

# Lady Stringers Sweep Easter Weekend

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV women's tennis team received their Easter presents early this weekend when they beat UC Santa Barbara and Utah.

"It was the best effort overall this season," coach Ola Malmqvist said. "I was very pleased. We beat a team that was at one time ranked 15, and are the defending Big West champs."

After the weekend's battles, the No. 39 Lady Rebels raised their overall record to 14-7, 4-0 in the Big West.

The Lady Rebels started out the weekend with their first ever victory over the four-time Big West Champions UCSB. They beat them, 5-4, with gutsy play on the singles court.

Five of six singles matches went to the Lady Rebels, but they dropped all three doubles matches to allow the Lady Gauchos to climb a little closer in the end.

Marianne Vallin, ranked 50th nationally, went three sets to get her 21st win of the season, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6. Lisa Annebro, Astrid Copano, Ljiljana Kordic and Shiera Stuart all registered wins in singles action as well. The only loss came at No. 2 singles where Marie Linusson fell quickly to Lynn Coakley, 3-6, 2-6.

In doubles, the Copano/Vallin team fell in a tough loss, 4-6, 6-1, 6-7. They lost to the 19th-ranked doubles team in the nation. Annebro/

Stuart and Kordic/Linusson were the other doubles victims in the second half of the match.

"I don't think we played good doubles," Malmqvist said. "We had already clinched the match though, but I was still a little concerned. We'll practice more on it before the conference tournament."

On Senior Day at the Fertitta Tennis Complex, both departing seniors, Copano and Stuart, won their matches in quick fashion. Copano played almost errorless tennis as she destroyed Sarah Mecham in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0. Stuart also played one of her best matches of the season, defeating Angie Olson, 6-2, 6-2.

At No. 1 singles, Vallin battled through a broken thumb on her non-playing hand to win a hard fought three-set match, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2. Annebro and Kordic also came up with strong victories. Linusson fell once again in the Lady Rebels only loss of the day, 1-6, 3-6.

"Marie has been a little unlucky lately," Malmqvist said. "She hasn't been playing well, and has had problems with her confidence. Hopefully, by the conference tournament she'll be playing better."

With the win over UCSB, the Lady Rebels stand a good chance at being the No. 1 seed in the Big West Championships at Ojai, Calif., April 26-29. It would be the first time in school history that the Lady Rebels are seeded No. 1.

# Deuce

**continued from 15**  
LBSU pitcher Amy Miner early on, with Salcido leading the game off with a walk. She advanced to second on second baseman Amy Watkins sacrifice, and then moved to third when Rondina came up with a single. With the steal on for Rondina, Salcido made a break for home, but was thrown out by the second baseman who fired a strike to the catcher.

Mallett came up to belt a single, putting runners on the corners for first baseman Cyndi Parus. Parus doubled off the wall in right, scoring Rondina, and putting the Lady Rebels on the board with their first run.

They added two more in the second, and then delivered the final blow in the third with three more. With one out, Parus and catcher Julie Crandall walked to put runners on first and second. Stewart then stepped into a Miner pitch and squibbed one down the line for a two-run double. Balandran followed with a double that barely stayed fair, and Stewart came in for the third run of the inning.

A 49er rally was halted in the fourth when a ball hit to Salcido in right was quickly picked up

and thrown over to first for the force out. The Lady Rebels were not as lucky in the fifth, as the 49ers capitalized on two errors.

The sixth saw LBSU get a little closer, as they loaded the bases with two outs, forcing Branch out of the game. Stewart came in relief and gave up a double to right, scoring two. She shut them down the rest of the game however, and helped Branch get the 6-4 win.

Watkins also had a big game for the Lady Rebels, going 2-4 with a run scored, to add to Rondina's 2-4 with two runs scored and Parus' 1-4 with two runs.

With the sweep over LBSU, coach McDonald moved two wins closer to the magical number of 300. Currently, she is sitting on win number 299, and could reach the milestone this weekend when they face San Jose St. at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"I didn't really know about it" McDonald said. "It's just another award on the wall. It's really a team award. UNLV got 300 wins. Many players have helped us to get there, not just the coaching."

The Lady Rebels continue on the current homestand. After SJSU, they face Pacific Sunday at noon, and then finish out with New Mexico St. at 1 p.m. Wednesday—the last Lady Rebel home game of the season.



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