

## Swimmers shave and taper

by Mary Alice Torgerson

Taper-time has arrived for the UNLV men's and women's swimming teams. After a long and grueling three months of training, the team is excited to travel to Federal Way, Wash. this weekend and finally see how fast they can swim.

Swimming is not like most sports where the athletes can perform at their best for every competition. Swimmers usually prime themselves for one to three meets per year.

The Husky Invitational, scheduled for Dec. 4-6, is the first "shave and taper" meet of the year. This means the swimmers reduce the amount of yardage and the intensity of their training for about two weeks before the meet. The day of the meet, the swimmers shave down to achieve the optimum feel for the water and reduce drag. All of this is done to drop seconds from the swimmers' times.



UNLV always "shaves and tapers" for the Big West Conference Championships in February. The swimmers that qualify for NCAA's taper again in March.

In the past seven years, the few swimmers who met time standards for the U.S. Open Swimming Championships tapered in December. This, however, is the first time UNLV has made a team event out of a December meet.

The Husky Invitational was chosen partly due to its facility, according to Coach Jim Reitz.

Although competition pools are all the same distance, they are not the same. The dimensions of the walls and gutters and the atmosphere of the building make a pool fast, ac-

ording to Reitz.

"The Goodwill Games Pool is a state-of-the-art swimming facility that is ranked in the top four in the United States," Reitz said.

UNLV has had good fortune when competing in this pool. Former UNLV swimmer Bart Pippenger placed second in the 200-meter butterfly during the Goodwill Games in 1990.

UNLV took nine swimmers to compete at the Senior Nationals in 1991 when it was held in Federal Way, Wash.

The team is looking better each day as they get more rest.

"Two weeks ago, the team was still broken down, cranky and swimming slow. But, in the last three days, the team is looking great and the morale is getting better," Reitz said.

Along with the men's and women's first-place trophies, Reitz hopes to come home with some qualifying times for the NCAA Championships scheduled for March.



photo by Wray Halterman

Rebel Football Head Coach Jim Strong looks to rebuild with 19 returning starters for the 1993 campaign.

## Strong should improve football team next season

by Jay Sapovits

UNLV football took its first step toward becoming the national champion (someday, maybe?) by pouncing all over Cal-State Fullerton 33-16 in its final game of the 1992 season. With that victory the Rebels achieved their first winning record since 1986, a year they also went 6-5.

A few weeks back on "Sportstalk," I was quite adamant about the job Coach Jim

failure to put people in the stands and stated this as the reason the coach should resign. He also gave Strong credit by hinting of his ability to coach.

If Strong is a good coach, he should be able to improve this team by at least two wins next season. If that indeed happens, I'll bet they average 20,000 people in attendance per game. Without personally

### Commentary

attacking Fossum, I ask this question to everybody rhetorically: Would you resign from a job that pays \$125,000 a year? Fans could shoot flames and throw lighted blow torches. The only effect on my coaching is I would pace a little quicker on the sidelines.

Strong may lead this team to an undefeated record in the next two years, rendering my opinion worthless, and I'd feel really stupid. I doubt this will take place, but if he's fired we'll never know what could happen. Let's ride this out, not call for anyone's job (mine included) and hope that happens. My ego is strong enough to not wish losses on the university, I hope the same holds true at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

—Jay Sapovits is  
the Sports Director  
at KUNV.

Strong has done thus far. My views haven't changed. I said he was a loser (strictly as a head football coach) then and beating Fullerton hasn't changed how I feel. Bad breaks and close games considered, this team could have easily been 9-2 with their only two losses to Hawaii and Oregon. They also could have been 2-9, by folding at Pacific or at home against San Jose State.

Untarnished and blunt—that's the way that opinions should be given. Mine is out there to be proven wrong. As a student, I hope it is.

Should Strong be fired? No, he was given a five-year contract not a three-year deal and as opinions can form, calling for the man's job is both immature and ridiculous. Making that statement gives the supposition that my opinion is the only right one.

Unfortunately, that's what *Las Vegas Review-Journal* Sports Editor Jim Fossum did two weeks ago in a commentary article. Fossum spoke of Strong's

## Gauchos' coach has optimistic outlook

by Anthony E. Zuiker

With Jerry Tarkanian's departure from college basketball, Jerry Pimm, head basketball coach at the University of California, Santa Barbara, assumes the title of the dean of Big West coaches.

"Tarkanian built the Big West and I respect that," Pimm said. "It's a shame he's not here this year because I believe this is the year the Big West will earn the most respect."

Pimm has the second longest tenure among Division I coaches in the west. Don Haskins from Texas-El Paso is the only other coach who possesses more consecutive seasons as a Division I coach.

In 1974, Pimm began his head coaching career at the University of Utah. Prior to his appointment, he served as an assistant for 13 years at Utah. In all, he coached at Utah for 22 seasons, nine as the head coach. The former Southern California standout recorded a 173-86 overall record and was 95-51 in the Western Athletic Conference.

In his first nine seasons, the 1991-92 Co-Big West Coach of the Year has compiled a 148-111 (.571) record as the Gauchos leader. Since he took over the program in 1983, there have been 17 All-Big West performers and two Big West Player-of-the-Year award winners—Brian Shaw in 1988 and Lucious Davis in 1992.

Davis, who signed with the NBA's New York Knicks, will be missed for his 644 points and 22.2 points average per game. Not only will the former Big West Player of the Year be absent, but



Jerry Pimm



post-season tournament seven times and to the National Invitation Tournament twice.

The upcoming season is no differ-

Pimm does not have another Davis-type lined up as of yet.

"There is no one person that can put those numbers up," Pimm said. "It's no secret we will miss Lucious Davis. He gave us so much freedom to mix things up. Now, we have to do a complete overhaul. You build a different team with different chemistry and different players."

Building a successful program is nothing new for the Southern California native. Pimm, 54, begins his 19th season as a Division I head coach. He has compiled a 321-197 overall record. His teams have posted nine 20-win seasons and he has taken a team to the NCAA

ent than the previous ones for the longtime Gaucha coach. Pimm, who projects his team will place fifth in the Big West this season, believes UNLV is the front runner of the conference.

"UNLV will always be strong, especially with (head coach) Roland (Massimino) there," Pimm said. "I think they will be very, very strong and I think they will be picked to win our conference."

The Gauchos coach looks to his five seniors for leadership this season. Moreover, he will count on guards Michael Meyer, Idris Jones, and Ray Kelly to pick up where Davis left off.

### BIG WEST CONFERENCE



	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Nevada	5	1	0	7	4	0
San Jose State	4	2	0	7	4	0
Utah State	4	2	0	5	6	0
UNLV	3	3	0	6	5	0
New Mexico State	3	3	0	6	5	0
Pacific	2	4	0	3	8	0
Cal St. Fullerton	0	6	0	2	9	0