

When they're playing, he is watching

BY TONY LLANOS
STAFF WRITER

While he commits himself to the students of the university, he can still find time to attend Rebel sporting events. His presence at UNLV games is low-key. And his love for sports is very strong.

Folks, this is not President Robert Maxson.

Rather, he is Joel Kostman, Student Body President.

The chief executive of the student body can still find time to attend a Lady Rebel basketball game within a busy schedule. Having just come back from a grueling day of lobbying in Carson City and a busy day at his office, one can tell he was anxious to get the game started in order to unwind.

"My favorite way to spend my leisure time is watching athletics at UNLV," said Kostman. "Any sport. Anytime. Anywhere. I try to go to the event."

Said the Student Body President: "Without a doubt the last few years, I have seen at every Runnin' Rebel home basketball game and home football game. I missed just one women's basketball game this year, and that was when the men were on television. I went to Lady Rebel softball games missing one or two."

Kostman also plans to attend Hustlin' Rebel baseball games.

"That (attending home baseball games at Roger Barnson Field) is a new experience for me this year. I only made it out there



Joel Kostman

a few times last year and I am making it a point in attending this season."

Despite a workday which consists of more than 40 hours in his Moyer Student Union office and numerous speaking engagements to the various student organizations on campus, Kostman consistently maintains a 3.7 GPA.

And he admires the student-athletes who must endure a similar busy schedule.

Said Kostman: "They (the student-athletes) must prepare and train for their sports. And their practice times are incredible. They have the roughest jobs on this campus. It is tough to do."

When asked about his three

most memorable sporting events at UNLV, the Student Body President said, "One would be (Lady Rebel pitcher) Lori Harrigan's 1-0 perfect game (against Missouri) last year. Lori was great to watch. It was a great feat."

Harrigan's perfect game is the only one recorded in school history.

Said Kostman: "Another one happened this year, when the Lady Rebel basketball team came

from 17 down to defeat New Mexico State at home. They beat the Aggies soundly."

But the most memorable happened this year when the Runnin' Rebel basketball team grappled against the Long Beach State 49ers at the Thomas & Mack Center this year.

"It was even pleasing to see (reserve guard) Kenny Gibson diving atop the (49ers) bench to save a ball and to keep a late rally going," he said. "That was

really phenomenal. That guy is awesome."

Sports is a diversion for many people. But for Kostman, it is more than a diversion; it is a kind of therapy where he can unwind and put his mind at rest from a busy schedule.

And when a game is played at home, whether it is a Rebel or intramural event, rest assured that the Student Body President will be there.

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