish few people expected from the UNLV Runnin' Rebels.

At the beginning of the tournament, only a handful of experts predicted the Rebels could advance past the first weekend. However led by head coach Lon Kruger, that's exactly what the UNLV Rebels accomplished.

The road to the Sweet 16 required valuable contributions from many of the Rebels throughout the tournament.

Senior guard Wendell White had a 19-point, 8-rebound effort and senior guard Michael Umeh added 19 points, while UNLV managed eight three-pointers and connected on 21 of 27 free throws in its first-round 67-63 victory against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in Chicago.

The Rebels' next opponent was the Midwest bracket's second-seeded Wisconsin Badgers. Paced by its senior leadership, UNLV advanced past the Badgers thanks in part to 22 points by White and another 16 points and 7 assists by senior guard Kevin Kruger.

After a fast start including a three-pointer by sophomore forward Joe Darger to give the Rebels a 19-8 advantage, UNLV built a 39-27 lead by halftime. The sharp-shooting Rebels made 46.7 percent of their first-half shots including a half-dozen three-pointer field goals.

As expected, Big Ten-power Wisconsin mounted a second-half comeback. During a five-minute stretch, the Badgers outscored UNLV 16-2 to take a 53-48 lead with less than 10 minutes to play. A pair of critical three pointers by Kruger led UNLV's counter attack – a 13-1 run to put the Rebels ahead for good.

UNLV shot its way into the Sweet 16 hitting 46 percent of its attempts from the floor including 10 three-pointers. On the defensive side, the Rebels held Wisconsin in check as the Badgers shot just 24 percent from beyond the arc and the team's best player, Alando Tucker, hit just four baskets.

The win was UNLV's ninth straight victory dating back to a loss at San

Diego State on Feb. 13. Plus, it secured the team's first 30-win season since UNLV's national title run and earned its first trip to the Sweet 16 since 1991. It also returned the Runnin' Rebels into the national spotlight, recalling the days of Larry Johnson, Greg Anthony, and Jerry Tarkanian.

Unfortunately, UNLV's incredible run at the tournament took an abrupt end at the hands of Pac-10 Conference Tournament Champion Oregon Ducks. The Sweet 16 showdown had the Rebels on their heels against the speedy Ducks.

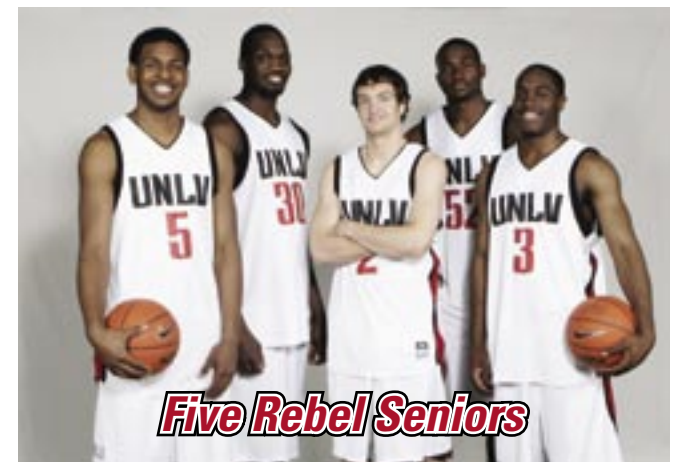
Third-seeded Oregon's 5-foot-6 freshman guard Tajuan Porter was unconscious from beyond the arc, connecting on eight three-pointers, tying a regional record for most three-pointers made and giving him a game-high 33 points.

In the second half, Oregon expanded their lead to 18 points before UNLV made things interesting down the stretch. Fueled by the motivational play of senior center Joel Anthony and his six consecutive points, the Rebels flashed signs of a comeback with a 9-0 run. However, UNLV could only cut the lead to two before a couple of Bryce Taylor free throws sealed the 76-72 win for the Ducks.

