

Seven share lead in Westchester

HARRISON, N.Y. (AP)—Longshot Jim Wiechers, playing so poorly he's considering leaving the tour, one-putted 10 times on his way to a four-under-par 67 that lifted him into a seven-way tie for the second round lead Friday in the \$300,000 Westchester Golf Classic.

He shared the top spot with Tom Weiskopf, veteran Miller Barber, Leonard Thompson, Howard Twitty, Rod Curl and former Masters champion Charles Coody, all at 135 after two trips over the tight, hilly, 6,603 yard Westchester Country Club course.

Their seven-under-par totals provided the largest number of players tied for the lead in a Tour event since nine men shared the first round lead in the 1969 PGA National Championship.

"I've played so poorly the last couple of years, I've reached the point I have to make a decision about what I'm going to do," the husky, 32-year-old Wiechers said. "At the end of this season, I'm going to have to sit down and really consider what to do with my life—whether to continue with golf or go on to something else."

He's won less than expenses, only \$13,000, in the last two seasons but now has a shot at a \$50,000 first prize halfway through this event.

So do many others. Weiskopf, winner of the Kemper Open earlier in the year, blazed into contention with the best round of the tournament, a seven-under-par 64. Thompson shot a 66, Curl 67, Coody and Twitty 68 and Barber a 69. Just one shot back of the leaders at 136 were Andy North, George Burns and South African Bobby Cole. Burns and Cole shot 66s on the course that often produces some of the lowest scores on the tour and North had a 70.

At 137 were Andy Bean, Forrest Fezler, Bill Kratzert and Mac McLendon. Bean and McLendon had 66s in the mild, hazy weather, Fezler 67 and Kratzert 68.

That put 14 men locked within two shots of each other at the top. Aside from Weiskopf, however, the glamor names weren't among them.

The two men who played off for the PGA National Championship at Pebble Beach, Calif. last weekend both missed the cut for the final two rounds Saturday and Sunday. Winner Lanny Wadkins had 77-152 and Gene Littler was 73-150.

Wearly Jack Nicklaus just made it at 145 after a second round 74. Johnny Miller and Tom Watson, winner of both the British Open and Masters, both improved and were four shots back of the pack of leaders at 139. Miller had a

66 and Watson a 68. Watson, however, said he played poorly, was "frustrated, and I have no hope of winning playing the way I am now."

Curl, Coody, Weiskopf and Twitty all had a chance to unlock the biggest logjam of the '70s, but none were able to birdie the relatively easy, par five finishing hole.

Curl had the best chance, failing on a seven-foot putt that would have given him the lead. Weiskopf, Coody and Twitty all had their approaches just in front of the green, and all chipped poorly.

Weiskopf, who took a triple bogey seven on the eighth hole of the first round, didn't have a bogey this round, birdied four of five holes coming home and said "I don't feel I played any better today than I did yesterday."

He highlighted is round with an 80-yard sand shot for an eagle three on the ninth.

Curl, at 5-foot-5 a foot shorter than Twitty and the smallest man in the tournament, drove to within eight feet of the green on the 204 yard ninth hole and chipped to 12 inches for birdie there.

Thompson said he was "surprised to be playing so well. I've never done any good here before." Like Wiechers, he had only 26 outs.



SMASHING RETURN - Manuel Orantes of Spain prepares for a backhand return during Canadian Open Tennis Championship action in Toronto Friday afternoon. Orantes defeated Hank Pfister of the United States, 6-2, 7-6, 6-1. AP Photo

SPORTS John Cash SPORTS EDITOR

Convention Authority charges UNLV \$2,220 LV Stadium rental fee

A \$2,200-a-game flat rental fee was recommended for University of Nevada, Las Vegas, football Friday by the sport's complex committee of the Convention and Visitors Authority.

The rent figure is the same as last year, but UNLV Athletic Director Bill Ireland asked committee members to note that it is more than what the Las Vegas Quicksilvers professional soccer team paid for use of the stadium in their inaugural season.

