

Spring game reveals strong Rebel offense

by karen hall

sports editor

It was a cloudy, cool afternoon Saturday as the UNLV football team played its annual spring football game.

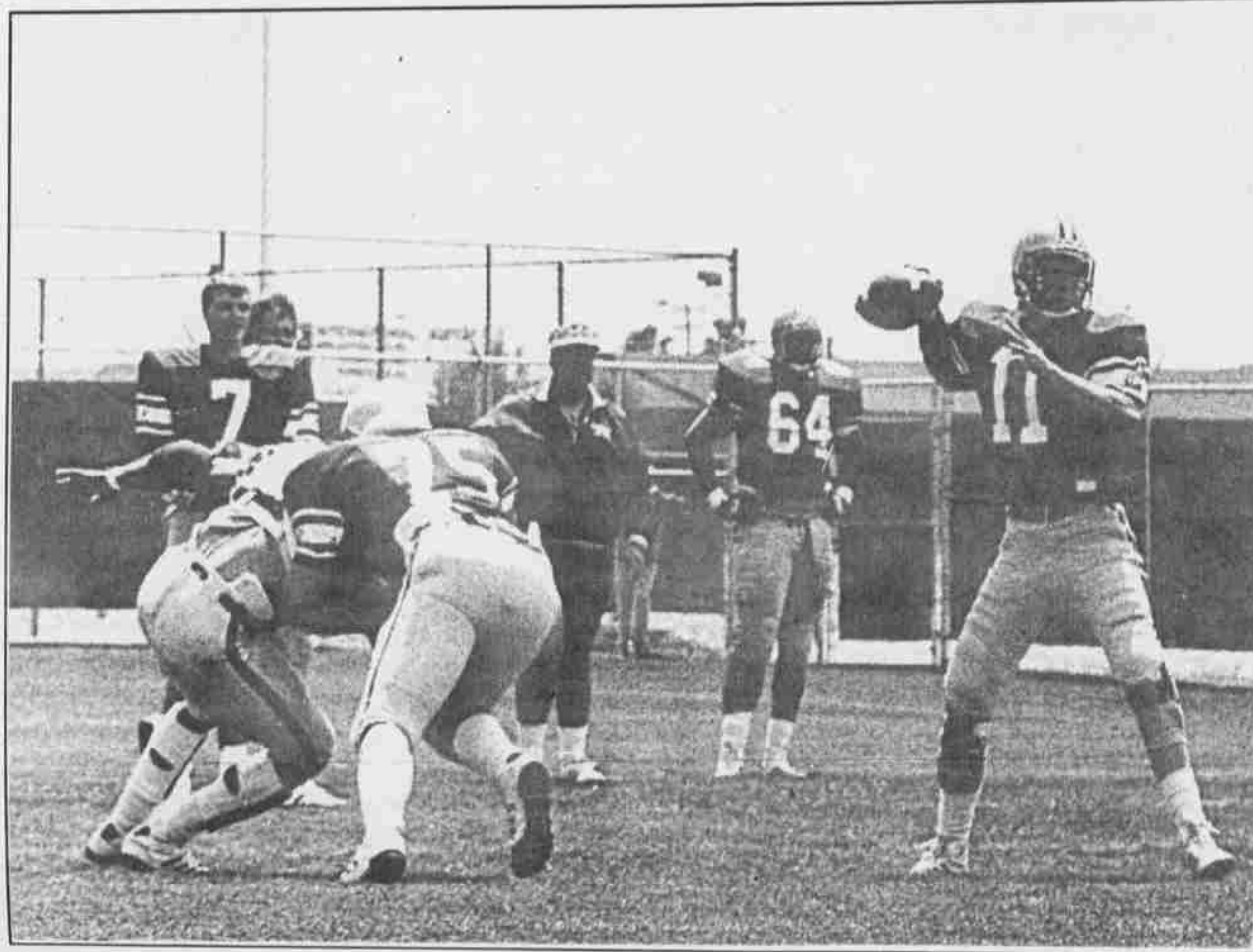
The Rebels went through a 48-game scrimmage playing the offense against the defense. Kicking was a part of the scrimmage and officials were used.