Still, the Runnin' Rebels have provided a promising look into next year's team. Despite all the hoopla surround-

ing coach Kruger, staying on board to lead the Rebels can bring the possibility of repeating as Mountain West Conference Champions. Guards Wink Adams and Curtis Terry and forwards Joe Darger and Corey Bailey will return next season to build on this year's seemingly improbable run.

The Runnin' Rebels' exposure will no doubt have an impact on this year's recruiting class, and with the support from a growing number of Rebels fans, the Thomas & Mack will be a raucous environment for UNLV opponents next season. ▀



Wendell White, Joel Anthony, Kevin Kruger, Gaston Essengue, Michael Umeh



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# Spring Favorites

By Mike Sims

Photos by Bennie Palmore

Well, high school sports fans, the prep scene is hotter than ever and the spring sports are just getting interesting. There have been some surprises, as of late, but there have also been key teams that consistently stay on top every year. The biggest surprise is the young schools really starting to develop and compete.

## BASEBALL

It's just getting started but the boys of summer seem to be in mid-season form. The past two state champions, Bishop Gorman and Sierra Vista, sit atop the Southwest division. Gorman, at 7-1, and Sierra Vista, at 10-1, will fight for the division title and possible state championship. The Gaels have a great, young returning team that won the 2006 championship and went deep into the Legion tournament. Bonanza and Spring Valley will give these two teams a run for their money, but will have to play their best to win the division. In the Northwest, Centennial and Cimarron are leading the way, but that could all change when division play starts and Palo Verde gets going.

On the other side of town in the Sunrise, you can never count out the Silverado Skyhawks and their consistently competitive teams. The Skyhawks sit at 6-6 right now, but it's still early. Also, Green Valley is a tough team that could make some noise in the division for the first time in recent years. The



Gators return some good players that could take them a long way. Las Vegas and Valley are also expected to make a run at the state tournament.

## SOFTBALL

Just like the boys, the girls have tough teams that always seem to be there in the end. Sierra Vista is off to a great start at 10-5, in

their division, and will be a force to be reckoned with in league play. Durango will challenge them for the division and are off to an 8-1 start. In the Northwest, Shadow Ridge leads the way at 11-2 with Centennial right behind at 11-3. The Bulldogs have a tough squad and will probably be heading back to the state playoffs once again.

In the Sunrise, Coronado is always a team that competes well. They are off to a 10-3 start right behind Basic in their division, who is 8-1. Rancho and Canyon Springs will be tough, as well, in the conference.

## BOYS GOLF

Gorman and Durango return their entire teams from last season. Gorman, the Sunset champ, will be one of the best in the state and should repeat a shot at the state title. Jake Butera leads the Trailblazers and he may have a shot at an individual ring if things go well for him this season. Palo Verde and Centennial will not be counted out, as both will contend for the regional title.

Foothill and Green Valley looked poised to battle for the top spot in the Sunset. Both teams return vital components of last year's teams and have added some new depth with transfers and freshmen.

## VOLLEYBALL

There are five teams that seem to be the leaders of the pack for the boy's volleyball field. Shadow Ridge and Palo Verde will lead the way in the Northwest. Both teams will compete for the regional and division crowns. On the other side look out for Canyon Springs who returns some solid players and looks to take the division title. But they will have to go through Silverado or Green Valley for control of the Sunset division.

## OTHER NEWS

Bishop Gorman's head football coach Dave White resigns from the Gaels to take a position at the University of Oklahoma. White leaves Gorman after four years with a 30-12 record. White returned the Gorman program to its winning ways in those four seasons. He will be the offensive line coach and work with the tight ends, as well. ■



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# Swords and Success in Soccer

**Semi-pro team looks to build on first season while giving back to the community**

By David Hilario  
Photos by Bennie Palmore

**A** Las Vegas team made it to the Final Four! No, it's not our men's college basketball team, but it is a fast-paced, action-packed sport sweeping the valley. The semi-pro Las Vegas Knights of the Premier Arena Soccer League made a lasting first impression by making it to the quarterfinals of the PASL International Championships in its inaugural season. And they're just getting started.