Authority members admitted they had made a special deal with the Quicksilvers to get the team started in Las Vegas, but the rental agreement will be renegotiated next season. The soccer franchise paid only \$1,500 rent for each game with attendance below 13,000. Attendance of more than 13,000 fans at a game would have hiked the figure to the \$2,200 paid by UNLV.

Gene Stephens, authority director of facilities, said the UNLV rental fee essentially covers the cost of cleanup and additional security at games.

It is expected, however, that when the stadium is expanded to 30,000 seats as UNLV begins play in the Western Athletic Conference, the rental figure will have to be increased.

The authority board meets Tuesday for a vote on final approval of the arrangement.

Meanwhile, the committee recommended approval for a payment of some \$19,000 to the architectural firm of Zick and Sharp for schematic design of the future stadium expansion. Work is expected to be completed by the start of the 1978-79 football season.

In other action, the committee recommended free use of the stadium for the Center Advertising Co. to film a commercial for a Las Vegas area automobile dealer. In return for the free usage, firm owner David Center agreed to include a camera shot in the commercial of a Las Vegas Stadium sign and assure the authority it will be free from any damage claims.



CRASH LANDING - Boston Red Sox third baseman Butch Hobson, top, rolls over Kansas City Royals' Tom Poquette during a collision at third base when Poquette tried to take third on a fly ball hit by Royals' Hal McRae in the third inning of Friday night's game in Kansas City. Centerfielder Fred Lynn made the throw to Hobson for the tag on Poquette. AP Photo

UNLV begins football practice Monday

With a record 122 candidates reporting, the UNLV football team begins preparation for the school's 10th football season which opens on Sept. 10 at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Second-year head coach Tony Knap has 35 returning lettermen in the first-day's group who were part of last season's 9-3 team which advanced to the NCAA Division II playoffs and helped coach Knap up his 13-year varsity coaching record to 105-36-2.

The 1977 Rebels report to Tonopah Hall, on the UNLV campus on Friday afternoon to begin the first week of two-a-day practices which will all be held on the UNLV practice field adjacent to the Paul McDermott Physical Education Center.

"We are very pleased about the returning players we have, and excited about the new

prospects," commented coach Knap. "We just can't wait to get started. It's time to put all the past nine months of coaching meetings into practice on the field."

The reason for the large turnout for Rebel football this fall is the liberal policy coach Knap and his staff have on walk-ons, or players who have not been recruited but would just like the chance to try out for the team. "You just never know who you will be able to find among the walk-ons," stated Knap, "and as we advance into the Western Athletic Conference, we will need as much depth as we can secure."

UNLV, a Division II powerhouse for the past four seasons, has been accepted into the WAC, along with Hawaii and San Diego State, which automatically brings major college status.

This is the transition season for UNLV, or as coach Knap calls it, "the interim year."

While the Rebels are only playing three Division I teams this season, NCAA rules dictate that they must begin complying with Division I rules to be considered for Division I status. The Rebels begin playing a WAC schedule in 1978, but will not become eligible for any conference championships until the 1980 season.

The team reported to camp Friday. Today, physicals were given and equipment issued in the morning with the annual Press Day taking place from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on the campus practice field.

Sunday, Knap will run a special testing program on his squad to determine the kind of shape they are in and a team meeting will prepare them for the busy practice schedule which begins Monday morning.

During twice-a-day drills, the morning practice will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon workout will go from 4:15 to 6:45 p.m. Following every morning workout, all backs will lift weights and the linemen will lift after the afternoon sessions.

The first six practices will be in shorts to allow the coaches to do some fundamental work with instruction and agility drills and the first day in pads will be Thursday. The squad will go every day with the exception of Sundays and the regular, one-practice-per-day schedule will begin Labor Day, Sept. 5.

