

# Softball coach blooms at UNLV

**Shan McDonald set to coach her ninth season at UNLV**

BY RAY BREWER  
STAFF WRITER

Plain and simple, Shan McDonald is a winner.

A highly respected figure in the softball world, UNLV's head softball coach has brought her winning tradition to Las Vegas.

Entering her ninth season as the Lady Rebel skipper, McDonald can be credited for transforming a below average softball team into a 37-17 nationally recognized softball power.

Until McDonald arrived in 1987, the Rebels were consistently near the bottom of the Big West. Since then, they have been to six straight NCAA tournaments and three times to the College World Series.

"The most rewarding thing is to see the players grow from freshmen to seniors. It's not what we give them, but what they give us," McDonald said.

Not just another brilliant softball coach, McDonald was also a prolific softball superstar at Texas A&M.

As a pitcher with the Aggies, McDonald collected 116 career wins, and in 1982 she led her team to the national championship.

Her name is still in the record books at Texas A&M where she holds pitching records for consecutive scoreless innings (83), strikeouts in one game (19), and career fielding percentage (.997).

McDonald's feats on the diamond go far beyond the col-

lege circuit.

A native Canadian, McDonald led her Canadian national team to many accomplishments, which earned her induction to the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

She played with Canada on the 1980 European Softball Invitational gold medal team, won a silver medal at the 1981 World Games, and a gold medal at the 1982 Pan American Games.

Still dedicated to the advancement of Canadian softball, McDonald is currently the head coach of the Canadian National Youth Team.

Her coaching accomplishments at UNLV speak for themselves, with more than 300 career wins in nine seasons, a plateau she reached last season.

In her tenure at UNLV she has won various coaching honors. McDonald was named the 1991 Big West Conference and NSCA West Region Coach of the Year. Also, in 1994 McDonald was named Big West Co-Coach of the Year, and then was given the West Region Coach of the Year award last season as her team won the Big West with a 49-14 record, the best ever by a UNLV team.

She has led the Rebels to six consecutive post-season appearances, and believes that the Lady Rebels have a good chance of returning to the Series again this year. Last season's third place finish in the CWS marked the best finish ever for the team.

"Our chances are as good as any other years, we'll have to take one game at a time," says McDonald about this year's squad.

As for Coach McDonald, she has been a savior to UNLV's



women's softball program. "She is absolutely terrific," Athletic Director Charles Cavanaugh said. "We are fortunate to have the best programs in the U.S. here (at UNLV)." Now, thanks to Shan McDonald, UNLV softball is on the right track to a bright future.

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## Commentary

### Clear the trophy case

The Clubhouse  
RAY BREWER

UNLV Rebel athletics could be doing some house cleaning before the semester is finished.

Two spring sports—men's golf and women's softball—have excellent chances of winning the NCAA championship, and we'll need to clear some space for their hardware in the trophy cabinet.

For a university that is only 40 years young, this is a tremendous accomplishment.

The men's golf squad, which is currently ranked in the Rolex top five, has proven that they will be major contenders at this year's collegiate golf championship.

The other spring sport which is in the hunt for a national championship is the women's softball squad, which went to the softball World Series last season, before losing to runner-up Arizona in the semi-finals.

Using contributions from practically every golfer on the roster, the Swingin' Rebels completed their fall schedule with two impressive tournament victories in five competitions.

If one golfer wasn't performing, another would pick up the slack.

At the IGT Desert Inn Rebel classic, two freshmen carried the Rebels to victory.

Charly Hoffman canned an 84-foot putt to put tournament medalist Ted Oh in position to win the tournament for the Rebels.

Oh engineered the comeback train that erased a 14-point deficit, as the Rebels triumphed over Texas Christian University in the final day of competition.

In the William H. Tucker tournament earlier this fall, the Rebels were without the services of their team leader Chris Riley, who was resting after his Walker Cup performance.

Not to worry, as Gilberto Morales rose to the top of his game, finishing second overall, and helping the Rebels come in 20 shots ahead of the field.

With the depth illustrated in the fall season, the Swingin' Rebels have proven that they can conquer anything, which includes winning the national championship.

If they came from 14 shots behind in the final day to win a tournament, anything can happen.

The softball team is in high hopes after their impressive 1995 campaign. Although they came up short at the World Series, they broke or tied 32 team records and 11 career records for the season.

Their third-place finish was the highest for any women's softball team at UNLV, and it was their first outright Big West championship.

Returning to this year's club is All-America shortstop Kim Rondina, who was

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