

Lady Rebels win two crucial games

By Chuck Walker
YELLIN' REBEL

The Lady Rebel softball team improved their chances of making the NCAA playoffs by picking up two crucial conference wins last week.

The Lady Rebels split a double header with the number two team in the nation, Fresno State, on Thursday. UNLV won the opener 2-0 but dropped the nightcap 6-1.

Lori Harrigan pitched her 11th shutout of the season to beat Fresno and the country's number one pitcher, all-American Carrie Dever in game one.

The team picked up its two runs in the first and second innings off of runs driven in by Patti King and Trish Reimche.

In the nightcap, Fresno State scored two runs in the first innings, three in the third and one in the seventh to beat UNLV 6-1. UNLV used all three of their pitchers in a losing effort.

Senior Patti King gave up three

runs to take the loss. Lori Harrigan came on in relief in the third inning and gave up two runs. Freshman Kim Smith took over in the fourth and managed to hold the Lady Bulldogs to only one run over her three innings of pitching.

Despite the loss, head coach Shan McDonald was upbeat.

"The kids came out to do a job and played the ballgame that they could," McDonald said. "It didn't surprise me one bit that we beat Fresno."

Chris Parris set Big West record by hitting her 12th triple of the season in the second game against Fresno.

On Saturday the Rebs faced 11th ranked Pacific and split their second double header in three days, beat UOP in the first game 4-1 but was edged by Pacific 1-0 in game two.

The win matched UNLV's best win record in school history.

The Lady Rebels scored off of five consecutive hits for four runs in the fifth inning. Mitch Moreno,

Trish Reimche and Tricia Spencer had back to back singles and Chris Parris and Sheree Cornell both rapped doubles to help pitcher Lori Harrigan win the game.

Reimche set a school record by hitting safely in her 15th consecutive game.

Pacific's Lisa DeBenedetti scored the games only run in the second inning of game two to beat UNLV.

King relieved Harrigan in the first inning and held Pacific hitless for the remainder of the game.

UNLV had nine hits but stranded 11 runners, and improved its overall record to 32-19 and 16-10 in the Big West.

UNLV leaves Thursday for Santa Barbara, California for a six game roadtrip. The Lady Rebels will face Santa Barbara, Pacific and San Jose State.

The Lady Rebels return home on May 4 to close out the regular season against Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State.

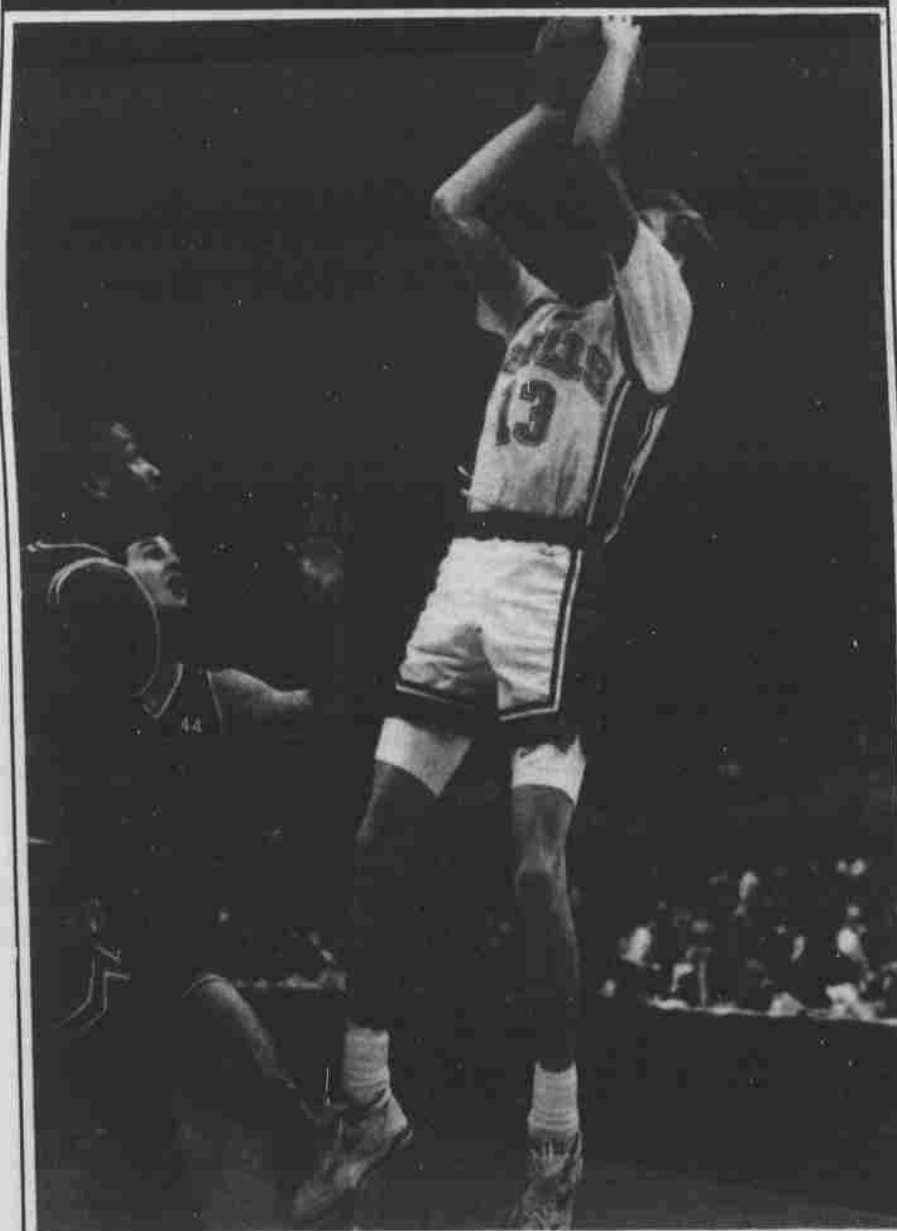
LADY REBELS



Yell Photo / Robert Anderson

-NOW PITCHING #8 Kim Smith. The freshman pitcher is outstanding in her first year.

THREEEE!!



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-GOOD SHOT Travis Bice #13 shows why he's deadly from outside here against LMU in the NCAA West Regional Finals.

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