

## Commentary

# Intramurals Not Fun Anymore

The UNLV intramural program finds itself amid a public controversy as a growing amount of students agree that the program does not respect and serve those who support it.

Perhaps the greatest complaint is directed at the officials who determine the outcome of intramural events. Undoubtedly, participants will be dissatisfied with the calls in a game. However, the greater problem lies in the manner in which these complaints are handled. In many instances, officials engage in loud, often personal, debates that lead to larger problems.

For example, during an intramural soccer match April 5, an official threatened an athlete who questioned a call. "Just play the game," the official said. When the student again complained about a procedural error, not a judgment call, the official responded with, "We can take care of this right here, or after the game."

Other incidents indicate biases in intramural employees. Paul Mangual, an official and Lambda Chi fraternity member, was involved in a heated indoor hockey match against Tau Kappa Epsilon during which he was involved in several heated verbal and physical exchanges.

Mangual carried those sentiments into the championship match, just a few days later, where he officiated the game being played by the team that his squad had lost to. Not so ironically, Mangual called seven penalties to one against the TKE team, which contributed to a close loss. After the match, Mangual concluded by asking TKE pledge Jeff Dotl, "How's it feel to lose?"

Often these incidents arise from the simple criticism that is inherent in competition sports. An official, according to Moyer Student Union Activities Director Jeff Wells, can warn or eject a participant who has gone too far. However, officials rarely follow that procedure, choosing instead to argue, threaten and insult,

**The Truth Hurts**  
**KURT DIVICH**

paving the way for physical altercations.

At least one official has been suspended by the university for striking an athlete at an intramural event.

Equally serious are the whispered allegations of drug use among intramural participants on the job. On one occasion, a referee staggered into the gym reeking of marijuana. As he stood next to the supervisor, I jokingly asked the supervisor if it was she who was responsible for the odor. She shook her head and looked back at the giddy official who refereed our game just moments later.

A problem of a different variety lies in the ridiculous scheduling of many events. Sports that require indoor facilities are often plagued by horrendous start times that inconvenience all those who participate.

Indoor soccer teams, for example, routinely played games scheduled as late as 12 a.m. On top of this, most games were behind schedule, causing 12 a.m. starts to be pushed back to 1 a.m.

Perhaps the disrespect and inconsideration displayed is best evidenced by intramural supervisor B.J. Burris' use of the Player-of-the-Week award. Burris has repeatedly given the award to intramural staff, and even displayed a picture of her own dog as the weekly winner once.

When asked about the public disdain surrounding the program, Burris angrily retorted, "Students don't have to play if they don't want to." One student, after hearing Burris' comments, asked, "Doesn't our tuition pay for this program? I guess B.J. forgot that."

Sadly enough, it appears that many of those involved with the program have forgotten. It's just not that fun anymore.

—Kurt Divich is a communications major and a member of TKE.

## Rebel

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the present, UNLV has had six head basketball coaches, is about to welcome its third president and third athletic director.

While this kind of change is a little dramatic for any institution, it serves as a reminder that nothing is permanent.

So as I prepare to receive my bachelor's degree this year, I reflect on the chaos that has become an everyday part of UNLV life.

The surfacing of Rollie Massimino's illegal-supplemental contract last fall and UNLV Counsel Brad Boone's secret videotaping of assistant basketball coach Tim Grgurich's conditioning class in 1991 serve as the lowlights of those years.

And what of Grgurich? The man who was being groomed as Tarkanian's successor was hailed around the community after he was hired by Interim President Kenny Guinn in October. The celebration was short-lived

though as Gerg fell victim to the ghosts of Rebels' past and refused to exorcise the demons—instead choosing to give up on the program and his players.

Strong, who wanted so desperately to be Lou Holtz, instead turned out to be as capable a coach as Lou Grant. Instead of uplifting UNLV football, Strong continued its regression—a mean feat for someone who replaced Wayne Nunnely.

Let's not also forget the escapades of former Rebel Isaiah—or is it Isiah?—"J.R." Rider, who put fear in the hearts of graduating UNLV students, who wondered how credible their degree was to prospective employers, as well as Jack-In-The-Box employees, who had better get his order right next time damnit.

Well now the turmoil appears over, at least for the present time, and a feeling of calm is setting over the athletic department.

As I prepare to accept my degree and leave this university, I cannot help but reflect back on the day Stevie died. Unfortunately, this is how I'll always remem-

# Men Stringers Take Big West Tourney

## Tennis: Men finish first, women finish third at the Big West Tournament

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
STAFF REPORTER

The UNLV men's tennis team played its best tennis of the year, when it counted most, at the Big West Championships in Ojai, Calif.

The Rebels came away with their second-straight Big West title by upsetting No. 33 UC Irvine Sunday. The win was revenge for a 4-3 loss Jan. 29 in Irvine.

Going into the tournament the Rebels, ranked 43rd, were 8-10 overall, 3-1 in the Big West. They had lost five of their last eight, scoring only four set wins in those losses, before turning their game around at the most opportune time.

"To be honest, I didn't expect us to win," coach Larry Easley said. "On paper (UCI) is stronger. They have three guys who are just great. Roger (Pettersson) can play with anyone in the nation, but other than that I don't have guys who can beat those guys."

According to Easley, doubles was the key to the championship match. The Rebels were able to win the point with victories by the teams of Pettersson/Luke Smith and Tim Blenkiron/Rob Norton.

In singles competition the Rebels were able to take three of four matches to nail down the championship. The first Rebel to post a win was Thomas Schrader at the No. 6 court, winning in straight sets, 6-0, 6-2. Norton followed up with the second victory, 6-3, 6-4. Then Blenkiron iced the Rebels title by cruising past Julian Foxon, 6-4, 6-2.