In its first year of existence, the Knights exceeded all expectations, finishing second in the Southwest Division before making a run at the International crown. It was such an amazing effort, even head coach John Kennedy was surprised by his team's initial progress.

"Honestly, I think we overachieved in our goals for the first season," Kennedy said. "The younger players never knew about the indoor game and were still getting adjusted to it."

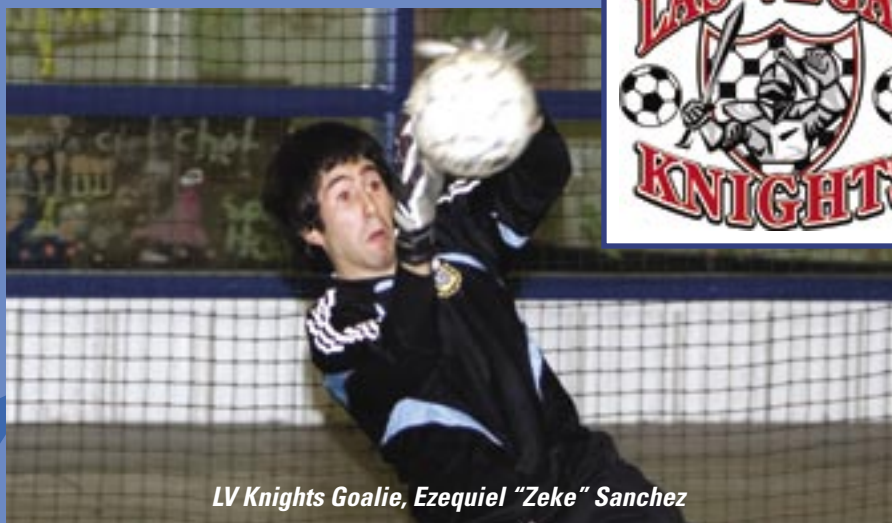
Despite the speed and smaller confines of the 6-on-6 game, the Knights quickly acclimated themselves to post a 6-2 record in division play and clinch a berth into the International tournament. Team president Meir Cohen sees this as a huge stepping stone to build on.

"It was a great first season," Cohen said. "We had good success, being a new team joining a league with a lot of experienced teams. We feel great about the [International] tournament. It gives us optimism for this game of soccer. The more we play, the better we achieve."

Now, the team looks to improve on last season, with coach Kennedy focusing on technique, strategy, and bringing in players familiar with the indoor game.

"It's a matter of getting back-to-basics," Kennedy said. "Even though we made the tournament, we didn't win, so that means we need to improve. We need more experience as a team, we need to find players who can play our game."

The Knights even held a tryout for next season's team at their homefield at Las Vegas Indoor Soccer, hoping to spark more interest in the indoor game and recruit the right players to represent Las Vegas.



LV Knights Goalie, Ezequiel "Zeke" Sanchez



## A Team for the Community

In addition to the tryout, the Knights want to give back to the community that has supported them through the first season. The Knights Academy, directed by coach Kennedy and held at Las Vegas Indoor Soccer, is a summer clinic that plans to introduce, involve, and improve players of different ages to this style of soccer with the help of the Las Vegas Knights players and staff. The academy starts on April 16th.

"We want to open our doors to everyone and introduce the game to as many new faces as possible," the Knights coach said. "We'll work in all aspects of the indoor game, from techniques to strategy and much more."

Cohen sees it as an opportunity to give the children of Las Vegas another sport alternative to a game that can be played all year.

