

Swimmin' Rebel Shoulders Leadership Responsibilities

Swimming: Surgery doesn't stop Mroziak from coming back after a year off for physical reasons

BY SEAN DEFRANK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Julie Mroziak ought to know.

Going into last year, Mroziak was one of UNLV's top returning swimmers. As the defending Big West Conference champion in the 200-yard backstroke and an All-America candidate, she had her sights set on a huge senior year.

It never materialized.

Mroziak had to redshirt last season after two shoulder operations. While she might not agree that it was the best thing that could have happened to her, she does say the layoff had its positive effects.

"It was hard to watch the team and not compete," said Mroziak, who worked home meets in a managerial capacity last season while covering the team for *The*

Rebel Yell. "But it was good. I think it was a good year off because it inspired me. I think it put a new fire in my eyes."

Mroziak goes into this season not only with a renewed enthusiasm towards swimming, but also with a new outlook. Now there are other goals besides winning.

"I could sit there and say, 'my goals are to make the NCAA (meet) and to win Big West,' and those are important goals," Mroziak said. "But I want to make it through the season. I want to enjoy it and I want to make the most of my last year."

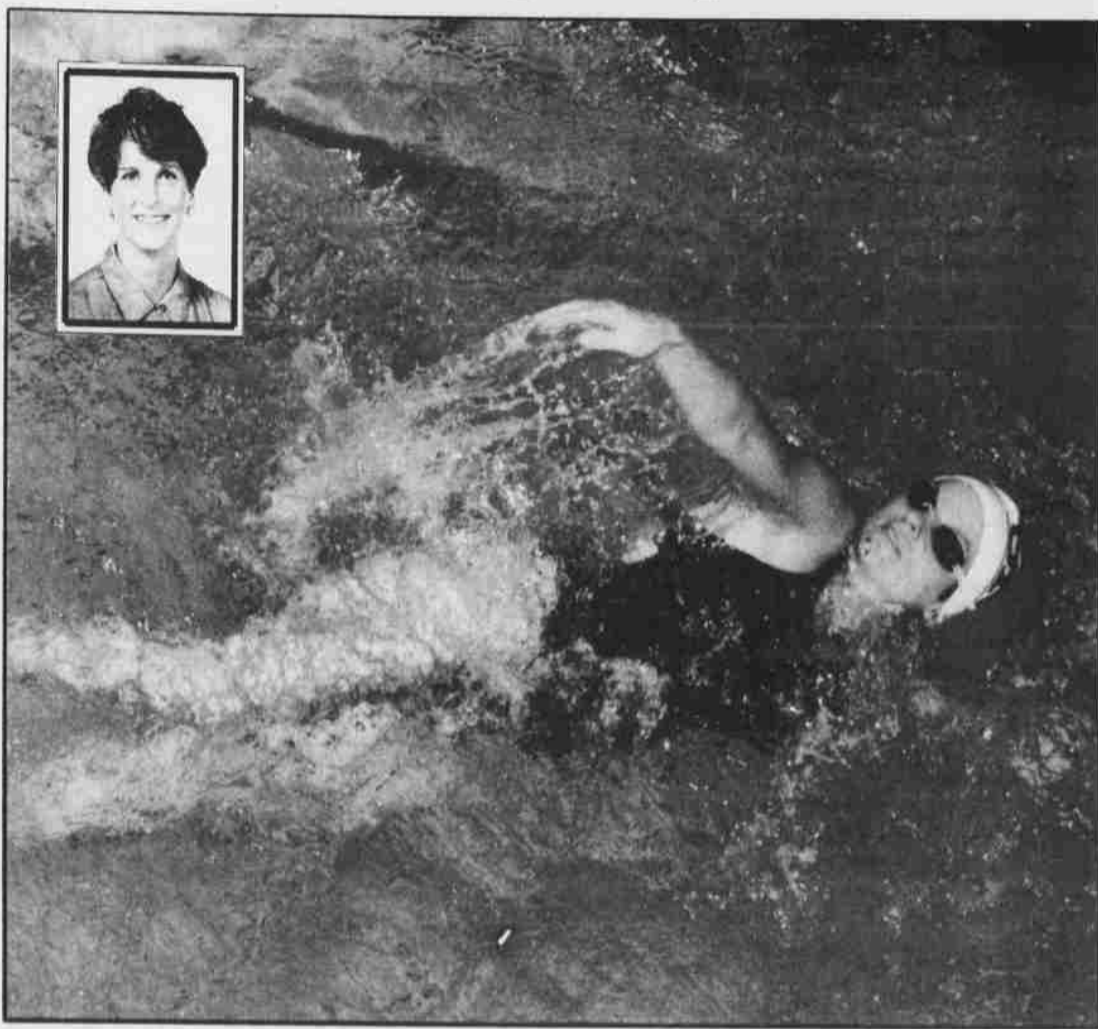
According to head coach Jim Reitz, Mroziak's value on the team goes beyond her swimming.

"It's hard to put into words, the leadership that we lost," Reitz said of her redshirting last season. "She's a huge factor in leadership on the team. She's always been one of the very hardest workers down in our history. Before she took the year off and had those two operations, she'd been injured for three years, so she swam with pain. So it was a pretty big factor."

