

## Vallin sets school record in UNLV win

Staff report

In her last career match at the Fertitta Tennis Complex, Rebel senior Marianne Vallin went out with a blast.

The two time All-American, currently ranked No. 15 in the nation, cruised to a 6-4, 6-2 victory in the top singles spot, giving her the most singles victories in school history.

Vallin, from Kungsangen, Sweden, now has 121 singles victories, one more than Jolene Watanabe who played at UNLV from 1987-90.

"That is really a great accomplishment for her," head coach Ola Malmqvist said. "She has been playing great since she got here."

Her record-breaking singles win was one of six for UNLV as



Vallin

ern Athletic Conference. The Rebels, which swept all the singles matches, finished the season with a 11-2 home record.

"We had our best year overall," Malmqvist said.

There was a few matches we could've done better in, but overall it was a great year."

Natalie Frawley picked up a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory in No. 2 singles and Gee Gee Garvin dominated in No. 3 singles, winning 6-1, 6-1. Veronica Goude won 6-2, 6-4 in No. 4 singles, Lisa Annebro picked up a 6-1, 6-2 victory in No. 5 singles and Marie Linusson won 6-1, 6-0 in No. 6 singles to complete UNLV's singles sweep.

UNLV dropped all three doubles matches.

"We need to keep going and finish the season off strong," Malmqvist added.

the 15-ranked Rebels defeated No. 71 Utah 6-3 on Saturday to close out the regular season.

With the win, UNLV improved to 15-5 overall and 4-0 in the West-

### UNLV WOMEN'S TENNIS RESULTS

UNLV 6, UTAH 3  
At Fertitta Tennis Complex, Las Vegas  
April 19, 1997

#### SINGLES—

1. Marianne Vallin (UNLV) def. Linda Engblom (UU) 6-4, 6-2
2. Natalie Frawley (UNLV) def. Megan Payne (UU) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.
3. Gee Gee Garvin (UNLV) def. Rebecca Faulger (UU) 6-1, 6-1.
4. Veronica Goude (UNLV) def. Angie Olson (UU) 6-2, 6-4.
5. Lisa Annebro (UNLV) def. Kim Kelly (UU) 6-1, 6-2.
6. Marie Linusson (UNLV) def. Diana Marek (UU) 6-1, 6-1.

#### DOUBLES —

1. Kelly/Payne (UU) def. Garvin/Vallin (UNLV) 8-5.
2. Engblom/Olson (UU) def. Frawley/Goude (UNLV) 8-4.
3. Faulger/Molly Sanderson (UU) def. Annebro/Linusson (UNLV) 8-3.

## Looking forward to Rebel football in the fall

By Patrick Wiebeld  
Sports Staff Writer

The UNLV football team is looking to its returning starters to lead them into the 1997 season. With nine starters returning on offense, and eight on defense, the Rebels hope to show their experience going into the upcoming season. Head coach Jeff Horton has a positive feeling about the '97 season, and he expects bigger and better things from his team this year.

On offense, four starters are returning on the line. Blackwell, Reily, Pierucci, and Gonzalez will be the anchors the trench, with Mike Williams adding depth.

In the backfield, the starting running back job is wide open Horton said. Dahrin Footman, Coury Hankins, James Wofford, and Rodrick Johnson are all battling for the starting job. So many running backs will add much needed depth at the position. Ken Kinnard will take the fullbacking job when it is called upon.

At receiver, the Rebels have their top five pass-catchers coming back. Carlos Baker, Damon Williams, Len Ware, Todd Floyd, and Jason Toohey look to reel in every ball thrown their direction this year. "Floyd and Toohey are seniors," Horton said, "the rest are very



young, so we have something to build on." The tight end job will once again rest in Sam Mineo's hands.

The starting quarterback job is safe in sophomore-to-be Jon Denton's hands. "He has done a

very good job," Horton said. Backup Kevin Crook will be ready to come off the bench and lead the Rebels on offense.

On the other side of the ball, Horton expects big things from his defensive ends, Talance Sawyer and Roderick Jones.

Horton feels the linebacking core is the strength of the Rebels defense. Scott Patton, Lamont Hicks, and Bret Gilbert look to close any holes opponents open and guide the defense this year. "This is also our most competitive position," Horton said, as there are other players fighting to join the starting linebacker crew. In the secondary, Horton also expects big

things from defensive back Quincy Sanders who will be in his third year. Bobby Coffman and Randy Black will round out the secondary core for the Rebels.

On special teams, Joe Kristosik owns the punting job. The place kicking job will not be given out as easily. Two players are battling for the job, Tim O'Reilly and Gabriel Zendejas. Zendejas is a cousin of former long-time NFL kicker Tony Zendejas.

"We have 18 starters returning," Horton said. "And we had the 14th toughest schedule last year. That may help us this year to get us into a top four spot, which will hopefully get us into a bowl game."

## Jordan says Bulls will repeat

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bulls will repeat as NBA champions, Michael Jordan says, even if Dennis Rodman and Toni Kukoc aren't fully recovered from injuries.

"I believe we can win with what we have," Jordan said.

"By no means am I going to go in worried if they're healthy or not.

I go in with the idea that they can give us something, and something's better than nothing, and that can make us a better team."

Rodman and Kukoc both expect to be ready by Friday night, when the Bulls open their best-of-5 first-round series against the Washington Bullets at the United Center.

Rodman, the NBA's leading rebounder for the sixth consecutive season, has missed the last 13 games because of a sprained knee ligament.

Kukoc, the league's top reserve last year, was sidelined the final six weeks by tendinitis in his foot.

Both are supposed to work out Tuesday, when Chicago returns to the practice floor after taking two days off.

The Bulls ended the regular season Saturday by losing to



New York, giving them defeats in three of their last four games and costing them a second straight 70-victory season.

"Seventy sounds better than 69, but either way you put additional pressure on yourself," Jordan said. "If you win 70, you're expected to win the championship.

If you win 69, I'm pretty sure the expectations are just as high. It's only a number."

The Bulls finished 69-13 after going 72-10 in 1995-96.

"What you need to realize is that this team played undermanned for much of the season," coach Phil Jackson said, "and it catches up to you."

Jordan said the Bulls must recapture the chemistry they had in late February, when they were healthy and on pace to win 73 games.

"We know it's not going to come back in one practice, two practices, maybe not even in one game," said Jordan, who averaged

29.6 points to win an unprecedented ninth NBA scoring title. "It's going to take time, but hopefully not too much time."

Jordan and Scottie Pippen, the only players still around from the Bulls' 1991, 1992 and 1993 championship teams, need to "motivate some of these players who never had to defend anything."

"Defending is the most difficult thing you have to do in athletics," Jordan said.

"As captains, we have to sometimes push—more now than last year, because it's easy to lose a certain part of that edge.

It's human nature to have less motivation.

Somehow we have to push to gain it back.

"Scottie and I...know how much tougher it is the second time."

Because of the injuries to Rodman and Kukoc, Jordan and Pippen had to play more than Jackson wanted them to.

Jordan, 34, ended up with 3,106 minutes, his most in six seasons.

Pippen, 31, played 3,091, almost a career high.

Jordan, however, said he won't be tired going into the playoffs.

"I'm pretty excited," he said. "I can't wait."

## Rebel softball drops two more games

Staff report

The Rebel softball team dropped a double header to Fresno State Sunday at Rebel Diamond. In the first game, they were defeated 11-1 in five innings and in the game, the Rebels were shutout 3-0.

Fresno State improves to 42-7 overall, 16-5 in the WAC and the Rebels drop to 22-0 overall, 13-9 in the WAC.

The Rebels were defeated by the mercy rule in game one as they surrendered five runs in the third and fourth inning. UNLV was limited to three hits.

Freshman Nicole Miller accounted for the Rebels' lone run with a solo home run in the bottom of the third. Julie Crandall and Heather Siegel each registered a single.

Pitcher Brandi Isgar fell to 8-8 on the season, giving up eight hits and six earned runs in four and 2/3 innings work. Sophomore Tanya Edwards came in and gave up five earned runs in 1/3 an inning of relief.

UNLV's five through nine batters went a combined 0-for-9.

In the second part of the double dip, the Rebels still couldn't get its offensive in gear as they were blanked on the scoreboard, only managing three hits.

### Rebel Softball Schedule



Sat. Apr. 26:

at Cal State

Sun. Apr. 27:

at San Diego

Thurs. May 1:

vs. Hawai'i

Sat. May 3:

vs. Hawai'i

Sat. May 10:

at New Mexico State

Miller, right fielder Keao Chang and Isgar each singled for the Rebels.

Senior Teresa Branch (8-11) went the distance for UNLV, striking out two and yielding seven hits. She gave up three unearned runs on four UNLV fielder errors.