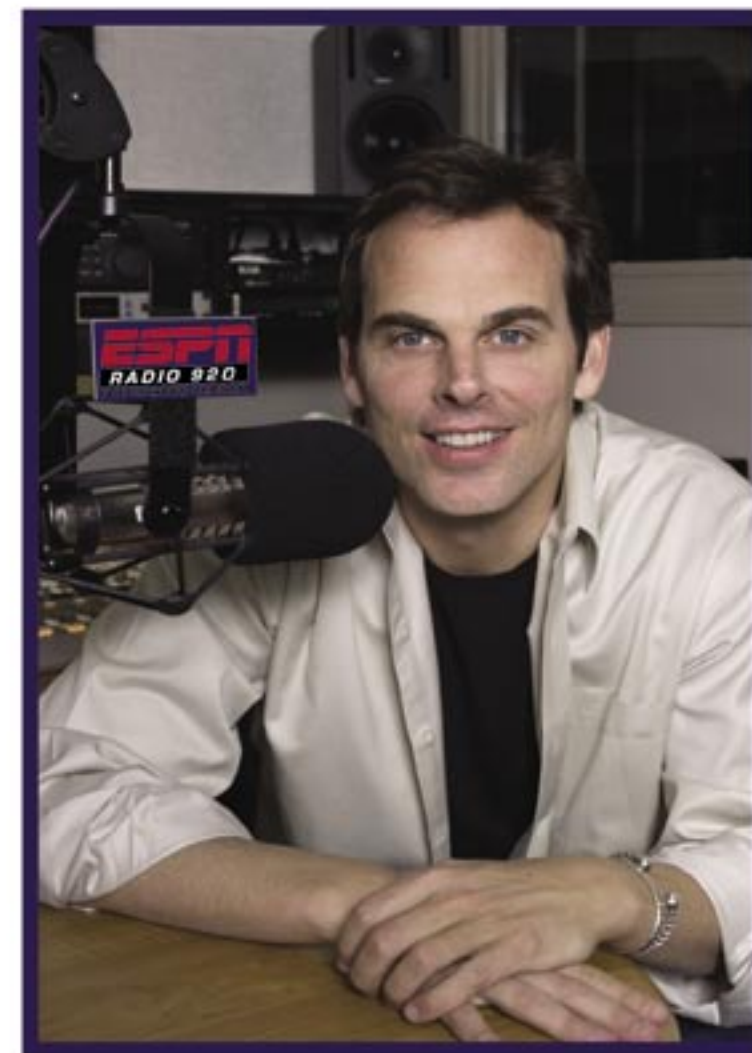
"We felt that there was a need for the kids who play soccer," Cohen said. "In Las Vegas, sometimes it's either too hot or too cold, but you can play indoor soccer year round."

Cohen also sees it as a chance to develop potential future Las Vegas Knights.

"It also gives us a chance to share the team with the community," he said. "The kids can come in and learn the game and get better. Then, hopefully they'll eventually be able to play for us."

For more information on the Las Vegas Knights, the Knights Academy, and Las Vegas Indoor Soccer, visit [LasVegasIndoorSoccer.com](http://LasVegasIndoorSoccer.com) or call 233-3600. ▲

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# Guy Hobbs

## President of the Nevada Youth Soccer Association

By David Hilario

How far would you go for your kids? How far would you go for your community? If you are Guy Hobbs, then your hard work has gone a long way for youth soccer in Nevada.

As president of the Nevada Youth Soccer Association, Hobbs has made the sport an important part of Nevadans, including himself. As a college baseball player, Hobbs only knew of soccer from his roommate, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His roommate, a goalkeeper, constantly talked about soccer, but Hobbs never really took an interest to the sport.

It wasn't until the early '90s, that Hobbs would immerse himself in the world of soccer. At that time, it was a fun activity for his young daughter, Mariah.

"By the time she was four, we needed to find an outlet for her energy," Hobbs said.

Naturally, the former baseball player enrolled his daughter in a tee-ball league. But it was soccer that peaked her interest.

"We were watching a tee-ball game, but she kept looking over to the soccer games going on, not too far away," Hobbs said. "She liked the bright, colored uniforms and all the running around they were doing, so we decided to let her join a soccer team."

Hobbs became a fan of soccer, through Mariah's involvement. But when she turned 7, he encountered a situation that caused him to coach her team.

"I didn't take the responsibility lightly," he said. "I went to the library to study the game and it helped me gain a hardened respect for the game."

Hobbs coached for three more years before realizing that his limited experience would limit the potential of these kids, even at a young age. It was a selfless move he felt was necessary for the children's development, and one of the first of several actions that has benefited Nevada youth.

As a result of his brief coaching stint, Hobbs developed a passion for the sport and wanted to see it thrive in the state. His involvement has led to his position and a second term as president of the Nevada Youth Soccer Association.



"He is very dedicated to the community and youth soccer," Pennie Mazzeo, of the Premier 89 soccer club, said. "He has a huge job and a huge responsibility."

During his term, the association has brought an exciting array of soccer programs to the valley. In addition to partnering with UNLV soccer, Hobbs and his team have recently brought a Major League Soccer exhibition game to Las Vegas featuring Freddy Adu, Eddie Pope, and Las Vegas native and our 2005 Athlete of the Year Herculez Gomez.

Among other things, Hobbs has also successfully brought the U.S. Youth Soccer 2007 Far West Regionals to Las Vegas on June 18-24. He recognizes the importance this move is, not only bringing a high level of competition for the valley's youth to see, but to benefit the entire valley in another way.

"We will be bringing in over 10,000 people when the event takes place," he said. "It will have a significant impact, not just on our kids, but on our economy as well. It's a win-win situation for our community."

Despite all the accolades he deserves for his work, Hobbs remains humble. He feels that his partners and staff are the reasons why the association is successful. He also recognizes the role that Las Vegas Councilman Larry Brown has played, in providing the best resources and facilities that make soccer fun for everyone in the valley.

All this while working as president and managing partner of his own company, Hobbs, Ong, and Associates, Inc. It's a tough task but Guy Hobbs loves what he does in the office and especially what he helps put on the field.

"I can't think of anything better I can do," he said. "It's very rewarding just to be a part of the association." ▲



Which sport do you play?  
*I'm currently playing golf and I played football.*

What school do you attend?  
*Durango High School*

How long have you played and what motivated you to get involved in this sport?  
*I have played golf since I was about 5 years old. My dad was the one who involved me in golf.*

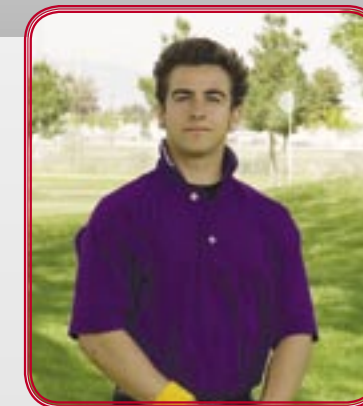
Please list any accomplishments you are proud of achieving in your sport:

*-2nd team Division Honors in 10th grade; 2nd Team Region Honors in 11th grade, 1st Team Division Honors in 11th grade*

*- Making the State Golf Tournament as a Junior, after I missed it by one stroke my Sophomore year.*

What do you like most about your sport?  
*Golf is an individual sport. The only person to blame is yourself. You have to be patient the whole round. You can't give up.*

What is your favorite sport to watch on TV and why?  
*I love watching college football and also the four golf Majors: The Masters, U.S. Open, PGA Open, and The Open Championship.*



**Jake Butera**

Who is your favorite athlete or person you draw inspiration from? Why do you draw inspiration from this person?

*I draw my inspiration from my dad. He is the only one that knows what I'm feeling at all times, good or bad. He has always been there for me, and I try to be the person he is.*

Do you think that being an athlete helps or hinders you with your academic studies?  
*It absolutely helps. Being an athlete makes me work harder in the classroom.*

Do you plan on pursuing your sport at the college level? *Yes, I'm 100% trying to pursue golf at the college level.*

Do you have a favorite saying?  
*"When bad things are happening, you find out who someone really is." I love this because it's how you react to the roadblocks in life that makes someone who they are.*

Favorite movie?  
*I love Caddy Shack, the best golf movie ever! I have so many favorites. I love movies.*

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# City of Las Vegas

## April 2007 Family Activities

### City of Las Vegas April 2007 Activities

*(List is not all-inclusive.  
Call centers near you  
for complete list of  
classes and activities.  
Most activities require  
advance registration.)*

#### Outreach Sports (ages 6-11)

Fees: vary; most are free.

