

Rebel teams on the road to Cali

Hustlin' Rebels take on Pacific

by Tony Llanos

The Hustlin' Rebels will battle the Pacific Tigers this weekend in Stockton, Calif., in a three-game series which starts with night games on Friday and Saturday. The trip concludes with a day game on Sunday.

UNLV is 15-8 overall this year and 2-1 in Big West play. Last weekend, the Hustlin' Rebs took two games out of three from the San Jose State Spartans.

The Pacific Tigers, coached by Quincey Noble, are 7-14 overall and winless in six attempts in conference play. Last weekend, Long Beach State swept a three-game series from the Tigers,

6-3, 20-7, and 11-3.

The Tigers seek to improve their overall record (22-31 overall in 1991, 8-13 in the Big West) as six of the eight position players of last season return. Senior shortstop Keith Johnson led the team at the plate last season with a .313 batting average. The Tigers' slugger cracked a team-leading seven home runs and drove in 42 runs.

In the meantime, UNLV's dominant pitching should limit the Tigers' offense to a cat's meow. The Hustlin' Rebel's pitching squad has accumulated a 3.56 earned run average, the lowest since 1980. The duo of Jonathan Jarolimek (5-0) and Tory Miran (4-1) has only allowed 21 earned runs in 79 in-

nings.

Also, Hustlin' Rebel speedster Rodney Mazion has been successful in the stolen base category, as the two-sport extraordinaire has amassed 13 steals in 14 attempts. Third baseman Lino Diaz currently holds a hitting streak of seven games the longest at UNLV.

The Hustlin' Rebels under coach Fred Dallimore have beaten the Tigers 21 out of the last 32 times, including a 12-6 decision last season. Pacific, however, squashed UNLV 6-0 and 4-3 in two other contests that the teams played in 1991.

UNLV returns home after their series with Pacific to host Cal State Northridge in a three-game, non-conference series March 27-29.

Lady Rebels face CS Fullerton Sat.

The fifth-ranked UNLV softball team, 14-7 overall and 4-4 in the Big West Conference will travel Cal State Fullerton to face the Titans in a doubleheader Saturday.

The Lady Rebels will begin the Big West Conference road season on national television. The Lady Rebels will play at 1 p.m. but the game will not air until 9 p.m. Monday. The telecast will mark the national television debut for the Lady Rebels.

In their first meeting earlier this season, the Lady Rebels beat the the Titans 1-0 at the

Spring Fling Classic. The Lady Rebels, who have had a history of road woes, got back on track in 1991 as they posted their first winning road record (10-6) in the Big West.

The Lady Rebels will return home Monday to host the Missouri Tigers in a doubleheader at the Lady Rebel Diamond. The meeting will be the first between the two schools, but UNLV has a series record of 1-5 against Big Eight Conference schools.

HARRIGAN

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Arizona in the CWS.

Harrigan, a native of Anaheim, California, began playing softball at the age of five. She first took the mound in high school, where she dominated the Orange League, taking league MVP honors in three out of four years. She chose UNLV over a number of Pacific 10 and Big West universities with great softball programs, such as UCLA, Long Beach State, Cal State Fullerton and Arizona.

"It seemed like their (UNLV's softball) program was up-and-coming," said Harrigan of her decision, "and I wanted to stay close to home."

Her potential became evident in her freshman year, when she posted 18 wins, set five school records and led the team at the plate with a .311 average. Her sophomore and junior years saw her ERA drop well below 1.00 and back-to-back 20-plus win seasons. Last year, she was named as an all-American after setting a school record

0.58 ERA. But despite all this success, she still believes there's room for improvement.

"I need to perfect my curveball. The whole (Big West) Conference knows my outside pitch," said Harrigan.

In addition to her career at UNLV, Harrigan has also enjoyed tremendous success in the off season, playing for various club teams, one of which she will compete with this summer in China. Although her softball career could continue next year in Japan or Italy, she intends to keep playing for only another year or two.

"I don't want to make a career out of softball," she said. "My arm won't be able to last anyway."

As a hotel administration major, she plans to finish her degree next year and seek a career in the hotel business. She hopes to remain close to the team, possibly in the capacity of an assistant. Her future, she believes, will keep her here in Las Vegas.



photo by Wray Hallerman

Lori Harrigan is shooting for her third straight 20-win season.

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