

Rebels take tough road trip

BY GREGORY QUINN
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV men's tennis team (2-3), travel to the San Francisco Bay Area for matches against perennial Pacific 10 Conference strongholds 14th-ranked UC Berkeley today and No. 3 Stanford tomorrow.

For Coach Larry Easley and the team, the early part of the season has been a learning experience. The Rebels lost to top-ranked Pepperdine and UCLA, but tallied two wins in a row this past week against Brigham Young University and Oregon. For Easley, the BYU victory was



TENNIS

especially sweet. "They killed us last year," he said, "then we turned around and killed them this year. So I think we're doing better."

"We have an awfully tough schedule. The first couple of matches (we) were just intimidated by strong teams. In general, the guys are unsure of who they can beat."

Easley does not mince words when it comes to UNLV's chances this week. As for Berkeley, Easley said, "they're better than us. But we have a shot. Stanford—they're top five in the country."

Easley praises his top "three-some" of Pat Bois, Roger Pettersson and Matt Rivera as "guys that are competitive. We could do well against Cal, (and) we have a shot at winning a couple of games against Stanford. (But) we're underdogs."

The Rebels return home to compete in the Nevada Bob's Tennis Tournament on Feb. 19-21 in Las Vegas.

Tonight's Rebel Game

Who: Rebels vs. San Jose State Spartans

Where: Event Center, San Jose, Calif.

When: 7:30 p.m.

• Where they stand: The No. 10 Runnin' Rebels are 14-1, 4-2 on the road, and in second place in the Big West with a 7-2 record. The Spartans are 6-11 overall, 5-3 at home, and in eighth place in the conference at 3-6.

• Season series: UNLV leads 1-0. The Rebels squeaked by San Jose State 84-77 at the Thomas & Mack Center on Jan. 16. In the Rebel victory, J.R. Rider dominated the court with 31 points. Dexter Boney led the team in rebounds with eight boards.

• Streaks: UNLV is coming off a 95-83 victory over the Long Beach State 49ers at home Tuesday. The Rebels have beaten the Spartans the last 24 times the two teams have played. The Spartans surprised Pacific Saturday 54-50.

• Rider on a roll: Rider is averaging 28.4 points and 8.4 rebounds per game. Last week, the 6-foot-5 senior had consecutive 31-point, eight-rebound performances against UC Santa Barbara last Saturday and Long Beach State Monday night.

• Evric, great!: The 6-foot-7 senior is second on the team in scoring with an average of 16.7 points per game. Gray posted a career-high 35 points against Long Beach State Monday night, nailing 13 out of 15 from the field.

• Daryl Scott on top for San Jose State: The Spartans' leading scorer and rebounder with 13.3 points per game and averaging 5.8 boards per game this season. The 6-foot-9 center has led San Jose State in scoring in four straight games.

• UNLV's close call: UNLV won the first meeting against the Spartans this season 84-77 at the Thomas & Mack Center. San Jose State led 72-70 with 4:30 remaining before the Rebels came back for the victory. The point differential was the lowest since the 1985 Pacific Coast Athletic Association Tournament semifinal game won by UNLV 60-59.

• Rebels' outlook: After tonight's game, UNLV returns home for a brief, two-game homestand against the No. 25 Louisville Cardinals at 12:45 p.m. Sunday and conference foe New Mexico State Aggies at 8:05 p.m. next Saturday. The Rebels have won 59 straight games at the T & M.

UNLV



'93 softball season may rest on her shoulders

Smith looks to regain form that lead to her miraculous sophomore season.

BY NICK HALEY
STAFF WRITER

Spectators of UNLV softball over the past three years have been entertained by one of the longest pre-pitch routines in the game—that of Kim Smith.

The right-handed senior out of Vancouver, Wash. begins every pitch by grasping a handful of dirt, wiping her palm against her leg and licking each of her fingers before wiping them off on the middle of her jersey. Veteran fans of softball's "Human Rain Delay" can tell how long she's been in a game by the size of the dirt spot on her right thigh. Smith says the ritual, which she's done since she was 14, serves to keep her hand dry.

"I put the dirt in my hand because my hand sweats and my fingers itch when I get nervous and it dries it off," she said. "It's been a habit since I started pitching and I have to wipe it off because it's a rule."

Whatever it does, it seems to work. Smith has experienced a winning season in every year she's been with the Lady Rebels,

compiling a career 0.97 ERA en route to a 42-15 record. She was at the top of her form in her sophomore year where she went 25-6 with a 0.68 ERA, but has tapered off since. She enters 1993 with a three-game losing streak—the longest of her career.

"I had a little lack of confidence and it never really came back," she said. "I don't think it was a personal loss of heart. I think the team just wasn't going. There was a lot of frustration (on last year's team)."

But with last year's ace Lori Harrigan gone to eligibility and five new starters taking the field this season, teammates are expecting Smith to take them back to another play-off appearance.

"What we're looking for from Kim is leadership," said Shan McDonald, head coach of UNLV softball. "She needs to be a leader on the field as well as for the other pitchers."

