

Dircks, Kasvio qualify for swimming nationals

BY MARY ALICE TORGERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students might have been jumping in a pool last week to cool off from the spring break heat, but one UNLV swimmer was heating up a pool in Minneapolis as she ended her collegiate career at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships.

Senior Mari Kasvio was the only female swimmer from the Big West Conference to qualify for the Nationals. Her time in the 400-yard individual medley which won the Big West Championship meet in February qualified her for the meet.

Kasvio, the 1992 Big West Swimmer of the Year, competed in both the 200 and 400 IM last



Dircks



Kasvio

week. Kasvio finished 22nd in the 400 IM with a 4:24.01.

"Considering the new NCAA standards on getting into the meet, we were happy just to be there," Coach Jim Reitz said. "Mari has had a great career at UNLV."

Another swimmer is finishing his career this week.

Senior Colin Dircks qualified for the Men's NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships which are being held this weekend in Indianapolis.

Dircks qualified for the meet after winning the 100 breaststroke at the Big West Conference Championships last month.

After having a discouraging 200 breast at the conference championships, both Dircks and his coach are optimistic about this weekend.

"So few people make it to the meet, that it's very possible that Colin will score," Reitz said. "He still has his best race in him."

Dircks competes in the 100 breaststroke on Friday, and the 200 breaststroke on Saturday.

Rebel tennis faces tough stretch run

BY GREGORY QUINN
STAFF WRITER

UNLV tennis coach Larry Easley calls it a tournament though there is no title or trophy at stake. Instead, this weekend's action at Fertitta Pavilion is a chance for six unranked but eager teams to win some matches and hopefully wake up the NCAA selection committee.

The men will host Northern Arizona Saturday and the University of Texas, El Paso on Sunday, while the ladies will face New Mexico State, Cal State Northridge and the University of Hawaii Friday, Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

None of the teams are strong, which explains why they're here. "Your Top 10 schools are not going to travel," Easley said. "If you (want to) play them, you have to go there. So we play pretty much whoever wants to come here."

With that in mind, it's easy to see why scheduling a Top 10 team can be harder than getting autographs from Siegfried and Roy.

Every school looking to climb the collegiate tennis ladder scrambles to find a slot in the "elitist" schedule.

"It's what you have to do," Easley said, "to build up a program. (For recruiting) you've got to show a good player a good schedule."

The flip side to playing a good schedule is you take a good beating. Last weekend at the Blue-

Schedule for the weekend

Men

Saturday, 10 a.m. UNLV vs. Northern Arizona
Sunday, 1 p.m. UNLV vs. UTEP

Women

Friday, 1 p.m. UNLV vs. New Mexico State
Saturday, 1 p.m. UNLV vs. CS Northridge
Sunday, 1 p.m. UNLV vs. Hawaii

Grey Classic in Alabama, the Rebels were soundly thrashed by Florida, Auburn and Ball State to finish 15th out of 16 teams. Easley is already looking forward to next year. He'll lose only one player, Pat Boies, from this squad.

"We're definitely going to be strong," Easley said. "We still have scholarships open to bring in three more players. Now we have to make sure we get very good players."

On the other hand, the Lady Rebels are on a four-game winning streak with an outside chance of slipping into the ratings. They've not had any bad losses and have scored some good wins. This weekend will be crucial.



"Hopefully," Coach Ola Malmqvist said, "we can beat all three teams. I would say we're probably favored, but I'm not quite sure how strong (the other teams) are."

To impress the NCAA, the Lady Rebels would have to win all three matches this weekend, play well on a road trip to San Diego State and the University of San Diego, and finish strongly in the Big West Championships.

Then again, there are no guarantees.

"Twenty teams get invited for NCAA's," Malmqvist said. "But it's not really fair, because if we had been in a couple of other regions, we'd probably have been good enough to qualify."

Rebel Rumble

No. 3 Lady Rebels in SoCal Tournament

The UNLV softball team is currently participating in the 16-team Cal State Fullerton Pony Tournament. The Lady Rebels begin their four-team pool play with two games today. UNLV faces Utah (5-7) at 11 a.m. before facing No. 5 Oklahoma State (20-4) at 5 p.m. The Lady Rebels will meet Oregon (8-5) tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. Bracket play begins Friday and will resume for the remainder of the weekend.

Also in the tourney are: Pool A - CS Fullerton, No. 13 Kansas, Washington, and Western Illinois; Pool B - Cal Poly Pomona, No. 4 Florida St., No. 5 Fresno St., and Minnesota; Pool D - No. 1 Arizona, No. 7 CS Northridge, Ohio St., and Texas A&M.

UNLV enters the tourney at 13-5 overall, 6-0 in Big West Conference action, and gets back to league play with a Monday double-header at Long Beach St.

Hustlin' Rebs in Colorado for tourney

The UNLV diamondmen, 10-13 overall, 3-3 in conference, will participate in the second annual Colorado West Coors Classic Baseball Tournament this weekend.

UNLV will play six games in the competition and begins play tomorrow with games against Cal Poly Pomona and Northern Colorado. Saturday sees the Rebels facing both Metro St. and Mesa St. before ending tournament play Sunday with contests against Bellevue and New Mexico Highlands.

The Rebels are batting .310

as a team and have a staff earned-run average of 7.08.

Gray to compete in dunk competition

Former Runnin' Rebel star Evric Gray will be one of eight college basketball players competing in the slam dunk contest as part of the fifth annual College Basketball Slam Dunk and Three-Point Shooting Championships April 4.

The competition will be held in New Orleans at Tulane University's Fogelman Arena.

All participants must have completed their college eligibility to be able to compete. Competing with Gray are Tony Dunkin (Coastal Carolina), Thomas Hill (Duke), Matt Greene (Tulane), Stacey Poole (Florida), Charles Outlaw (Houston), Conrad McRae (Syracuse), and Rodney Dobbard (Florida State).

A panel of on-site celebrity judges will narrow the eight dunkers to two finalists. Viewers will then choose the winner based on a phone-in poll.

Dick Vitale and Brad Nessler will co-host the event which will air live on ESPN from 9:30-11 p.m. EST.

The men's trey contest will feature such collegiate stars as All-Americans Calbert Cheaney and Bobby Hurley. All-Big West Conference player Lucious Harris of Long Beach St. has also committed to compete in the three-point shootout.

Competitors for the women's three-point contest include Katie Curry (St. Joseph's, PA), Krista Kirkland (Texas Tech), and Shelley Jarrad (Vanderbilt).

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