

Academics Can Go with Athletics

Intramurals: "Stormin' Mormons" win girls basketball title

BY STEVE SEELIG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In an interview early last month, soon-to-be UNLV president Carol Harter stressed the importance of academics over athletics. But does one have to be chosen over the other?

Academics may bring up images of tape-rimmed glasses and computer geeks treating the library as if it were the student union. It's where finding a good article on quantum physics is as good as a game of pool.

Athletics on the other hand are often stereotyped as jocks with more muscle mass than IQ points.

There might be some truth to these schools of thought, but five "fresh women" beg to differ. To them these two worlds can live together in peaceful coexistence.

Meet the 1995 girls intramural basketball champions. Sponsored by the Latter Day Saint Student Association, the "Stormin' Mormons" posted a 39-30 victory over the Untouchables, the defending champs.

The LDSSA team consisted of freshmen Dorothy Kingston, Steffani Young and Becky Fisher and juniors Amy Manor and Rochelle Mason. Also on the team were sophomores Brigette and Carrie Walters.

"This is so cool," Fisher said. "I can't believe we won. A good physical game of basketball helps to release the pressure of school. Actually I think it helps me to study better."

So what makes these girls

so special? All of them are top-notch students that have received many academic honors both in high school and college. Three of the seven were also valedictorians.

The girls are involved to a great extent in improving the community and help to provide a good example for fellow students.

"I enjoy being a part of the LDSSA," Kingston said. "I like being able to help provide activities and projects that help to improve the university."

This wasn't the first time the girls had hit the hardwood together, though. The starting five played basketball for their respective high schools in Ely and Alamo. They even played against each other when they were younger.

Mason received honors recently for her athletic ability by being named Student Athlete of the Week by the intramurals program.

"Just call me Shaq Diesel," she joked.

Often facing tremendous talent, these young women proved that teamwork, focus and effort can often outshine potential. These qualities are also needed to be a successful student.

Not only do the girls combine success on the court with classroom achievements, the group also performs with the LDSSA choir.

The girls recently performed at Christ the King Catholic Church with two other choirs from the Jewish and Catholic faiths.

"The experience taught me how important it is to be accepting of others," Young said.

These girls are a fine example that academics and athletics can work together and provide students with a well-rounded education.

Sports need not be clouded over by scandals and cover-ups or lack of effort in the classroom.

Scholarly pursuits need not

Lady Rebels Keep on Rolling

Softball: UNLV sweeps Pacific, splits with Texas A&M

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV softball team kept its winning ways rolling as it won three of four over spring break.

The No. 4 Lady Rebels moved their record to 22-4 overall, 8-0 in the Big West by sweeping a doubleheader at Pacific and then splitting one at home with Texas A&M.

"Overall it was an excellent week," assistant coach Carolyn Spanks said. "We hit the ball well, and played well."

The Lady Rebels started the break by travelling to UOP for a conference battle. In the first game, it took the Lady Rebels six innings to get a run across the plate, and once they got going they put four through in the inning.

With the bases loaded, catcher Julie Crandall walked, which scored shortstop Kim Rondina for the first run. Heather Markowitz followed with a base-clearing double to up the score to 4-0.

The Lady Tigers answered with one of their own in the bottom half of the sixth, but the Lady Rebels kept the pressure on, adding three more in the top of the seventh.

The Lady Tigers threatened in the last of the seventh when they loaded the bases with no outs. Pitcher Teresa Branch pitched out of the jam, allowing just two runs to cross, and came out with her eighth win of the season (8-2). She struck out one, walked two and gave up six hits in the contest.

Center fielder Sara Mallett was the big bat in the Lady Rebel lineup going 2-2 with an RBI and a run scored. Left fielder Alyson Henderson also provided some pop at the plate with a double in the seventh, finishing the game 2-3 with a run scored.

The second game turned out to be a pitcher's duel with Lady Rebel Amie Stewart going the distance for the 2-0 shutout.

The Lady Rebels jumped on Lady Tigers pitcher Leslie Rodgers early, with right fielder Ronnie Salcido scoring on a double by Rondina. She had two in the game, tying a UNLV record.

The second run for the Lady Rebels came in the fourth when third baseman Andrea Balandran scored on a passed ball.

Stewart was in constant trouble throughout the game, which saw the Lady Tigers strand 12 runners on base, and eight in the last three innings. Stewart struck out five, walked four and gave up seven hits on her way to her 12th win of the season.

Rondina went 2-4 with an RBI, and Salcido also went 2-4 in the game.

The Lady Rebels' four-game winning streak came to an end when they dropped the first half of a doubleheader with Texas A&M, 1-0.

Stewart threw in the first game and went the distance for only her second loss of the season. The Lady Rebels did not add much offensive support either, as they had two hits and a total of five base runners.

