

UNLV Sports Schedule

A listing of events featuring Rebel sports teams and UNLV facilities

Today
Hustlin' Rebels vs. Cal State Fullerton, Wilson Stadium 7:05 p.m.

Friday
Women's tennis vs. UC Santa Barbara, Fertitta Complex 1 p.m.
Hustlin' Rebels vs. Cal State Fullerton, Wilson Stadium 7:05 p.m.

Golf at Thunderbird Invitational, Tempe, Ariz.

Saturday
Hustlin' Rebels vs. Cal State Fullerton, Wilson Stadium 1:05 p.m.
Golf at Thunderbird Invita-

tional, Tempe, Ariz.
Lady Rebel softball at Long Beach State (DH).

Sunday
Women's tennis vs. Utah, Fertitta Complex noon.
Lady Rebel softball at Cal State Fullerton (DH).

Wednesday
Lady Rebel softball vs Long Beach State (DH), Rebel Diamond noon.

April 21
Hustlin' Rebels at San Jose State.

April 22
Lady Rebel softball vs. San Jose State (DH), Rebel Diamond 11 a.m.
Hustlin' Rebels at San Jose State.

April 23
Lady Rebel softball vs. Pacific (DH), Rebel Diamond 11 a.m.

No. 6 UNLV Sweeps New Mexico State

Softball: Lady Rebel road trip continues in SoCal

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
STAFF REPORTER

As the case has been all season, the UNLV softball team pounded another Big West opponent this weekend in a doubleheader.

This time it was New Mexico State who felt the power of the Lady Rebels. UNLV is currently ranked sixth in the nation, falling a spot from the fifth position, and is 30-9 overall, 13-3 in Big West play.

"Overall the defense, offense and attitude is good," a pleased coach Shan McDonald said. "We need to continue having it through the rest of the year, and if we can take it into next week we should be in good shape."

Pitching held the game tight

in the first half of the twin-bill, with pitcher Amie Stewart going the distance for her 15th win of the season. She gave up just one hit over seven innings while striking out seven and walking four. It was also her fourth shut-out of the year. She also helped herself at the plate by belting an RBI double in the fourth.

The Lady Rebels started it off in the third inning when leftfielder Alyson Henderson was hit by a pitch. She moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by right fielder Ronnie Salcido and then came home when shortstop Kim Rondina smacked a single to right. They added another run in the fourth to nail down the 2-0 victory over the Lady Roadrunners.

First baseman Cyndi Parus and Rondina were the big bats of the game. Parus went 2-3 with a run scored in the game, raising her season average to a team-leading .422 with a homerun and 28 RBIs. Rondina went 2-3 with an RBI, improving many of her team-leading numbers. She is on top with most hits (52), doubles (14), homeruns (six) and RBIs (31). Third baseman Andrea Balandran also showed her offensive touch, which was missing last season, going 1-3 and moving her average to .315 with nine doubles and three dingers.

The second half saw the bats of the Lady Rebels awake from their five-game slumber when they came up with six runs on eight hits for their 30th win of the season.

"We started to hit the ball well again," McDonald said. "I thought that New Mexico State did a good job, and they are a much improved team, but I was pleased with our performance. The enthusiasm was there, and we did a good job defensively."

Pitcher Teresa Branch started

the game and went an inning before being pulled out. Stewart came in to relieve her. Branch gave up the only Lady Roadrunner run of the game while striking out one and walking one. Stewart continued her mastery of the plate, allowing just one hit to seven strikeouts and no walks.

Branch has had some trouble with her back and leg lately, but it's nothing serious, McDonald explained.

"We wanted her to pitch so we could see what certain pitches she could pitch."

The scoring started early for the Lady Rebels when Parus, who went 2-4 with three RBIs, knocked a two-run single into center in the top of the first. NMSU answered back in their half of the first, and the game stayed at 2-1 until the seventh.

With two down in the seventh, Rondina smacked a double to right and left fielder Sara Mallett walked to put runners on first and second. Parus went to a 3-2 count then popped a single to left, scoring Rondina. The gates opened up after that as the Lady Rebels pushed three more across in the two-out rally.

Stewart collected her 16th win of the season and dropped her ERA to 1.68 with 132 strikeouts in 154 innings pitched. Other players who helped in the winning cause were catcher Julie Crandall, who went 1-4 with an RBI, and second baseman Amy Watkins (1-4 with a run scored).

The Lady Rebels continue on their road trip this weekend, visiting Long Beach State and Cal State Fullerton. It will be the first meeting of the season with LBSU and the second time the Lady Rebels have faced the No. 4 Lady Titans. The two teams split a doubleheader on March 29, here at Rebel Diamond.

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The Rebels fell in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament at home to USC. The losing continued the following year as did Massimino's support.

That was followed by the revelation of Massimino's lucrative secret contract. After he was bought out for \$1.88 million, the rally to bring Tim Grgurich back to campus began. That set the stage for the most outrageous event in my term as sports editor.

We were on the Gerg chase

with the big boys, all three networks as well as the two papers. We were camped out in front of President Kenny Guinn's office, expecting him to come out and announce Gerg's hiring. Instead, it was a resignation speech by Athletic Director Jim Weaver.

Guinn announced he would not hire Gerg, but rather, an interim coach. But as we all now know, public pressure forced him to hire Gerg.

"Mass Exodus: Who's Next?" was splashed across *The Yell* and was timely, considering it happened on a Wednesday night and we came out on Thursday mornings.

That's what UNLV gave me —

the real world experience to track down a story and stay on the path - the thrill of the chase.

It's given me the courage and confidence to stand up to an interview subject, no matter who it is.

And if I get the chance to interview Rider again, I won't have sweaty palms from being nervous - they'll be sweaty from excitement and confidence.

It's been one helluva ride. Thanks for reading.

—Paul Gutierrez was the Sports Editor at *The Rebel Yell*.

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