

Softball

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right-center field, scoring all three runners.

This eight-run inning put the Rebels on top of the Spartans 10-0.

The top half of the third saw San Jose State make a rally of their own behind some wild pitching of Rebel pitcher Tanya Edwards. Edwards gave up back to back hits, loading the bases for the Spartans. Then, she walked in two runners in a row, to let the Spartans squirm their way back into the game.

In the bottom half of the third, the Rebels' bats came alive with the help of Markowitz.

Already with three RBI's under her belt, the third baseman added another two when she hit a towering two-run homer well over the right-center fence.

The Rebels held the lead this time, and the team was in high hopes after the game.

The joy of these two wins did not last long, as the Rebels dropped the two games to Pacific, 1-0, and 3-2.

Branch was the pitcher of record in the first game, giving up six hits and one earned run.

With the Rebel offense being shut down, that one run was all Pacific needed to upset the Rebels.

UNLV had five hits on the afternoon, all singles, which were not good enough to overcome a fine defensive effort from Pacific.

The second game went into extra innings, with Pacific earning a 3-2 victory.

Rondina went 3-for-3 with a double, two singles, and one RBI. Mallett had one double, one single, and one run scored. Crandall and Markowitz had two hits apiece to round out the Rebels offensive output.

The Rebels yielded the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth inning, and could not produce a run in the bottom half of the inning.

Branch got the loss, moving her record to 18-10 for the season.

They will have a chance to avenge their defeat when they host Cal State Fullerton on Wednesday at 1 p.m., at the Rebel Diamond.

Bench

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ished up '95 with a 30-9 record, a 1.46 ERA, with 206 strikeouts and nine shutouts.

What they lost in Stewart, the Rebels gained back when they started Tanya Edwards behind senior Teresa Branch. Edwards came from Presentation High School in San Jose, Calif., she struck out 286 batters as a senior with 10 no-hitters and 18 shutouts.

This year she has a 3.29 ERA with 32 strikeouts. It's not a great start, but watching her play you can't help but see the potential she could achieve during her stay at UNLV.

Another big difference this season is the noticeable lack of power in the offense. The loss of Andrea Balandran, Parus and Amie Stewart has hurt the Rebel offensive attack.

These three seniors had a combined .335 batting average with 16 homeruns, 41 doubles and 107 RBIs. That was without the .436 batting average of Rondina and the eight homeruns Sara Mallett had during the 1995 season.

Without those three players though, this squad still competes and puts together some impressive numbers. Six times this season they have scored eight or more and they have won four by the mercy rule.

Three other freshman have stepped up for UNLV softball. Amy Alves has been the most noticeable of the rookies. Through last Wednesday's games, the freshman left fielder was batting .304 while batting second behind Mallett.

The other two, Andrea Long and Audrey Munoz have not produced like the Rebels were hoping for, but have become staples in the defensive scheme for the Rebels with Long batting .148 and Munoz at .150.

The Rebels have been in a collective slump, though, losing

six of their last eight games. In this span, they were shutout twice and were swept in a doubleheader, at home, for the first time in five years.

So are the polls being nice to the Rebels this season? They are ranked sixth in the country with a 27-15 record. They were swept at home by Long Beach State, No. 11 in the nation and in first place in the BWC. However, against other ranked teams they have fared well and even won a couple.

They beat the third-ranked team in the country (Fresno State) 3-0, and lost close ones to No. 2 Arizona (9-5 and 6-3) and No. 4 Washington, 4-0.

So, although they lost some strength in the pitching staff and the offense, Shan McDonald's squad still seems to put enough together to look impressive in the BWC.

—Michael Melissa is the Sports Editor at The Rebel Yell

THE REBEL YELL

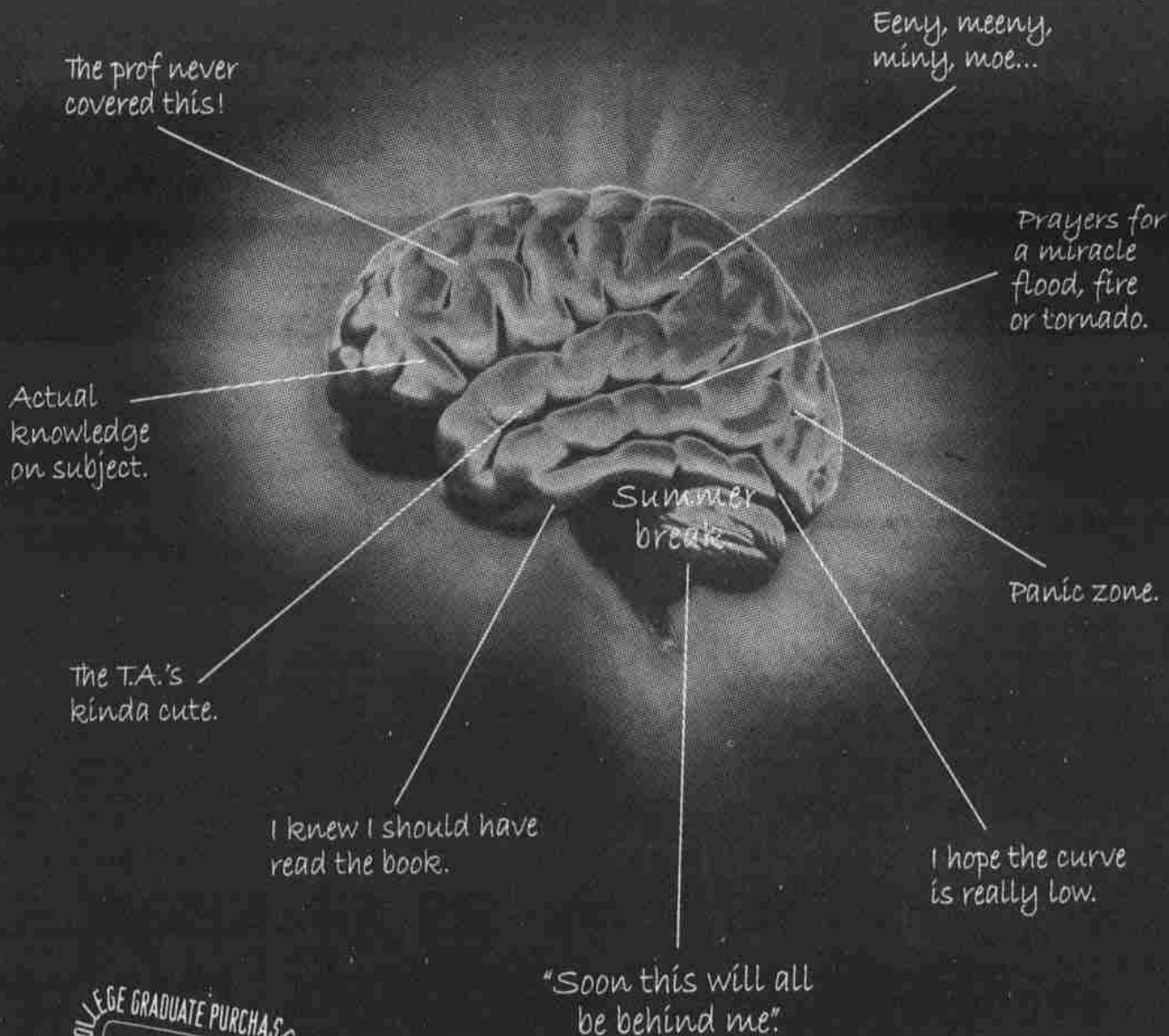
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