"There were four times when we got the lead-off hitter on," Spanks said. "We just couldn't get the timely hits. But we came out in the next game and hit the ball hard."

The second half of the bill saw the Lady Rebels waking up the bats. They collected 12 hits and 11 runs to force an early end to the game when it was called in the fifth due to the mercy rule.

The Lady Rebels put three out of the yard. Mallett hit her third homer of the year and collected four RBIs. Crandall smacked her second as did Balandran, who finished off a six-run fifth with her blast.

First baseman Cyndi Parus also provided some offensive support, going 2-3 with a RBI and a run scored. Rondina also went 2-3 with two runs scored.

Branch went the distance going five innings for her ninth win on the season. She struck out two, walked three and gave up just one hit.

Up next for the Lady Rebels is a trip to Cal State Fullerton where they will play in the Pony-Louisville Slugger Tournament, the final tournament of the season. The next home game for the Lady Rebels is Wednesday when they face Cal State Fullerton in a doubleheader. The opener will start at noon and be played at Rebel Diamond.

Tough Spring Break for UNLV Tennis

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
STAFF REPORTER

It was a tough spring break for UNLV Tennis.

The 41st ranked men's and women's teams dropped five of six matches throughout the week, with the men picking up the only Rebel win Sunday.

The Rebels, who started the week 5-6 overall, 3-1 in the Big West, moved their record to 6-8 after losing to No. 15 Notre Dame and No. 6 Mississippi. UNLV came back to upset No. 38 Michigan at the Blue-Gray Classic in Montgomery, Ala.

"I felt pretty good about the tournament," coach Larry Easley said. "It was a good win. Michigan is a team that we're in the ballpark with. We hung in there with the other teams, but they were definitely too strong for us."

With Rebels and Wolverines locked at three singles wins

apiece, the doubles matches became center stage. Both were close matches, with the Rebels pulling out both games for the match win. Tim Blenkiron and Rob Norton defeated their Wolverine counterparts 9-8, while Roger Pettersson and Jules Pohjola won their match 8-6.

On the singles side of the court, Pettersson, who improved his national ranking to No. 19, won in straight sets 7-5, 6-1. Pohjola and Luke Smith also came out with victories to give the Rebels the match, 4-3. Blenkiron, Norton and Thomas Schrader all fell.

The Rebels held close to Notre Dame on Thursday, but still fell way short of a victory, losing the match 7-0. In singles action, the Rebels forced two three-set matches, and overall kept the Fighting Irish within striking distance.

At No. 1 singles, Roger Pettersson lost only his sixth match of the season, losing in straight sets 6-7, 2-6. Smith and Schrader fought hard and went three sets before being taken out by the Fighting Irishmen, while Blenkiron, Norton and Pohjola fell in straight sets.

Day two of the tournament saw more of the same for the Rebels as they were dominated by Mississippi, losing 0-6. Norton came out with the only set win as everyone else fell in straight sets to a very tough Mississippi team.

Norton, playing at the No. 6 spot, won the first set 6-1, but could not carry the momentum through as he dropped the next two sets, 3-6, 4-6. Blenkiron, Pettersson, Pohjola and Smith also fell short in their matches. The doubles teams did not fare much better as both Schrader/Smith and Blenkiron/Norton lost.

The last two home matches of the season will be this weekend when the Rebels host Arizona Friday at 1 p.m. and San Diego

State Sunday at noon at the Frank and Vicki Fertitta Tennis Complex.

Women's Tennis

After starting the season 10-2, including winning six straight, the UNLV women's tennis team dropped three straight over spring break.

The No. 41 Lady Rebels, who are 10-5 overall (2-0 in Big West play), lost to Mississippi, Georgia and Auburn in their latest stretch away from home.

"We were a little unlucky," coach Ola Malmqvist said. "We could have pulled out some good wins, but we didn't do it. We are still not playing to our full potential."

Malmqvist explained that this team needs to prove just how good it really is. "We are better than it (the #41 ranking), but you have to prove it. We could have beaten these teams. We have to get tougher."

No. 20 Mississippi pulled out a close win March 14, as they beat the Lady Rebels 5-4. Marianne Vallin, ranked 57th nationally, played some of her best tennis by beating her opponent in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3. Marie Linusson won the only other singles point, going three sets for the victory, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Astrid Copano, Jeanette Fylpaa, Ljiljana Kordic and Shiera Stuart all fell in tough singles matches.

In doubles action the teams of Copano/Vallin and Lisa Annebro/Stuart both came out with big wins, but it was not enough as Linusson/Kordic were dropped by the Ole Miss team. Annebro, who usually plays at the No. 4 spot in singles tennis, sat out due to the flu, but came back to play a strong match in doubles.

Top-ranked Georgia was the next stop for the Lady Rebels. They ran with the defending national champions, but in the end the Lady Rebels won only one set as they were shutout, 9-0.



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