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THE REBEL YELL

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photo by Wray Halterman

Tendinitis in Harris' throwing arm has limited her play this season.

Magnificent Seven, Parts 6 and 7

Harris looks to future

Tendinitis sidelines senior

by Nick Haley

After 17 years in organized softball, Kim Harris will hang up her glove at the conclusion of the season. Having developed tendinitis in her throwing arm, the senior outfielder plans to save her arm so she can pursue other sports. She looks forward to spending her next and final year of college at a more relaxed pace.

"Right now, I think I just need to get away from softball," Harris said. "It's taken up my whole life. I've never had a free summer to do anything. I've never had a spring break in college to do anything."

Leaving softball means she will now be able to compete in her favorite sport—volleyball. Because of the demands of classwork and softball, she has not been able to play for some time.

"I wish I could play volley-

ball now, but I'm kind of afraid to get hurt because of softball," Harris said.

Unlike most collegiate softball players, Harris never had the opportunity to play softball in high school—her school didn't offer it. Nevertheless, she played volleyball and basketball, earning four letters in each and played for a number of club softball teams over the summer. Coming out of Mountlake Terrace, Wash., she had offers to play softball with Creighton and Oregon. She instead chose UNLV, in part because of the weather, the city and the coach.

Through her first three seasons with the Lady Rebels, Harris split time between left field and designated player. Primarily a power slugger, she has tried to concentrate on base hits this year in order to cut down on strikeouts. She says focusing on the ball has been her main hang-up at the plate this year.

"I watch the ball out of her (the pitcher's) hand but as soon

as it gets a little ways from the bat, I take my eye off it," Harris said.

"When I get up in the circle, I draw '1B' in the dirt which means 'just a single' so I'll concentrate on just a single."

Heading out to left field, however, requires a more involved ritual.

"I can't step on any of the chalk lines. If we're coming in from the first base dugout, I go out, touch second, then go to left. If we're in the third base dugout, when I come in, I have to stand on third," she said.

Despite her retirement from softball, she intends to remain close to the team. Next fall, she will room with some of this year's freshmen. She's looking forward to becoming a spectator of next year's team.

Having switched majors three times, she has now settled on psychology and will most likely graduate in May 1993. She is interested primarily in criminal psychology but may instead pursue child psychology, depending on the job market.

Benjamins covers all bases

by Nick Haley

Whenever UNLV softball has a role to fill, they can call upon Felicia Benjamins. The senior from La Palma, Calif. has played all infield positions for the Lady Rebels, making her the team's most versatile player. Recruited as a utility player, she split time between shortstop and catcher through her first three seasons at UNLV, filling in wherever she was needed. Though she started the 1992 season listed as the third baseman, she has served mostly as catcher, filling in occasionally for shortstop Lisa Wilkins.

But for Benjamins, versatility doesn't end with softball. Having earned four letters in basketball as well as softball, she had choices out of high school as for which sport she wanted to accept a scholarship. A late recruit, she chose UNLV softball after meeting the players.

All this playing time does have its downside, however. Benjamins' throwing arm has undergone tremendous strain due to the rigors of changing positions so many times. After this season, she says, she'll retire the glove to protect her arm from further harm and pursue other sports.

"I used to have a good arm, but now I'm getting older...and I've had surgery," Benjamins said. "I'm not as good as I used to be."

Benjamins comes to UNLV from southern California, home to many of the nation's finest



photo by Wray Halterman

Benjamins has played six different positions during her career at UNLV.

softball players. She says playing against such elite competition improved her game. On the other hand, she claims it's harder for a good player to dominate, because there's so many of them.

"It's one of the most competitive places. I think a lot of good players are overlooked because there's so many of them there," Benjamins said. "The competition is so good there that it's hard to stand out."

Benjamins believes the Lady Rebel team is the most talented in the country. If the team can shake off its complacency, she says, nothing should stand in the way between them

and their goal—the national title.

"I think our team plays passively, we need to get more aggressive," she said. "We have to find a way to win when it counts."

Though her softball career may end this season, Benjamins believes she will stay close to the sport. She will continue to follow the team after graduation, and is interested in coaching the sport, maybe at the collegiate level.

Benjamins is on schedule to graduate in May. A criminal justice major maintaining a 3.0 GPA, she hopes to work for the city.

Rebel Action over spring break

Baseball

The Hustlin' Rebel baseball team will begin their spring break on the road at Cal State Fullerton with a three-game series against the Titans.

The Rebels will get a break until April 16-18, when they play host to the Anteaters from UC Irvine.

Softball

The No. 6 ranked Lady Rebels will travel to Long Beach State Saturday for a doubleheader with the 49'ers. They return home Monday to host the Pacific Tigers at 1 p.m. The Lady Rebels will then embark on a two-city tour when they travel to New Mexico State on April 15 and San Jose State April 17.

Women's Tennis

The UNLV women's tennis team will play three matches over the break, playing host to Fresno State and UC Riverside Saturday and Sunday at the Fertitta Tennis

Complex. Their other match will take place in Santa Barbara April 16 when they travel to face the Gauchos.

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team will play one match over the break as they travel to UC Irvine Monday April 13.

Golf

The third-ranked golf team will take part in two tournaments over the break. The first is the American Airlines Invitational in Carey, N. C. on April 10-11. The second is the Sundevil Invitational in Tempe, Ariz. April 17-18.

Women's Track

The women's track team will host the UNLV Invitational Saturday at Myron Partridge Stadium on campus. The team will then travel to Irvine, Calif. to participate in the Mt. SAC Relays April 17-18.

Sports