Coach Knap and his staff are very pleased with the recruiting they were able to do, and are also confident that they have enough solid returning players to help give UNLV another good team.

The Rebels will face a tough schedule that features five road games. The Rebels meet Montana, Boise State, San Diego State, the University of Idaho and the University of Nevada, Reno (Nov. 19) on the road.

Said coach Knap, "We have a very rough and tough schedule with five rugged road games in hostile places, but I think we're going to be very good and could develop into a great one despite the fact that we have only two or three seniors who will be starters."

At home in the 16,100-seat Las Vegas Stadium, UNLV will play Troy State of Alabama (Sept. 17), Northern Arizona (Oct. 1), Western Illinois (Oct. 8), Weber State (Oct. 15), Cal State-Fullerton (Oct. 29), and the University of North Dakota (Nov. 12).

Royce Feour



my humble opinion, it's the nicest award anyone in town could get."

The coveted award will be presented again Tuesday night at the annual university's "Thank You" event for scholarship donors (which was also open to the general public this year) at the Aladdin Hotel Theatre for the Performing Arts featuring Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.

A brief sketch at the past local winners of the "Nice Guy Award":

DR. THOMAS ARMOUR—On the sideline for every UNLV football game and on the bench for home basketball games, Dr. Armour has been serving as team doctor since the first football season in 1968.

The general surgeon administers the pre-season physicals in all sports at UNLV and treats injuries during the season, giving countless hours (including Sundays) caring for Rebel athletes.

"He's been the team 'doc' for every Rebel football team and every Rebel football player," says athletic director Bill Ireland. "He's ridden the bus on road trips and gone through the whole thing with us— from Cashman Field to the Orange Bowl."

The son of the late Hall of Fame professional golfer Tommy Armour, "Doc" Armour is an integral part of the UNLV athletic program.

DR. TED JACOBS—The dapper Dr. Jacobs re-

ceived the award the same year as Dr. Armour at the Sinatra scholarship dinner at Caesars Palace. Dr. Jacobs was particularly instrumental in soliciting scholarships among the medical community and has been a long-time Rebel supporter and scholarship donor.

"He has involved himself tremendously in fund-raising," said Ireland.

"He has always been on call," said Pearl, "and helps us to this day when we need help. He sells a lot of scholarships."

The immaculately-dressed Dr. Jacobs is also known for the lavish parties he hosts after the season for the basketball teams and the welcoming party given Jerry Tarkanian in the doctor's palatial home on the Desert Inn Country Club.

ERNIE BECKER—The long-time Southern Nevada builder-developer has been one of UNLV's strongest financial supporters and several years ago even deeded a tract of land to the university.

Always closely affiliated with USC and former Trojan coach John McKay, Becker has provided Rebel athletes with off-season employment and was the contractor for Tarkanian's highly-publicized house off Alta Drive.

Becker was former Rebel football coach Ron Meyer's perhaps staunchest supporter, and, in the words of Ireland, is one of the program's "heavy hitters".

MOE DALITZ—Truly a "heavyweight" among those who have helped solicit money for the UNLV athletic program. Dalitz headed up the original Grand 100 Club, organized to fund the first Rebel football team in 1968.

When Dalitz picked up the phone and "asked" people to help start the UNLV football program, we assume people made themselves available to give. Jump? How high, Moe?

JACK CASON—A leading citizen who is also one of the biggest personal financial contributors to the athletic program. He has been a valuable asset in providing summer employment for athletes and part-time jobs for coaches.

Ireland praised Cason, saying, "He's been very involved with the program since it started and all of the fund-raising drives since then. He's just done everything we have called on him for."

WAYNE PEARSON—The originator of the "scholarship program" at UNLV which has been successful far beyond the imagination of even the most optimistic dreams seven years ago in reaching virtually \$1 million this year.

Dr. Pearson, a former member of the State Gaming Control Board, is the executive-director of athletic fund-raising for UNLV and is recognized as one of the

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