Citywide Youth Sports, 3074 Arville Street, (702) 229-1646. Fun and safe recreation for children. Scheduled sports include T-ball, basketball, flag football, soccer, wrestling, track and field, tennis, kickball, martial arts, cheerleading, whiffle ball and war ball. Locations and times vary. Call for information.

#### Adult Leagues

Municipal Sports Office, (702) 229-1642. Flag football soccer, softball and volleyball adult leagues are available through the Municipal Sports Office. Call for information.

#### Sports Galore

Fees: vary; some are free with membership. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307. Dula offers bowling at Jerry's Nugget; pickle ball, table tennis, bocce, golf, paddle tennis, youth and adult basketball, volleyball, hiking and weight training. Call for days and times.

#### After-School Tennis Program

(ages 11-15) Monday through Friday, through April, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40 per month

Gibson Community School, 3990 W. Washington Avenue, (702) 229-5096. Brinley Community School, 6150 Smoke Ranch Road, (702) 229-2642. Includes supervised homework time, skill development and tennis drills.

#### After-School Tennis Program

(ages 9-16) Monday through Friday, through April, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fee: \$40 per month. West Community Center, 2050 Sapphire Stone Avenue, (702) 229-5080. Includes supervised homework time, skill development and tennis drills.

#### Martial Arts (ages 5+)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m. Fee: \$15/month or \$3/day. Doolittle Community Center, 1950 North J Street, (702) 229-6374. Beginning and intermediate students welcome.

#### Tumbling (ages 5-16)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$15/month. Doolittle Community Center, 1950 North J Street, (702) 229-6374. Free Healthy Hearts: Tone, Stretch, Relax (adults) Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Doolittle Community Center, 1950 North J Street, (702) 229-6374.

#### Yoga and Pilates-based exercises.

Mats provided. Pilates with Jackie (ages 18+; 16-17 if accompanied by parent) Monday through Friday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Fee: \$15/month. Doolittle Community Center, 1950 North J Street, (702) 229-6374.

#### Youth Gymnastics (ages 18

months-14 years) Days and times vary according to age and level of achievement. Fee: \$29, \$34 or \$42, depending on age and class frequency. Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center, 101 North Pavilion Center Drive, (702) 229-1100. For beginners through Level 8 recreational gymnasts, includes tumbling, balance beam, mini trampoline, vault and uneven bars.

#### Free Bocce & Horseshoes

**Groups** (ages 50+) Bocce Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Horseshoes Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Northwest Senior Center, 6841 W. Lone Mountain Road, (702) 229-4794.

#### Free Paddle Tennis (ages 50+)

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center, 101 North Pavilion Center Drive, (702) 229-1100.

#### Free Paddle Tennis (ages 40+)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 11 a.m. \$2 annual membership required. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307. Instructor and equipment provided. Players need to wear rubber-soled gym shoes.

#### Free Open Table Tennis

(ages 50+) Monday through Friday, 12 to 2 p.m. East Las Vegas Community/Senior Center, 250 North Eastern Avenue, (702) 229-1515. Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m. Doolittle Senior Center,

1950 North J Street, (702) 229-6125. Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue, (702) 229-1600. Tuesday and Thursday, 8 to 11 a.m. \$2 annual membership required. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307.

#### Free Hot to Trot Walking Club

(ages 50+) Monday through Friday, 6 to 7:30 a.m. Walking track is inside climate-controlled gymnasium. Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center, 101 North Pavilion Center Drive, (702) 229-1100.

#### Free Shuffleboard (ages 50+)

Last Thursday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m. East Las Vegas Community/Senior Center, 250 North Eastern Avenue, (702) 229-1515.

