

Action-packed weekend ahead for Rebels

by ralph r. brown

staff writer

This is a big weekend for the UNLV sports teams both on and off campus.

The Rebel Football team has its home opener at the Silver Bowl against the Baylor Bears from the Southwest Conference on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, the Soccer team will be spending an important weekend in San Diego, where they play 11th ranked San Diego State University and the University of San Diego.

The action starts this afternoon with the Family Fare in the courtyard behind Flora Dungan Humanities.

There will be a cookout with campus leaders manning the grills. Free soft drinks will be provided. There will also be a pep rally.

Tonight the soccer team

will take the field against the Aztecs who will enter the game with a 4-2 record. SDSU won both games.

The Rebels are coming off a third place finish in the Adidas-Ethel M. Soccer Classic last weekend.

"Offensively they have

one of the best strikers in the country in Kyle Whitmore.

He can score a couple of goals in a short period of time," said UNLV Soccer Coach Barry Barto.

"Their big weakness is their defense so we will try to take advantage of that," he said.

Saturday is the big day as 27,000 are expected to show up

and watch the Rebels battle the Bears at the Silver Bowl.

Both teams are coming off losses last weekend.

Baylor evened their record at 1-1, dropping a 23-18 decision to the Missouri Tigers, while UNLV is looking for its first victory after losing 21-10 to Southwest Louisiana.

"There are no major changes in the works for this week's game. We

Nunnely, who attributed last week's loss to first game jitters and the trip to Louisiana.

The Rebels will try and duplicate their feat of a year ago when they knocked off a strong Wisconsin team.

"Last year we played at

with no real standout players ala Kerwin Bell or Chris Speilman.

"I would rather play against a team with a superstar than a team that has a lot of good players because if the team has a superstar that they depend on then all you have to do is key your game to stopping that player," Nunnely said.

He added, "We're playing against better athletes than we normally do during the year. They play against better athletes and bigger schools in their conference than we do."

"I'm excited about playing them here because if we get things going our way then we'll get the crowd behind us," Nunnely said.

The sports weekend

will end Sunday with the Soccer team playing at the University of San Diego which currently is sporting a 3-0 record.

"They are very unpredictable and they play on a small field which is to their advantage, however, they beat us here last year and the kids want to go out and beat them this time at their place" Coach Barto said.

This is an important weekend for Rebel sports. It's a chance for the football team to prove that they can play with the bigger schools and be competitive.

For the soccer team these games are regional games and the results will go a long way in deciding if UNLV will appear in any post-season play come November.



PRACTICE, PRACTICE — The Rebel Football team warms up for Baylor.
photo by mike keller/Rebel photographer

watched the films of the game and we just have to try and improve on what we were doing" said UNLV Football coach Wayne

Wisconsin's level, we have to play at that same level this time too," Nunnely said.

Baylor is a solid team

Keith still kicking inspite of illness

by ralph r. brown

staff writer

To see Simon Keith playing soccer for the UNLV Rebels one would never think that just over a year ago he had a heart transplant.

The condition itself started innocently enough when he caught a cold during a road trip with his soccer team in Victoria, Canada, in 1984.

The cold attacked his heart and he developed viral myocarditis, which is a disease that inflames and weakens the muscle.

"When I was sick, I felt the cold a lot because of the cold winters in Canada and the poor circulation that was caused by the condition," said Keith.

He recovered enough to be back on the field again in 1985, but his heart weakened, and in the summer of 1986 he received his new heart at Papworth Hospital in England.

With any transplant operation there is a chance of rejection, but it's something that Keith takes in stride. "There's always a possibility of rejection, and I take medication everyday to combat that possibility. As time goes on the risk decreases," he said.

Keith still plays the game as hard, or harder, than some of the other players he competes with or against but he admits that the operation took its toll on him.

"It's been a while since I was really fit. I'm not as fit now as I was because I sat around for about eight

months after the operation. It takes time and I think it will be another year until I'm really fit again," he said.

Keith, also has come to an understanding with his family about his decision to go back to playing soccer, including his brother Adam Keith who also plays for the Rebels.

"I've sat down with my family and told them what I was going to do and that I know what's best for me."

Keith has only been in Las Vegas a few weeks having transferred from Victoria because "I couldn't walk down the streets there. I've done a thousand interviews across Canada."

One thing that Keith doesn't get is special treatment from the coaches or his teammates.

"The doctors have cleared him to play. A lot of the responsibility lies on his shoulders to let us know if he is getting tired," UNLV coach Barry Barto said.

"I don't think that the players treat him any different, I think that they respect him and admire him for what he does and they follow the work example that he sets," he said.

"One thing that I've learned from this is that you can't plan things too far in advance. Before the operation I had planned to play in the World Cup and go pro. Now I will get a teaching degree and go from there" said Keith.

Judging from what Keith has accomplished already, whatever he does will be a success.

Dimry named captain

by tim underwood

staff writer

Charles Dimry, one of two All-America candidates who play for the UNLV football team, said he enjoys his new role as a team leader for the Rebels.

Dimry, along with George Thomas, James Cimerelli, Darnell Pickens and Richard Williams, has been named a team captain by his teammates.

"I was coming in as a senior and I wanted to be elected as a captain," he said, "so, I was expecting to have a lot of responsibility set on my shoulders, to do whatever I could to increase our chances of a winning program this year."

Coach Nunnely said he's one of the best

defensive players he's ever seen.

"Charles Dimry is probably one of the best players on one-on-one coverage I've seen in the 13 years I've been coaching," Nunnely said.

"The coaches have high expectations for me," Dimry said. "I've been playing for the past three years, and they feel that I can get the job done. I feel pretty confident."

The defensive backfield, with several losses due to graduation, was the hardest hit part of the team, Dimry said.

"All I can do is play my best," he said, when asked if he could handle the pressure of the new season and being nominated All-America, but the opportunity is there."