

## SPORTS

## BIG WINNERS

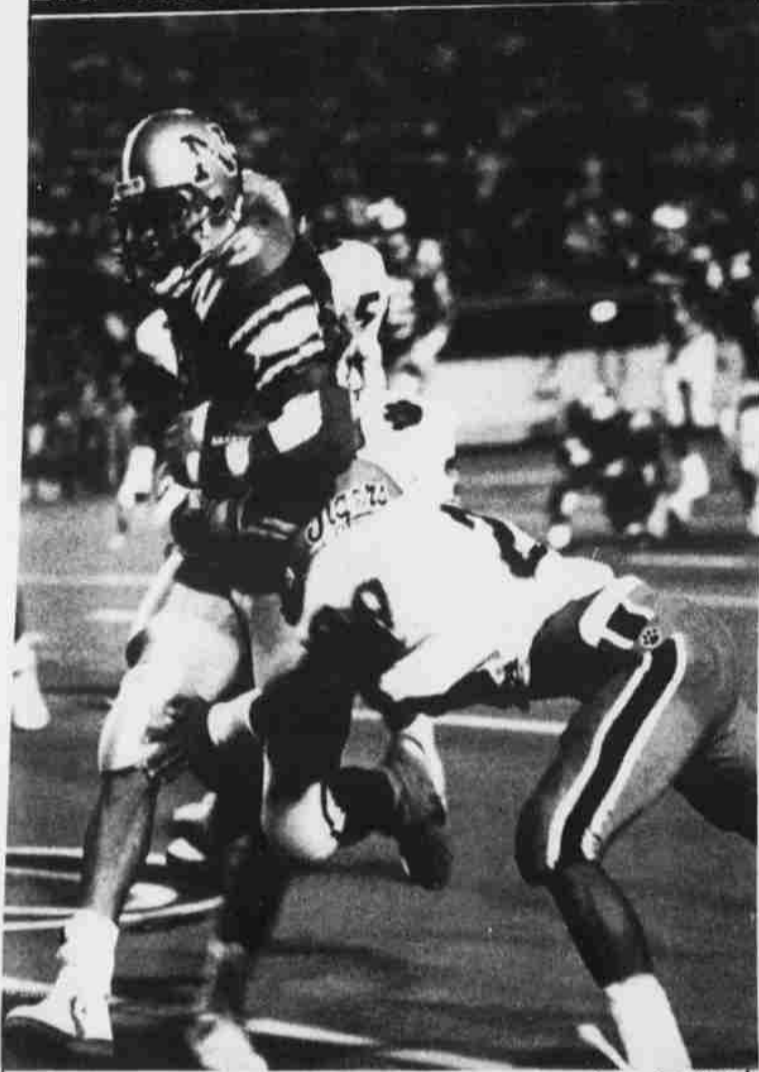


photo by Greg Klund

**DOWN THE FIELD-** Runningback Kyle Toomer tackled by 2 Pacific Tigers.

*Read the Yell!  
It'll change your  
neighbor's life!*

## Rebs win big at Homecoming game

By Jim DeRusso  
YELLIN' REBEL

Around Christmas time last year, Hollywood made a movie about the University of Pacific football team in which Robert Conrad played a middle age man who walks on and becomes the star quarterback.

Well, on Saturday night in front of a Homecoming crowd of just over 10,000, the Tigers sure could have used some of that Hollywood magic in stopping the Rebels, as UNLV ran over and around the Tigers on route to their 30-7 Big West victory.

The win was the Rebels' third straight at home this season and improved their record to 3-2 overall and 2-1 in conference play. Pacific fell to 1-5 and 1-3 respectively.

Led by senior Darin Brightmon's 211 yards, the Rebels' running game rushed for an incredible 383 yards, well above the season average of 204 yards per game.

For the first time all season, the Rebels led a game from start to finish and in doing so they kept their hopes of going on to the California Bowl alive.

Brightmon's night didn't start off to be anything extraordinary. His 50 yards at the half wasn't even the teams' high. Kyle Toomer, who finished with 84 yards, had that honor. But the second half was a different story. On 13 carries, Brightmon gained 161

yards (an average of 12.3 yards per carry) and his second touchdown of the night.

His 211 yards was the eighth highest rushing total in school history and increased his season total to 580, leaving him just 141 yards shy of the 2,000 yard mark in his UNLV career.

UNLV opened the scoring late in the first quarter when tailback Marvin Eastmen (11-54) finished off a 13-play 75 yard drive with a two yard run.

The touchdown was the first points the Rebels have put on the board in the first quarter all season, and the drive was a peek of things to come, as all but 16 yards came from the running game.

Pacific looked to answer right back when Tommy Zenner took the following kick off and ran it back to his own 43 yard line. The Tigers soon found themselves driving in to Rebel territory, but when two of the Rebels' top defensive players (Doc Wise and Jody Reinoehl) teamed up to force and recover a Pacific fumble, the Rebels were in control of the rest of the game.

The first of Brightmon's two scores put the Rebels up 13-0, as the extra-point attempt by Louis Solorio failed. