

REBEL SPORTS

Three UNLV football players picked up in draft



INTO THE BREACH — Running Back "Ickey" Woods heads for open space. Woods will be playing for the Cincinnati Bengals. photo by jon ansok/Rebel photo editor

New PCAA director inherits problems

Editor's Note: This is the second part of an interview that was done with Jim Haney the new Pacific Coast Athletic Association Commissioner at the PCAA tournament in March.

by ralph brown

staff writer

The new commissioner had many problems facing him when he took over the office April 16. His approach to these problems is simple.

"Our first job is to define the problem, then figure out what the short term ones are and then deal with those first," said Haney.

One of the bigger short term problems that face Haney is the status of some of the football teams in the conference.

Those teams with the smaller programs could face losing Division I status if the programs fail to meet the standards set by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"The football problem is

a complex one and it will have to be worked out with diligence and persistence," he said.

One thing that was mentioned was to drop the Football in the conference to Division IAA status until the programs can be restructured to meet requirements.

"Anytime you cut a sport, as time passes you find it hard to bring it back. I don't see us going to Division IAA," he concluded.

Another problem that faces the conference is that UNLV is a large school that garners a lot of attention. Unfortunately that recognition is not passed around to the rest of the conference.

"There's a positive and a negative. It's always positive when you have a program that has national recognition. But we need to make it known that there are other quality teams in the league," said Haney.

There is a valid point to all of this in the fact that even though many people

recognize UNLV as being from the PCAA many will not put Fresno State, (Currently ranked second in the nation by Baseball America), or Cal State Fullerton, (Currently ranked 8th), in the PCAA.

Last but not least Haney has some thoughts on the ongoing feud between the NCAA and UNLV Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian.

"I don't think that it is good for the NCAA to be perceived as a head hunter," he said, adding "I think that we're in an era of compassion in the NCAA. There are committees that have been established to hear different cases."

Haney started off his news conference on March 10 with the following statement. "I believe this conference is healthy. The PCAA has had great success in it's 20 years."

If Haney is able to do the things that he wants to do in the future then the PCAA should be just as successful in the next 20 years.

by ralph brown

staff writer

Three UNLV football players were selected by National Football League teams in the annual draft that was held in New York on Sunday and Monday.

Rebel Running Back and the nation's leading rusher, Elbert "Ickey" Woods was drafted as the 31st pick by the Cincinnati Bengals.

While defensive back Charles Dimry and wide receiver George Thomas were selected as the first pick in the sixth round. Both Dimry and Thomas were selected by the Atlanta Falcons.

All three have good shots to make the clubs that drafted them this past week. Woods should make the Bengals, who finished last in the American Football Conference Central with a 4-11 record.

Woods, who made good impressions on the scouts during the second half of

the season and in the All-star games, will be looked at to shore up a dismal running game.

The Falcons are high on both UNLV picks and will give them long looks in training camp. Atlanta, who was 22nd in pass defense last year have high hopes for Dimry.

"He has good coverage ability and seems to be a pretty sure tackler," said Fred Bruney, Assistant coach for Atlanta. "He compares favorably with the top defensive backs in this year's class."

Dimry expressed surprise over the fifth round pick. "They were showing interest in me...but my expectations were in the seventh round," he said.

Part of the reason Dimry thought he would go later was because of the broken arm he suffered last season.

Thomas will go to the Falcons and hopefully be able to play with another Las Vegas on offense. Bonanza High Gerald

Riggs is currently the Falcons top running back.

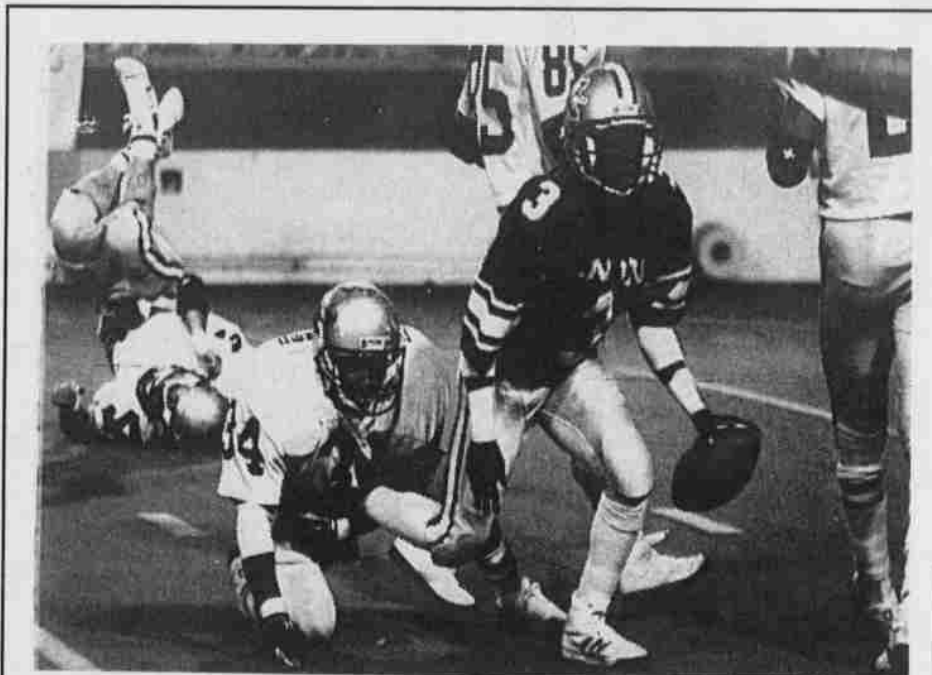
Even if Thomas doesn't make the offense in the first year he has a better than average chance to make the team as a kick returner.

Thomas last year caught 45 passes, averaging 13 yard a catch. He also returned 19 kickoffs with a 19 yard per return average.

Elbert Dubenion, a scout for the Falcons said, "Thomas compares favorably with the small, quick guys we have now. He's a real good athlete and we believe he has return potential also."

Thomas agent, Bruce Allen said, "A team that is 3-11 needs help everywhere. They don't have a lot of people with set jobs this year."

So when the next football season rolls around don't be surprised to see four Rebels playing in the NFL.



GOT A REBEL BY THE FOOT — Rebel wide receiver, George Thomas makes the reception in enemy territory. Thomas was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons.

photo by mike keller/managing editor

To: Kurt Hildebrand, Editor

From: Karen Hall, Sports Editor

This is to inform you I will not be able to continue on as Sports Editor for the *Yellin' Rebel* as I am graduating, this year. Good luck with finding a replacement. My number is 739-3479, or I can be reached in the offices of the *Yellin' Rebel*. Please refer applicants to me. Thank-you.