

Softball

continued from 13
 six. Balandran went 1-2 with a double and a run scored, first baseman Cyndi Parus also scored as she went 1-3.

In the second half of Friday's set, the score read the same, but a different game was played. Behind pitcher Teresa Branch, the Lady Rebels outlasted Hawaii in 11 innings.

Hawaii scored its only run of the game in the first, and UNLV matched it in the second, but after that there was not much more. Branch went the distance, striking out three and walking one, giving up nine hits in her 13th win of the season.

The Lady Rebels collected 12 hits in the game with left fielder Aly Henderson and Parus both

knocking out three hits apiece. Stewart, playing as the designated player, went 2-4, and the return of Rondina saw her going 2-5.

It was Hawaii's turn on Saturday as its bats came alive to beat the Lady Rebels twice. In the first half, center fielder Sara Mallett came out of her 0-7 slump to hit here fourth home run of the season. Parus also added her first dinger of the year, but it did not make a difference as Hawaii pitcher Kym Weil scattered four other hits around the field.

"We hit the ball hard most of the time," Spanks said. "But it was at people and that's really tough when that happens."

Stewart lost her fifth of the season, striking out three and walking two in the battle. She allowed seven hits and all four runs were earned.

It all came apart in the final game of the series when the gloves of the Lady Rebels became their enemies. Three errors, and a couple of close plays, led to a big sixth inning for Hawaii, who put seven across in the inning.

With no walks and four strike outs, Branch pitched a strong game but still ended up with her fourth loss of the season. Salcido may have had her best game of the season as she went 3-4 with a run scored and her eighth stolen base of the season. Julie Crandall went 2-3 with a RBI and a double. Mallett also chimed with a double, a run scored and an RBI in the Lady Rebel loss.

"There was only that one inning where they scored all their runs," Spanks said. "None of the hits were really rips, though."

"After that inning we really

couldn't get back into the game. It's tough to try and come back from that many runs down late in the game."

Spanks went on to explain that probably the strongest point of this team is still its defense and pitching.

"Our strong point is still the fairly consistent defense, includ-

ing our pitching," she said. "Producing runs is also our big strength; it makes it difficult for others to score when we're scoring runs. We just need to cut down on the mental mistakes and get focused."

The Lady Rebels will be on the road this weekend in New Mexico State.

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