#### Pickle Ball (ages 50+)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 11 a.m. \$2 annual membership required. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307. Bring tennis shoes. All equipment supplied.

#### Men's Advanced Volleyball

**League** (adults) Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Fee: Call Ken Beckham for information. 6-man teams. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307.

#### Women's Advanced Volleyball

**League** (adults) Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Fee: Call Ken Beckham for information. 4-women teams. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307.

#### Coed Intermediate Volleyball

**League** (adults) Fridays, 6:30 p.m. Fee: Call Ken Beckham for information. 6-person teams. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307. Open Gym Volleyball Fridays, 8 to 10 p.m. Fee: \$2/person

#### Coed Beginner Sand Volleyball

**League** (adults) Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Fee: \$150/team; 6-person teams. Sand Volleyball Courts in Centennial Hills Park, North Buffalo Drive at Elkhorn Road. Call Ken Beckham for information at (702) 229-6307.

#### Men's Basketball League

(adults) Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Register by April 27. Games begin May 8. Fee: \$250/team plus \$25 officials' fees per night per team. Dula Gymnasium, 441 East Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6307. Limit 7 teams.

#### Coed Soccer Club

(ages 4-10) Saturdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Fee: \$20 per month. Clark Community School, 3074 Arville Street, (702) 365-9272. Participants learn teamwork, sportsmanship and game fundamentals. Scrimmage games and sport-specific skills keep players active as they learn.

#### Fast Academy Speed Training

(ages 4-12) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m. Fee: \$25 per month. Clark Community School, 3074 Arville Street, (702) 365-9272. Boys and girls receive advance training in soccer. Requires instructor permission to enroll.

#### Spring Break Splash Camp

(ages 6-11) Monday-Friday, April 2-6, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Fee: \$100. Municipal Pool, 431 E. Bonanza Road, (702) 229-6309. Children will experience water polo, diving, synchronized swimming, snorkeling, water safety, stroke work, games, crafts, other sports and excursions. Bring lunch, beverage, swimsuit, towel and dry clothes daily. Enrollment is limited.

#### Easter Seals Southern Nevada 2nd Annual 5k Bunny Run & 1-Mile Bunny Hop

(all ages) Saturday, April 7, sign in 6 to 7:30 a.m.; run/hop 8 a.m. \$25 by March 30; \$30

March 30-April 5; \$35 April 7. Wayne Bunker Family Park at Tenaya Way and Alexander Road. This family event is a fundraiser for Easter Seals Southern Nevada. Wheelchair and walker users are welcome to participate. Children under age 12 years will hunt for tickets to win prizes after the run. Go online to [www.lasvegasrunningteam.com](http://www.lasvegasrunningteam.com) for race application and link to online registration. Call 870-7050 for information. Call 229-4796 for information on the BlazeSports wheelchair sports program and wheelchairs to use for this event.

#### Free Tennis Carnival

(all ages) Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rafael Rivera Community Center, 2900 E. Stewart Avenue, (702) 229-4600. Experience the exciting game of tennis, along with other games, food, live entertainment and much more. Co-partnered by the U.S. Tennis Association and Latin Chamber of Commerce.

#### T-Shirt Sports T-Ball

(ages 2-5) Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m., beginning April 21. Fee: \$45. Brinley Community School, 6150 Smoke Ranch Road, (702) 229-2642. Learn fundamental baseball skills with this introductory T-ball league. Games may be played at Brinley, Doolittle, Gibson or West community schools and centers.

#### Over 30 Basketball League

(adults 30+) Games begin Tuesday, May 1. Registration opens April 2. Fee: \$300/team plus \$25 officials' fees per game. Charleston Heights Community School, 6438 Celeste, (702) 229-4440.



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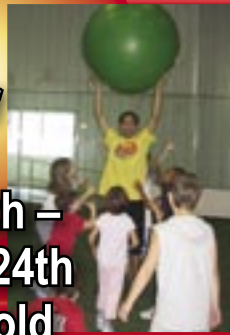
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