

Super Bowl XXIII

by patrick beckwith

sports editor

With the start of the National Football League regular season I feel it only necessary that I perform the traditional, yet meaningless act of making predictions for the 1988 season.

AFC East: The Indianapolis Colts have the best backfield in the NFL in Eric Dickerson and Albert Bentley as well as a solid quarterback in Gary Hogeboom. In addition the Colts have one of the best coaches in the game in Head Coach Ron Meyer and a defense that is as good as any in the AFC. If Hogeboom stays healthy the Colts will win the East. Remaining order of finish: Buffalo, New England, Miami and New York Jets.

AFC Central: The Cleveland Browns have come within an eyelash of the Super Bowl the last two seasons and there is no reason to believe that they will not make a run for it this year. Quarterback Bernie Kosar guides the most balanced offense in the league and this balance will lead Cleveland to another Central Division title. Remaining order of finish: Houston, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

AFC West: Could the Denver Broncos look any uglier in the Super Bowl? Despite their rather poor showings the last two years in the Super Bowl the Broncos may still get back there a third time. The addition of Tony Dorsett will help a rather mediocre running game, but this is not the Dorsett that we've come to know. Still with a superstar like John Elway at quarterback the Broncos will win the West. Remaining order of finish: Seattle, Los Angeles Raiders, Kansas City and San Diego.

NFC East: I'm still trying to figure out how the Redskins won the Super Bowl last season. On paper Washington has a good team, but on the field they are a great team. This must be attributed to Head Coach Joe Gibbs, the best coach in the NFL. But despite all these positives for Washington I look for a revival by the New York Giants. Even without Lawrence Taylor the Giants have a great defense and with the return of quarterback Phil Simms New York is on its way to another Eastern Division title. Remaining order of finish: Washington, Philadelphia, Dallas and Phoenix.

NFC Central: The Minnesota Vikings have all the ingredients that make a great team: a dominating defense, an explosive offense and a crafty coach in Gerry Burns. The Vikings are the closest thing to a shoe-in, if only for the fact that they play in the worst division in the NFL. Remaining order of finish: Chicago, Tampa Bay, Green Bay and Detroit.

NFC West: The race between New Orleans and San Francisco in the West might as well be decided by a coin toss. The two teams will both get to the playoffs, one as division champion and the other as a wildcard. I'll go with the Saints to win the division for the mere fact that the Forty-niners defense can be suspect at times. Remaining order of finish: San Francisco, Los Angeles Rams and Atlanta. Super Bowl XXIII: Minnesota 27, Indianapolis 16.

After four futile tries for the coveted Lombardi Trophy the Vikings will finally emerge as champions.

Rebs get set for Baylor opener

by jim derusso

staff writer

The UNLV Rebel football team kickoff the twenty-first season of Rebel football in an intersectional match against Baylor University. It will be a rematch of last seasons home opener against the Bears, but this time the two will tangle in Waco, Texas. The Bears won the first and only meeting between the two teams with a 21-14 victory at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl in 1987. This time the Rebels would like to return the favor and spoil the Bears home opener.

UNLV enters this season under third year head coach Wayne Nunnely with a balanced offensive attack. It will feature the arm of sophomore quarterback Scott

Sims, the running of third year tailback Tommy Jackson, the hands of junior All-American candidate tight end Cedric Davis and senior wide receiver Mike Reddick.

Sims started six games as a freshmen last year and won his first two college starts against Nevada-Reno and Utah State. He is the type of quarterback who can beat you not only with his arm, but also with his running ability. Look for Sim's ability to really show when he rolls out of the pocket.

Jackson started ten games last season averaging five yards a carry, but will need help from his back field counterparts to fill the void left by Ickey Woods. Cedric Davis, a honorable mention All-PCAA player as a sophomore, is averaging over

thirteen yards a catch in his brief career at UNLV. Davis has also been rated in the top twenty tight ends in the country by *The Sporting News*.

The Baylor Bears' Grant Teaff begins his seventeenth season as head coach and usually has his Bears in the middle of the race for the Southwest Conference championship and a Cotton Bowl bid. The Bears are coming off a 6-5 season and a sub .500 conference record.