The offense looked good. Scott Sims who is now the Rebels number one quarterback threw a long touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Keenan McCardell.

Sims experience showed why he has become the number one quarterback as he scrambled away from the defense and let loose some strong-armed passes.

"I worked hard for this position, I expected to be number one," said Sims.

Bernard Jackson, a 5-9 junior tailback showed his explosiveness in the back field as he ran for an impressive touchdown. He



showed his ability to cut back from the defense and to break tackles.

"Bernard had a good spring, his performance didn't surprise any of the coaches," said Wayne

Nunnely, UNLV's head coach. "He is the fastest player on the team and will be our big threat player."

Offensively, the Rebels were attempting to show more of a balanced attack

and not just a short passing game as in the past.

Tightend Cedric Davis looked extremely impressive not only on the offense, but nailed a few of his teammates as they

tried to get close to the quarterback.

"I'm looking forward to the first game of the season because I'll be going home," said Davis.

Defensively, the team

did a fair job overall. However, they did earn penalties an area in which the coaches would like to see decreased.

"The players have had 17 practices without officials and the tendency to hold is there because they can get away with it, we need to clean the penalties up," said Nunnely.

The coach was pleased with the low numbers of turnovers during the scrimmage. The Rebels had only two turnovers a fumble and interception.

Overall, Nunnely said the purpose for the game was for the players to have fun.

"They did exactly what we had hoped. That was to have fun and play hard," said Nunnely.

Immediately following the game, Nunnely told the team they worked hard and gave a good effort. He stressed that they now have plenty of time for their books and to finish the semester strong.

New commissioner wants to build new PCAA image

by ralph brown

staff writer

NOTE: Jim Haney became the new Commissioner of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association on April 16. Following is the first part of an interview held during the PCAA tournament in Los Angeles. Part two will run Friday or next Tuesday.

When Jim Haney was named the new Commissioner of the PCAA on March 10 he wasted no time in telling the folks in attendance what his priorities were in his new position.

"One of the main focuses this year will be to carry the message of the

quality of this Conference to the media," he said during his initial statement to the press.

Simply put Haney doesn't think the conference is getting fair treatment from the press outside the conference and that is hurting the league as a whole.

One suggestion made to the league office was to rename the conference, a move Haney sees as a pattern rather than a solution.

"I don't think a name change will help the recognition of the conference. Hard work and dedication will help change the league's image," he said.

To this end he has a master plan and it's called education. Not education like you would find in the classroom but the type that helps others to associate the PCAA with quality education and athletics.

But Haney said something else must be done. "Before the rest of the country can have good thoughts about us we have to educate our fans on the merits of the conference."

He feels once the fans are educated they can help carry the message to the rest of the country. This is a vital point in the theory because most of the publicity generated for

the conference is done when fans travel the country and talk about the PCAA.

"The problem about educating people about the conference is to tell them exactly who is in the league," Haney said. "This is a major point considering that any time you mention the word Pacific, people automatically think of USC or UCLA."

Haney held the position of commissioner of the Metro Conference which is in the shadow of the Atlantic Coast Conference, and when he moved on to the Missouri Valley Conference he found himself in the shadow of the Big Eight

and the Big 10.

However, there the similarities end with the PCAA because it is an all-around conference whereas the other two conferences were known as basketball conferences.

"I don't see this like the MVC or the Metro because it is much more comprehensive. They both concentrate on basketball whereas the PCAA has the attitude that they want to be more than a basketball conference," said Haney.

Haney has definite ideas as to the role that his office will have when it comes time to starting the educational process. "The

conference can do what it can from a PR standpoint to help the Institutions prosper," he said.

"The conference can also act as sounding board by getting into a group of people who have similar problems and discuss these amongst themselves," Haney said. "The conference can also help make decisions and help the coaches promote their programs."

Haney will now try to do to the PCAA what he has done with the previous two conferences he has commissioned, bring the PCAA the respect it deserves and continue to improve the league's image.