

Serious student-athletes are victims of recent publicity

Controversies have hurt their efforts and given them an undeserved bad rap.

BY MARY ALICE TORGERSON

During this time of controversy between athletics and academics, a few people involved in the university are failing to promote this school.

I have a hard time swallowing the words of Regent Lonnie Hammargren when he said that "the idea that (the school makes academics a priority) was just lip-service."

I have been a student-athlete at UNLV for three years and I have failed to receive the privileges that athletes supposedly receive, according to a few regents.

During these three years, I have not been handed my grades or my education on a silver platter. I've worked hard in the classroom as well as the swimming pool.

It's time we disregard the student-athlete stereotype. A few athletes who don't excel in the classroom seem to be dominating the attention given the majority of student-athletes who place priority on their academic careers.

There was a time, not too long ago, when student-athletes were proud to introduce themselves to their classmates as being athletes. Now, student-athletes have to defend themselves from being stereotyped as jocks who don't come to class, have tutors do his work, and are given grades.

As athletes, we promote the university by representing it in all that we do. Athletes can be compared to students who work full-time. However, we work for the university through our sport. Students that have a job can usually schedule their work around their class schedule. In my case, our coach would have to schedule practices, competitions and traveling around the class schedules of 50 student-athletes. It's obvious this is

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impossible in Division I athletics. So when a professor allows us to go to another section of the same class, or make up the work, I don't see it as a privilege.

My professors have never given me privileges or done favors for me. However, most of them are understanding when I am out of town at a competition.

After all of the recent negative publicity, teachers will be hesitant to allow us any kind of favors or even to be understanding when it comes to class attendance.

Of course, the strong athletic supporters probably won't change their ways, but any professor who was undecided in the student-athlete situation, is now going to be anti-athletics.

Maybe I've got my head underground, but I disagree with Hammargren when he claims that academic dishonesty is rampant and routinely covered up.

We're doing a great disservice to our school and community, by digging up dirt and embellishing it.

Academic fraud should not be condoned, but J.R. Rider has done great things for our university. He's at fault, but so are a lot of others who don't seem to want to take the blame.

I'm sure we are not the only university with such problems, but we seem to publicize our problems more. We should try to keep our problems in-house and deal with them behind closed doors.

The publicity surrounding this whole incident has done nothing but hurt the future of UNLV.

—Mary Alice Torgerson is a contributing writer for The Rebel Yell and a member of the UNLV swim team.

Hack N Meg, Untouchables win intramural soccer titles

BY SCOTT HAVERLOCK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Men's Independent tournament champion Hack N Meg defeated Intra Fraternity Council tourney champion Kappa Sigma for the UNLV Men's Overall Soccer Outdoor Tournament Championship Sunday

while the Untouchables defended their title in the women's division.

Hack N Meg (5-0), the favorite to win the men's title, faced a big-time scare in the title game as Kappa Sigma (4-2) hung tough until the end of regulation, taking it to the overtime shootout. Hack N Meg outscored the pesky

fraternity team 3-2 in the shootout for the undisputed men's championship, 2-1.

In the three-shot shootout, Hack N Meg's Lance Marceau and Emmet Mielbrecht scored but so did Kappa Sigma's Anthony Paso and Rob Levy, forcing a

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No strings on me



PHOTO BY NICK HALEY

Theresa Jackson, the lone senior on this year's Lady Rebel squad, finished her career at UNLV with 27 points in an NIT win over George Washington. For more information and other results, see the Rebel Rumble on page 6.

Lady Racketeers on a roll

BY GREGORY QUINN
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend the Lady Rebel tennis team served up three more wins over New Mexico State 6-0, Cal State-Northridge 7-2 and Hawaii 7-2 to improve their record to 11-5. They also extended their winning streak to seven straight.

Saturday, UNLV's Janelle Barr scored a tough come-from-behind victory against Gabriela Knizek of Northridge. Up 5-4, Barr failed to serve out the first set when she double-faulted four times straight and lost the first set 5-7. She regained her composure and won the next two sets 6-4 and 6-2.

The next hurdle for the Lady Rebels will be a road trip against up-and-coming San Diego State and the University of San Diego.

"Both are within our reach," Coach Ola Malmqvist said. "If we beat (both San Diego teams) it would be the best result ever."

It would also give the ladies a shot at the national ratings and a possible playoff berth, a prospect Malmqvist had never imagined at the start of the season.

"We've done better than expected," he said.

The men also won matches against Northern Arizona 4-0 and UTEP 5-2 to improve their record to 8-9. They played short-handed against UTEP on Sunday and were lucky to squeeze out the win. "Matt Rivera hurt his ankle and we could have easily lost," Coach Larry Easley said. "We're not that strong. Take out one of our good players and we're just an average team."

Wildcats will maul attitude-filled Michigan

BY JAY SAPOVITS

Chris Webber, Michigan's sophomore lottery pick, lashed out at the media before beating Temple last Sunday. He said the media was unfair in its criticism of his team. Webber believes winning is all that should be reported and the style in which his team goes about it is irrelevant. After all, they are in the Final Four, a feat the university has accomplished three times in the last five years.

Unfortunately for Webber and his fellow Michigan teammates, the first game they play in New Orleans will be against Kentucky. Webber ought to coddle the media's questions about winning now, because on Saturday night the Wolverines are going to get chewed up and left on the court to die, just like the prey of their nickname. Michigan will get embarrassed by

Kentucky and the questions previously asked to Webber should become obvious to him then.

Most of the questions Webber disapproved of dealt with the teams failure to blow out mediocre opponents. He also was disappointed that Michigan was characterized as lazy. The truth usually is the toughest to accept.

Michigan plays in front of thousands of fans but you'd think they're on the playground. Their positive features are better than most others in the country. But the negative parts of their game are too detrimental to have no effect. They're lazy, shoot horrible foul shots, talk an exorbitant amount of trash, and let every team have a chance to win the game late. Now bring in Kentucky, who is the portrait of composure, to expose all the flaws Webber stated were irrelevant.

Before Kentucky sends Michigan back

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to Ann Arbor in a whirlwind-frenzy of defeat, here are some weaknesses they possess. Webber hasn't shot the ball from outside four feet the whole tournament. When he has, he's been on the free-throw line. Against the threesome of Dent, Mashburn and Prickett, don't expect many quality inside shots from Webber. Don't expect him to start making foul shots either.

The point guard for the Wolverines is unimpressive also. Jalen Rose acts like he's doing you a favor to even be on the basketball court, let alone bring the ball up. Anybody who's ever played street ball has seen someone with this demeanor. It's usually reserved for the person who can't play. This time it's reserved for the player who can't yet play in the NBA. Against Kentucky his lazy, take eight seconds to bring the ball up the court

against no pressure, 'I can go one-on-one against Jordan' attitude is going to be greatly deflated.

To Michigan's credit Juwan Howard is a brilliant inside player. It's his game in the half-court offense that allows the team to continue playing in April. His style reflects the type of game that Michigan needs to play to avoid getting blown out: tough, aggressive and relentless. If they combine all these things together against Kentucky, they may only lose by ten. Pride is the only issue in this game, Michigan Will Not Win!

—Jay Sapovits is KUNV sports director and columnist for The Rebel Yell.