

Tennis knocks off top-ranked players

By Jeremy Martin
Staff Sports Writer

While most UNLV students relaxed on spring break, eighth-ranked tennis player Roger Pettersson went to work.

En route to his 14th-straight singles win, Pettersson defeated the nation's second-ranked player in the University of Southern California's Cecil Mamiit, at the No. 1 singles spot at USC. After falling 1-6 in the first set Pettersson rallied to win the final two sets, 6-3, 6-2.

"(Pettersson) looks pretty solid," Coach Larry Easley said. "(His attitude) is the best it has ever been,"

Despite the individual success of Pettersson, 20th-ranked UNLV fell to the ninth-ranked USC Trojans on its home court, 4-3.

The men's team increased its record to 12-6 with a road win against the University of San Diego on April 3. The scheduled April 5 matches against the University of Arizona were rained out.

The 49th-ranked women's team might wish their matches were cancelled. UNLV lost four of five over the break.

A March 28 match against unranked Kansas State University saw the Lady Rebels fall, 5-4. UNLV then beat unranked Washington State University 5-4 on March 30. The win was not enough to convince the pollsters. The team fell from No. 41 to No. 49 in the national rankings.

Four road losses to ranked opponents came next. On April 3 the Lady Rebels fell to 21st-ranked USC 6-0. Next came a 5-1 loss to 10th-ranked Pepperdine University and a 5-4 loss to 32nd-ranked UC Santa Barbara. On Tuesday the Lady Rebels fell to 4th-ranked University of Arizona, 5-1.

Despite the downward swing, one Lady Rebel recorded an impressive performance in Tuesday's loss. Marianne Vallin, ranked 15th in singles, defeated the nation's top ranked player, UA's Vicky Maes, 7-6, 1-6, 6-3. It was Vallin's first victory over Maes in four career matches. Vallin's season record improved to 23-10.

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squandered an opportunity with Rondina at third with one out.

Rondina led the Rebel eighth off with an infield hit and moved to second on Siegal's sacrifice bunt. LBSU pitcher Amy Miner then threw a wild pitch, sending Rondina to third.

With Markowitz at the plate, she hit a ball to short-stop Nicola Walsh, who fired home to nail Rondina. Rondina halted half way down the third base line and got into a pickle with the 49er players. She was able to last

long enough to have Markowitz move all the way to third.

The ninth inning was different for both squads, though, as they capitalized on each others mistakes. LBSU, with one out, got a walk to Tucker and Favorite reached base on an error by Long.

With two on and one out, designated player Jessie Martinez came up with a base hit to score Tucker and Favorite came in on a sacrifice fly to center.

The Rebels answered back with two the bottom half of the inning. Right fielder Ronnie Salcido knocked a one out base hit followed by a single

by Mallett. Alves then walked to load up the bases for Crandall who also received a free pass, scoring Salcido.

After Rondina struck out, the Rebels received yet another gift from LBSU as Siegal was walked, bringing Mallett home.

Both teams went quietly in the 10th inning. In the 11th, however, it was a different story. With the bases full of 49ers, Edwards walked the eventual winning run in as Martinez scored after being walked.

Edwards went the full 11 innings for the loss, allowing five runs on 10 hits, while striking out five and walking nine. Mallett had a strong day

at the plate, going 2-for-5 in the second game with two runs scored.

The Rebels got on the board early when Mallett scored from second on Rondina's single to center. Markowitz added one more in the fourth inning when she connected for her third homer of the season.

The Rebels will see more conference action on Saturday and Sunday. The San Jose State Spartans will be in town on Saturday, where the game will start at 11 a.m. Followed up on Sunday where the Rebels will face the University of Pacific in a noontime battle.

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