In 1992, Mroziak placed 20th at the NCAA championships in both the 200-freestyle and the 200-backstroke. She remains an integral part of the Rebels' success this year while competing

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Julie Mroziak was forced to medical redshirt last year due to shoulder problems.

as a middle-distance freestyler, backstroker and a member of UNLV's relay teams.

Mroziak's recovery was still somewhat of a question mark before Friday's 15th annual Red-Grays scrimmage, but afterwards Reitz was pleased with her progress.

"We were ecstatic," Reitz said.

"These are great times. I couldn't have dreamed she would have gotten this fast."

Mroziak could have forgotten about swimming. After all, she graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. But instead of taking her degree and leaving UNLV, the senior out of York, Pa., decided to stay. She is now pursuing a

master's degree in sport management. Oh yeah, and there's also her swimming.

"I was in a lot of pain and I could have ended it, but I opted not to because I wanted to end on a good note," Mroziak said. "I wanted to go the rest of my life knowing that I'd given everything I could to my swimming career."

Rebel Riders Win Third in a Row

The UNLV rodeo team continued its winning ways with a victory this past weekend at the Scottsdale Community College Rodeo in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The Rebel Riders accumulated 490 points in securing the win.

UNLV also grabbed individual honors with Zane Davis and Lyndee Theobald capturing the men's and women's all-around championships.

For Davis, the 1993 College National Finals Rodeo All-Around Champion win was his third of the season. Besides the all-around win, Davis won the saddle bronc and bare-back riding events.

Theobald captured the women's goat-tying event.

Beau Gillespie finished second in bare-back riding, while Shelby Brannin won the calf-roping event to assist the men's triumph.

UNLV has won all three rodeos it has competed in this season, driving them into first place in the Grand Canyon Region with a total of 550 points. Central Arizona College is second with 328 points.

The Rebel Riders take two weeks off before hosting the UNLV Rodeo Nov. 5-6 at the Rocking K Arena in northwest Las Vegas.

—Sean DeFrank

Kickin' Rebels Aiming for .500 Season

Soccer: UNLV swept on SoCal road trip

BY STEVE SEELIG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Get out the buckets, the U.S.S. Rebel Soccer is goin' down.

The team finally did something different this weekend: rather than split a weekend series, UNLV lost both games.

The Rebels fell to longtime rival Cal State Fullerton, 3-0. With the loss, the Rebels became the first UNLV team to be shut out seven times in a season.

"We looked lethargic this weekend on defense and offense," Rebel coach Barry Barto said.

The Rebels then celebrated

their achievement of mediocrity by losing at San Diego State 3-1 in overtime.

The team's only goal of the weekend was scored by freshman Damon Bradshaw.

Now that the team's chances of winning the division are down the tubes, the Rebels (5-9 overall, 1-3 in division play) are setting their sights on finishing the season at .500.

"With the core we have, we should be able to do it," Barto offered.

The cards seem to be stacked in the Rebels favor, as the team finishes the season with four home games.

"Being at home should help us," Barto said. "The team seems to be more comfortable."

Indeed. While posting an 0-4 record on the road, the Rebels are even at home, going 4-4.

The Rebels will be home and

away this weekend, playing at UC Santa Barbara Friday before hosting Cal State Northridge Sunday at 1 p.m.

"I think we have a good chance against both teams," Barto said. UNLV leads the all-time series against UCSB, 13-8-4.

After starting the season 1-3, The Gauchos have gone 7-2, and look to be in a good position to make the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation tournament.

"Santa Barbara has had a good run," Barto said. "We've matched up against some pretty good teams though, and I think we can pull an upset."

The Matadors, on the other hand, have seen their season go in the opposite direction. After starting the season at 5-2, Cal State Northridge has gone 1-5. CSUN won the UNLV Coors Light Invitational earlier this season.

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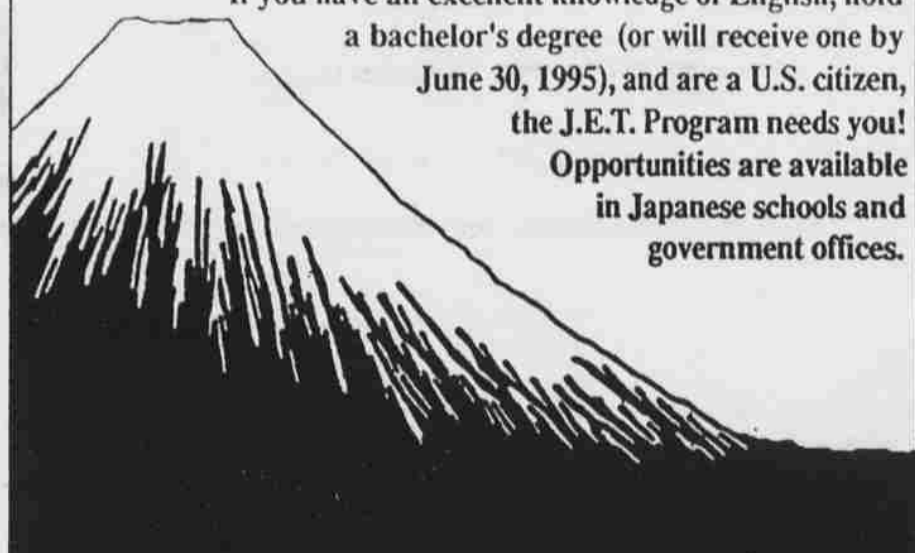
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