

Rondina

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After looking at her first two years as a Lady Rebel, it would appear that Rondina is almost a perfect player. Along with owning her two single-season records, she already owns the school's career marks in home runs and doubles as well. She is also closing in on numerous other school records, including RBIs, runs scored and triples.

"She doesn't have many flaws," McDonald said. "She is a key — offensively and defensively. If her defense wasn't sharp one game, then offensively she was there. It's the same the other way also. If her offense dropped, then she was strong defensively."

Rondina believes her strength as a softball player isn't so much

due to her physical ability, but her attitude towards the game.

"I don't let anyone beat me," Rondina said. "It makes it hard on the other person or team. Offensively, I want to score runs. And defensively, I won't let anything by me."

On-field communication may be her only weak point, according to Rondina. She also realizes that there is still much more she has to learn. She is constantly refining her skills to keep them in playing shape.

"There are still some areas I need to improve," Rondina said. "I'm working towards getting into the 1996 Olympics. I have also been working on becoming more of a leader."

With the same ambition that drives her in softball, she is also aiming her sights at a career in physical therapy. She also plans

on attending graduate school after she finishes up at UNLV.

Rondina has achieved a great deal in her softball career. Starting in high school, she was a Presidential Academic Fitness Award winner, as well as a U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete. In college, she was an All-American candidate last year, along with being named to the All-Big West Conference first team and the All-West region second team.

This week she was named the Louisville Slugger NCAA softball player of the week and the Big West player of the week. In her last eight games, Rondina was 15-of-27 with a .556 average.

So a word to the rest of the conference — although she may look tired, Rondina is still very much awake.

UNLV's McDonald Wins 300th

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
STAFF REPORTER

It was a weekend of celebration for the UNLV softball team.

Coach Shan McDonald started it off Saturday by winning her 300th career game. It was followed by a honoring ceremony for the departing seniors Sunday.

The Lady Rebels won their seventh straight by sweeping doubleheaders against San Jose State and Pacific.

Win 300 for McDonald came in the first game, a 2-0 victory over SJSU. Number 301 came two hours later when the Lady Rebels took the nightcap in convincing fashion, 10-4.

The Lady Rebels capitalized on five Spartan errors in the

10-4 second-game win.

On the strength of 11 hits, the Lady Rebels helped Branch win her 15th game of the year. She went four innings, allowing eight hits, two strikeouts and two walks in the contest.

The scoring happened quick and often for the Lady Rebels' first three innings of the game.

Ronnie Salcido probably had her biggest offensive game of the season, going 2-2 with two runs scored. Parus was 3-4 with an RBI and a run scored, while Rondina had another strong showing at the plate by going 1-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

It was more of the same on Sunday for the Rebels as they faced Pacific. The first half of the pair had to be decided by an extra frame, where the Rebels won it 1-0.

Big games from Andrea Balandran, Mallett and Rondina helped propel the Rebels past the Lady Tigers in the second game. Balandran had her third two-double game of the season. Mallett went 2-3 with an RBI, and Rondina finished up 1-3 with two RBIs and a run scored.

Between the games Sunday, the departing seniors of the Lady Rebels were honored in a short ceremony. Plaques and bouquets of roses were given to Balandran, Henderson, pitcher Cyndi Hewitt, Parus and Stewart. Balandran was the only player of the group that had not played at UNLV all four years.

"It will be very difficult to replace these four players," McDonald said. "Four of them were four-year players, and they were all very talented. But that's what college athletics is all about; you get new faces in and the team is always changing."

Muscle

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and then scored on Rondina's base hit.

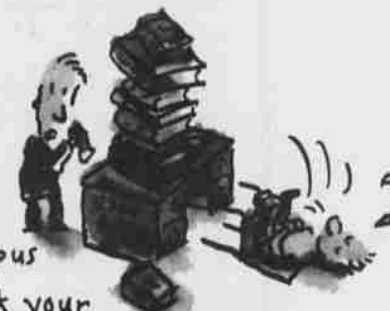
Pitcher Teresa Branch fought hard in the later innings and did not allow a batter to reach base until the lead-off batter in the ninth got aboard on Rondina's fifth error. Stewart was called into the game to get the final two outs and the win.

Branch gave up just four hits and two runs, both unearned. She struck out two and walked two in 8 1/3 innings of work.

The Lady Rebels did collect ten hits in the game, with Rondina getting three of them. Stewart also had a good offensive game, going 2-4.

The Lady Rebels have this weekend off and then travel to Utah State to play two doubleheaders May 5-6.

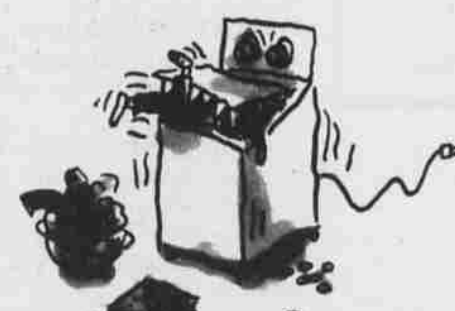
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