Offensively they return only three starters, but they are still expected to have one of the most explosive offenses in their conference. They will be lead by sophomore quarterback Brad Goebels who threw for a conference leading 2,178 yards last season. On defense the Bears

return nine starters from the '87 squad that limited the Rebels to two hundred and twenty-five yards in last years game.

Leading the defense will be a pair of All-American candidates in defensive backs Robert Blackmen and Ray Crockett who stabilize a secondary that can play with the best in the nation.

GAME NOTES: UNLV is 0-2 against the Southwest Conference (last seasons loss to Baylor and a 1984 loss to SMU)...UNLV is 14-6 .700 in season openers...Rebel kicker Jim Cook has hit 29 extra points in a row dating back to 1986...game time is 5pm and can be heard on KDWN 720am and seen on channel 21.

UNLV Soccer team ranked 7th

by marlo menez

staff writer

UNLV's Soccer team is the team to beat in the Big West Conference this year. Headed by Jeff Wale, 1987 PCAA co-Player of the year, the 1988 Rebels are exploding with both talent and power.

Barry Barto, head coach at UNLV seven years, is very confident heading into the upcoming season. The Rebels are ranked seventh in the country in *Soccer America's* Preseason Top 20 Poll. It is the highest the UNLV Team has been ranked since 1985.

The Rebels boast the Gavin Spaulding, 1987 red-shirts are also returning, they were both 1986 PCAA first

team players.

This years team will be striving to overcome last seasons disappointment. UNLV was 14-5 overall last season and was ranked 12th at the end of the year by the Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America and 15th by *Soccer America*. The Rebels had a ten game winning streak heading into the NCAA tourney. In the NCAA Championship Tournament they defeated the University of San Francisco 1-0 in the first round only to be forced to forfeit that match and be removed from the tournament before the start of the second round for using an ineligible player. But that may just give them that extra motivation to prove once and for all that they are "The

Best in the West."

The strongest areas on this year's team would have to be the frontline, goalkeeping and midfield. The entire midfield has returned and it has the most wide array of talented players. Simon Keith, heading the forward line, is one of the most skilled forwards in the nation.

The only area that they may have to concentrate on will be the defense; where they really have lost some key players. Leading the defense will be Eddie Anibal, who was a 1st team all-PCAA choice last year, and Kevin Nute, a second team all-PCAA player. But with this teams positive attitude and disposition the 1988 Rebels may have their best soccer year ever.

The Rebels in non-conference play are scheduled to compete with four top-20 squads, including SMU, Virginia UCLA and San Diego State. To open the season they play Portland University and the University of Washington in Portland.

The team is in top shape with the exception of Adam Keith who has just returned to the team after surgery and Sal Carbone who has been temporarily sidelined with an injured knee.

UNLV kicks off their home schedule in the UNLV Adidas/Ethel M Soccer Classic on September 9-10. They will come up against three of the top teams in the country, Virginia, Connecticut, and UCLA.

SEPT. SPORTS CALENDAR

Sept. 5 & 6

Basketball: Silver Streaks vs. Fresno. 7pm. Thomas & Mack Center. \$9, \$6 & \$3. 739-3900.

Sept. 9 & 10

Soccer: UNLV Adidas/Ethel M Soccer Classic. 7pm. Peter Johann Memorial Field. \$4 & \$2. 739-FANS.

Sept. 16

Boxing: Top Rank Boxing at Caesars Palace. 6pm. \$20, \$15 & \$10. 731-7865.

Sept. 16 & 18

Soccer: UNLV Coors Soccer Invitational. Fri., 7pm; Sun., 1pm. Peter Johann Memorial Field. \$4 & \$2. 739-FANS.

Sept. 17

Football: UNLV vs. Cal. State Fullerton. 7pm. Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. \$6, \$5, \$4 & \$3. 739-FANS.

Sept. 24

Football: UNLV vs. Ohio University. 7pm. Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. \$6, \$5, \$4 & \$3. 739-FANS.

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