With the match already decided from the three singles wins and the doubles point, both Pettersson's and Smith's matches were stopped.

"This was definitely an upset," Easley said. "The guys came together as a team and gelled as a team at the right time."

"Winning this twice means that no one can say its a fluke. This team had the heart. And now they will be walking away with a positive feeling. I think they will remember this year as the highlight of their career."

The road to the championship

had the Rebels sweeping UC Santa Barbara 4-0. Smith, Blenkiron and Schrader came away with the Rebel victories on the singles court.

The broom also came out in the doubles match as all three went the Rebels way. Pettersson/Smith, Blenkiron/Norton and Julius Pohjola/Schrader all played tough games for the point.

Thursday, the Rebels shut-down San Jose State for their first win. In the only match Pettersson registered a point, the Rebels powered themselves

earn the third-place finish.

Marianne Vallin played a gutsy match at No. 1 singles with an injured Achilles tendon. She fell in the first set, 3-6, and was down late in the second before mounting an impressive come back.

Behind 4-1, late in the second set, Vallin began to make her surge. She took the second, 7-5, and went on to win the match by taking the third set fairly easily, 6-1. Vallin has not lost a match to a Big West opponent in her two years at UNLV.

"She was playing hurt and I wanted to take her out," coach Ola Malmqvist said. "I was more impressed with the way she fought and hung in there. I don't know how she won. It shows what a great heart she has."

From there it was all Lady Rebels, as all the singles players registered wins. That gave the Lady Rebels enough points to have the doubles matches cancelled. Lisa Annebro, Astrid Copano, Ljiljana Kordic, Marie Linusson and Shiera Stuart were all victorious in the match.

The Lady Rebels started the tournament on a strong note by destroying Cal State Fullerton, 5-0. Annebro, Copano, Kordic, Stuart and Vallin all got wins in the contest. The Lady Titans were only able to win a total of seven points in all the matches.

The only downfall of the tournament came Friday against UCSB.

"It's not that we ran into a little bad luck," Malmqvist said. "It's more like we played against a team that was a little better than us."

"Also the seeding was screwed up, I thought we should have been seeded No. 1 instead of Santa Barbara. The semifinals turned out to be the finals."

With the match locked at three apiece after singles play, attention turned to the doubles side of the court. The Lady Gauchos dominated the Lady Rebels in that area and won the match, 5-3. Both the teams of Copano/Vallin and Annebro/Stuart fell to the Lady Gauchos, while Kordic/Linusson were unable to finish once the two points were won.

The Lady Rebels had two players named to the All-Big West first team, Vallin and Linusson, while Annebro was named to the second team. For doubles work, the team of Copano/Vallin made first team honors as well.

*"Winning this twice means that no one can say its a fluke. This team had the heart. And now they will be walking away with a positive feeling. I think they will remember this year as the highlight of their career."*

—UNLV men's tennis coach Larry Easley

ahead to the next round. Pettersson, Blenkiron and Schrader all won in straight sets. The Rebels also swept all three doubles matches.

League awards came out Monday with Pettersson taking Big West Player of the Year honors for the second straight season. Easley was named Big West Men's Coach of the Year, the third time in his career he has taken that honor, and the second time at UNLV. Both Pettersson and Smith were named to the All-Big West first team while Blenkiron made the second team in singles. For doubles, the Rebels had the teams of Blenkiron/Norton and Pettersson/Smith named to the first team.

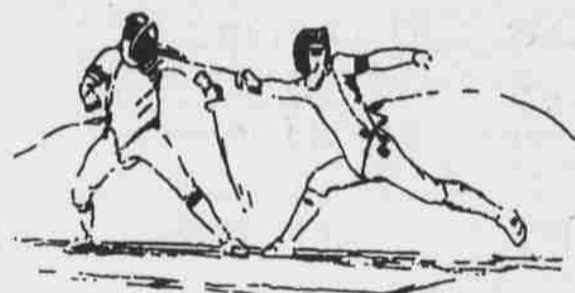
The Rebels will go to the Western Regional Tournament this weekend where they have been seeded second in a pool of six. They will face the winner of San Diego State/Washington.

### Women's Tennis

The Lady Rebels had to settle for third place in the Big West Championship Saturday after being beat by UC Santa Barbara the previous day.

The No. 43 Lady Rebels, 15-7 overall and 4-0 in the Big West, shutout New Mexico State 5-0 to

## Pacific Coast Championship



### Modern Olympic Fencing

May 5-6-7, 9a.m. to 5p.m.

UNLV McDermott P.E. Center

Fencing! It's not just for dueling gentlemen in frilly shirts or swashbuckling pirates in a 1940's movie. Modern Olympic fencing requires the courage and athleticism of a boxer, the grace of a dancer and the cunning mind of a chess master. Now, for the first time in Las Vegas, a major pre-Olympic fencing competition. Three hundred men and women from across the nation will compete in all three weapons: foil, épée, and sabre. Spectators welcome, free admission. Call: 898-0410 for information.

ber my first day of school.

But through the years, I have made great friends here at UNLV and have enjoyed my time writing for *The Rebel Yell*. I only hope all of you have also enjoyed reading it.

Now it's time for another change. It's time to go back into the real world.

So as a new batch of incoming freshman enter UNLV in the fall, carrying their own expectations with them, packed in the box with their endless potential, new changes await them also.

And for all those returning students — good luck. There is a light at the end of tunnel. I promise.

While its always sad to end one chapter of your life, there is always excitement in the challenges that lie ahead. My experiences at UNLV have prepared me for the task.

See ya in the future. Go Rebels!

—Sean DeFrank was the Sports Editor of *The Rebel Yell* (briefly).