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THE REBEL YELL

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UNLV hires new basketball coach

McClain, former APSU head coach, a surprise pick

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Lady Rebels will sport a new coach when basketball season starts in November, something that hasn't happened in 14 years.

UNLV announced Tuesday that former Austin Peay State University head coach, LaDonna McClain, has been named the fifth coach in Lady Rebel history.

McClain compiled a 60-103 (.368) career record in six years at APSU, but she turned around a team that went 5-21 in her first season to a member of this year's NCAA Women's Tournament.

The announcement came as a shock to some but McClain might have been the most sur-

prised.

"I thought it was a shot in the dark," McClain said of her chances of landing the job. "But at the same time I knew we had done a good job at Austin Peay and that we could do it here. It is a matter of stepping up and working very hard."

McClain's hiring marks the beginning of a new era in Lady Rebel basketball. She replaces veteran coach Jim Bolla, who directed the team for 14 seasons. Bolla's 300 career wins and nine post-season appearances will be a hard act to follow.

Named APSU head coach on April 4, 1991, McClain transformed her team from an Ohio Valley Conference bust into a conference co-champion and tournament entrant. The Lady Governors won a school-record 21 games and won their conference tournament this season. They lost to Clemson 79-52 in the first round. McClain was named

OVC Coach of the Year.

Graduating 14 of her 15 seniors during her reign at APSU, McClain boasts a strong respect for academic excellence.

"I think I have proven my track record at a small college from an academic integrity standpoint and an athletic program standpoint," McClain said.

Assistant Athletic Director for Olympic Sports Lisa Kelleher, who headed the committee put together to hire a coach, said McClain's strong academic factor was one of the keys in her hiring.

"We were looking for a head coach with at least four years of Division I experience and academic strength was very important," Kelleher said.

Recruiting will prove to be a major challenge for McClain. She is returning only six players from a squad that went 4-21 last season. Recruiting against other Western Athletic Conference schools in Cal-

ifornia may be the difference between a competitive season or another season in the basement.

McClain said getting West Coast contacts and continuing her recruiting in the North will be essential to the team's success.

"We have been very successful in recruiting the northern states and bringing people down south," McClain said. "I certainly think Las Vegas has a lot to offer those young ladies who want to leave the north and come south."

Even though the OVC is a much smaller conference than the Big West or the WAC, Kelleher believes McClain is a star on the rise.

"Sometimes sleepers come out of small conferences; people that are going to make a difference," Kelleher said. "She has been recruiting in the same state as Tennessee and she still pulled a couple of blue chip players out of the state."



LaDonna McClain

Only five players have ever scored over 1,000 points at APSU, but three have come during the past six years.

McClain describes her coaching style as up-tempo and exciting.

"We like to do a lot of run-

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PHOTO BY STEPHANIE RUSHIA

Leslie Cummings, D.P. A., and students get down and dirty cleaning Beam Hall.

Hotel students make a clean start

BY YVONNE ALLEY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS WRITER

More than 75 hotel administration students and faculty celebrated Environmental Enhancement Day Saturday with mops, dust rags and brooms.

From 9 a.m.-5 p.m., faculty and freshman through graduate students from the College of Hotel Administration scraped gum from concrete floors, swept and scrubbed the atrium areas, picked cigarette butts out of planters and pruned shrubbery surround-

ing Beam Hall.

Kenneth Teeters, an assistant professor of hotel management and faculty advisor for Operation World Class, a group devoted to improving the hotel college's appearance, organized the event to make Frank and Estella Beam Hall and the classrooms it houses look like a world class operation.

Student volunteers said Teeters convinced them to participate by asking if they would feel proud if a recruiter came to their college and viewed

them as part of the environment.

Jessica Bridge, a group leader, called the day "remarkable. Everyone came out motivated and took up tasks without being asked. They saw what needed to be done and went to work," Bridge said.

"I never noticed how dirty the light fixtures were before this," said Mike Abeles, a junior. "I can tell now after scrubbing (the fixtures)."

Keith Gertler, a senior,

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LGBA raises awareness

BY ANA MARIA LAMAS
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NEWS EDITOR

UNLV's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Association concluded their first annual Bisexual Gay Lesbian Awareness Days (B-GLAD) week Friday with a same-sex dance mixer.

Nearly 30 LGBA members danced the night away in the Moyer Student Union Ballroom. LGBA Co-director Joel Castillo, a junior majoring in musical theater, was pleased with B-GLAD week's success.

"A girl came to our meeting because her younger brother was gay and she wanted to learn how to be supportive for him," Castillo said. "Just by being able to give her information so she can help her brother, we have succeeded."

B-GLAD week was designed to create campus-wide awareness of lesbian, gay and bisexual issues, while incorporating them into everyday campus life, according to Castillo. LGBA will work hard to educate UNLV students and faculty so that

one day UNLV's population will regard as normal two members of the same sex holding hands, Castillo said.

B-GLAD week activities included forums on safety, positive and negative gay role models in the 90s and gay pride.

An MSU display case featured gay literature, photos of gay celebrities, rainbow flags and LGBA background information. LGBA members said this was a breakthrough for their organization.

"Just having the display case in the union is a very big deal," said Janette dela Cruz, a senior business major. Dela Cruz was a former LGBA co-director.

LGBA members agree that safety is a primary concern facing gays. Some members said they live in fear of being attacked for their sexuality, although no on-campus incidents against gays have occurred.

"It's (UNLV) safe, but there is fear that...you might be walking down the street and someone might jump you," said Max Dunn, an LGBA member who is not a UNLV student but

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