Smith is well aware of what is expected of her this season. As the eldest pitcher, her confidence level can make or break a game. And with a rotation of three pitchers, Smith will likely need to shoulder 20-30 games.

"I know I have to get my share of wins, probably 20 like I did my sophomore year," Smith said.

Her sophomore season, 1991,

was the last year UNLV attended the College World Series. But in 1992, the Lady Rebels added a pair of freshman hurlers, Amie Stewart and Cyndi Hewitt, leaving Smith with only a 17-game schedule. The lighter workload had adverse effects.

"My sophomore year it was pretty much Lori (Harrigan) and I and that's what Coach (McDonald) went with," Smith said. "Then we had two freshmen come in at the beginning of (last) year. Coach (McDonald) was trying to divide the time (among four pitchers)."

"She knew she was going with Lori so she was just trying to figure out what kind of pitching schedule she was going to go with. I didn't pitch as often and never got in a rhythm. I didn't know I was going to pitch every single double-header."

With a smaller roster and herself bearing the brunt of the rotation, Smith is getting a better picture of where her duties lie. The Lady Rebels' powerful batting line-up needs only a pitcher who can keep it close. For herself, she looks back to the formula of her predecessor's success.

"Basically, I have to step in and take Lori's role," Smith said. "I'll try to stay within my game and not overpitch."

Rebel Rumble

Lady Rebel receives honors

UNLV senior Teresa Jackson has been chosen Big West Player of the Week. Jackson, a 5-foot-11 forward from Monroe City, Mo., helped the Lady Rebels improve to a league-leading 10-0 Big West mark with wins over UC Irvine and CS Fullerton. Against the Anteaters, Jackson scored a career-high 33 points. Versus the Titans, she posted her 17th career double-double with 22 points and 12 boards. Jackson also had four assists, three steals, and two blocks against CS Fullerton.

The Lady Rebels (16-1 overall, 10-0 in the Big West) are on the road tonight against upstate, rival Nevada (1-15, 1-10).

Coach Jim Strong releases names of recruits

The UNLV football team recruited 19 players for the upcoming 1993 season. Nine of the 19 signees are junior college transfers. Here is a list of the recruits as released on Monday: Curt Barker, tight end, freshman, Las Vegas; Jared Brown, quarterback, junior, Sacramento, Calif.; DeShannon Campbell, defensive lineman, junior, Houston; Byron Culp, tight end, junior, Long Beach, Calif.; Vaimagalo Faavi-Tuaai, linebacker, freshman, Carson, Calif.; Bradley Faunce, punter, junior, Burbank, Calif.; Charles Fisher, linebacker, freshman, Shreveport, La.; Neal Flowers, defensive back, junior, Wynnewood, Okla.; Pat Freeman, offensive/defensive lineman, freshman, Rialto, Calif.; Randy Gatewood, wide receiver,

junior, Wichita Falls, Tex.; Lamont Hicks, linebacker, freshman, Banning, Calif.; Aaron Johnson, linebacker, freshman, Carson, Calif.; Dan Kauvaka, offensive lineman, junior, Hale, Hawaii; Daniel Martin, defensive back, freshman, New Orleans; Fred McClenon, tight end, freshman, Houston; Clint Ogden, offensive lineman, freshman, Boulder City; Brittney Posey, linebacker, junior, Sherman, Tex.; Corey Sears, defensive lineman, junior, San Antonio; Kyle Taylor, defensive back, freshman, Detroit.

Softball team hosts conference foes

The Lady Rebel softball team host a pair of games against UC Santa Barbara Saturday 11 a.m. at Rebel Diamond. UNLV have beaten the Gauchos 19 out of 32 times the two teams have played. The Lady Rebels were 2-0 last season against UC Santa Barbara.

Shan McDonald begins her seventh year as head coach of the Lady Rebels with an overall 189-163-1 record.

Hustlin Rebels host New Mexico

The UNLV (2-1) baseball team hosts New Mexico at Roger Barnson Field this weekend. Game time are 3 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Last weekend, the Rebels took two out of three games against Lewis-Clark State at home.

With a career record of 670-465-2, head coach Fred Dallimore is 30 wins shy of reaching the 700-win plateau. Only 40 NCAA Division I head baseball coaches have more wins.

'Down in front' misunderstood

BY DANIEL W. DUFFY
MANAGING EDITOR

My article titled "Down in front" in Tuesday's paper was a tongue-in-cheek piece and was not meant to be taken literally or seriously. No offense was intended.

I would never speak poorly of this year's Rebel team—they are the most exciting squad since the National Championship team of '90. I only poke fun at our fans because, unlike Duke, the UNLV student body has no unity or school spirit and seems to be more concerned with their vanity and social life at basketball

games than what is happening on the court.

On the issue of Kenny Gibson, any comments on my part were made in jest because in reality he is a welcome addition to the team as both a gutsy and inspirational player who has one of the highest three-point percentages in the NCAA. Gibson did indeed dive atop the Long Beach State bench to save a ball that started a Rebel run that secured the team's victory.

The bench players are also exciting future stars to watch for and provide the necessary moral support to fire up the starters.



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