

Time To Step Up

Lady Rebels: Tracy Titus ready for the challenge of being a senior leader

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It's time. Time to step up, respond to the task at hand. Tracy Titus knows it. And it makes her uneasy. "Because I'm a senior and there's a lot of pressure as far as being a leader and knowing exactly what to do and helping out the underclassmen," she said. "A lot of the stress is knowing that



Tracy Titus

it's time to step up." And for the UNLV women's basketball team to be successful this year and have any chance at a repeat trip to the NCAA Tournament, Titus certainly must respond to the challenge. "I know what to expect and what they expect from me," Titus said of the Lady Rebel coaching staff. Coach Jim Bolla said he is expecting a lot from his 6-2 senior center. "She played very well last year and was probably the most improved player we had on the team last year," Bolla said. "She has

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The Rebel Yell

the uncanny knack for going on scoring binges and blocking shots. We need her to become more consistent this year" Titus did just that in Monday's 89-65 exhibition loss to Tungsram SC, Hungary. Had it been a regulation game, Titus would have equaled a career high with 20 points on seven of 11 shooting. Titus said she needs more minutes to improve her play. "And if they take me out," she said, "I need to just come out for like a minute, a minute and-a-half so I can come back in and not get out of it." As a freshman, Titus appeared in 22 games and averaged just 2.0 points per game in 228 minutes. Her stats went down dramatically her sophomore year with 1.4 ppg in 22 games before averaging 4.5 ppg last year in

564 minutes. "The first two years I kinda just messed around," Titus said. "It was a disappointment but I didn't do much too get back into it, to improve myself." She said distractions kept her from concentrating on improving her game. Among the distractions? "School," she said. "I had a hard time with my grades, trying to stay eligible and being away from home." And that was probably the biggest obstacle Titus had to overcome—being homesick. As a senior at Loara High in Anaheim, Calif., Titus averaged 25.5 ppg and 16.4 rebounds, was named the 1990-91 *Los Angeles Times* Player of the Year, broke the Orange County single-game scoring record with 61 points against Los Alamitos, was named

Big West women's coaches' poll

1. New Mexico State	98 (9)	6. Long Beach State	62
2. UC Santa Barbara	81 (1)	7. San Jose State	37
3. UNLV	72 (1)	8. Cal State Fullerton	25
4. Hawaii	66	9. UC Irvine	23
4. Pacific	66	10. UNR	20

Cal Hi Sports Magazine Division II Player of the Year for the state of California and was *USA Today* honorable mention All-American. With all those accolades, it seemed only natural that she would carry some of it over to the collegiate level, hence the disappointment the first two years. But Titus said that's all in the past. It's time for her to step up

and, along with senior guard Gwynn Hobbs, take the Lady Rebels to another conference championship. "I feel pretty confident that we're going to win the Big West again," she said. "We've got a lot of work but I think everybody wants it. We definitely have the talent, although we are young. And I think we have the talent to pull through it."

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