

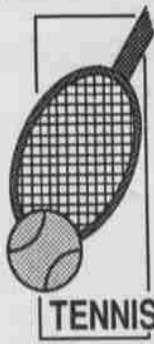
Women hope to keep streak alive

BY GREGORY QUINN
STAFF WRITER

Lately, good things have happened to the UNLV women's tennis team: a seven-game winning streak; a steady move up the national rankings; a second seed in the Big West Conference Championships April 23, with a shot at the NCAA tournament.

And they're all getting a tan. "We've finally gotten some good weather," said tennis coach Larry Easley.

This weekend, the Lady Rebels (11-5) will travel to sunny Southern California to take on No. 16 San Diego State University and No. 20 University of San Diego. A double victory would bump the Lady Rebels into the national rankings for the first time this year.



TENNIS

It would also extend their winning streak to nine games and give the NCAA selection committee something to think about (only 20 bids are awarded, four in each region and four at-large).

Given the fact UNLV is in the toughest region in the country, a pair of wins against ranked teams like SDSU and USD are a must.

However, Becky Markosian, the Rebels' No. 1 player, disagreed.

"This weekend is not crucial," she said. "It wouldn't put us in any kind of position for the play-

offs because they're not in our conference. If we win the conference, then we can make the NCAA's."

However, women's head coach Ola Malmqvist took a more concerned tone.

"It's a very big weekend," he said. "If we want to get ranked, it's very crucial. (But) we have nothing to lose. We should have a shot to beat them, but we have to play real well."

SDSU (12-8) is led by Nicole Storto (16-9 singles, 13-4 doubles), while USD (10-8) will count on Julie McKeon (21-9 singles, 20-7 doubles) and Laura Richards (21-9 singles, 19-7 doubles).

Shierra Stuart, UNLV's No. 3 player, suffered a wrist injury last Friday and is questionable for this weekend.

Softball

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sharp both home and away. We needed that today."

Leading off in the bottom of the ninth, Smith lined past first before giving up base-running duties to junior Hollie Chadwick. An error puts Mallett on first and allowed Chadwick to sprint to third. Then, with no outs on the board, Pacific sealed its demise when sophomore Alyson Henderson's hit was thrown over the head of the Tiger's Bishop, permitting Chadwick to come in unchallenged.

The return to Rebel Diamond was a welcome relief to the Lady Rebels, who had just finished a month-long road trip that had them play all but four of their away games in a row. UNLV posted a 13-8-1 record before coming home to Tuesday's double-header.

Overall, the Lady Rebels are 23-11-1, 13-4-1 in the Big West. But with the trip behind them, UNLV may now enjoy 10 more games in a row at home.

McDonald said: "Knowing

we're going to be home for three weeks is very relieving."

This allows the Lady Rebels to focus on their next challenge—recapturing first place in the Big West. UNLV's losses to Utah State over the weekend have handed the lead to Long Beach State.

The first step back is a four-game set against Hawaii this Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. Though Hawaii is not one of the conference heavyweights, McDonald said they could still pose a threat to UNLV's league record.

"We play four games against Hawaii," McDonald said, "and it's tough to play any team four times in a row and be successful."

A strong homestand could set up a 1-2 showdown between the Lady Rebels and Long Beach State early next month at Rebel Diamond.

"We're right up there, but we have a couple of tough series between then and now," McDonald said.

Phillies

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middle relief!

Mitch Williams, the closer, has phour saves. In his phive innings of work he has also struck out 10 batters. Does the word untouchable ring a bell?

The Phillies aren't the '27 Yankees or the Big Red Machine but they are the best in the National League this year.

They won't win the East simply because the Cubs, Expos, Marlins, Cards, Mets and Pirates stink. The Phillies will win the phlag because they are the best team.

Braves phans, get your receipts and exchange those new hats. There'll be "A" new letter in town soon.

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

Rebel Rumble

Stanford coach VanDerveer to speak on campus April 22

Tara VanDerveer, head coach for the Stanford University women's basketball team, will speak April 22 in Meeting Room D of the Thomas & Mack Center.

Her talk, titled, "Building a Winning Team: Courtside with Coach Tara VanDerveer," will begin at 7 p.m. and is open and free to the public.

VanDerveer has compiled a won-loss record of 196-53 and led the Lady Cardinal to two NCAA championships, in 1990 and '92.

She has also been named head coach of the U.S. National women's basketball team that will compete in the World Games this summer in Brazil.

The talk is sponsored by the Stanford Club of Southern Nevada.

Hustlin' Rebs to host Southern Utah in weekend series

The UNLV baseball team, 13-18 overall, 4-8 in Big West Conference, will host Southern Utah in a non-conference four-game series this weekend.

Friday's opener is set to begin at 7 p.m. while the Saturday twilight double-header will start at 5 p.m. Sunday's contest is at 1 p.m.

UNLV leads the overall series against the Thunderbirds, 61-10.

The Rebels won all four times a year ago by scores of 17-0, 14-2, 12-4 and 10-3.

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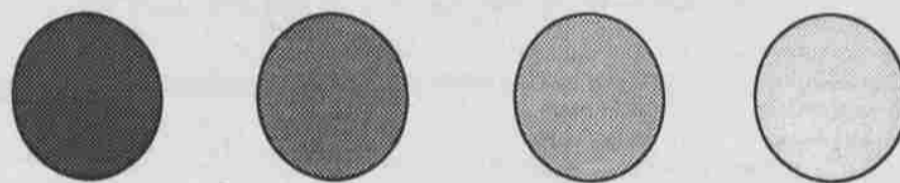
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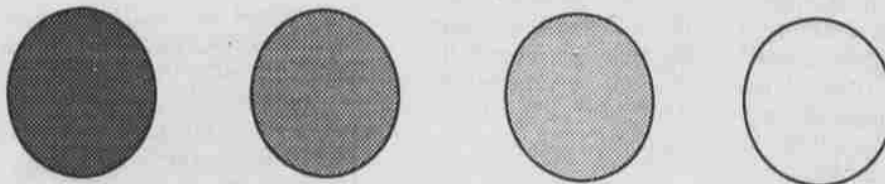
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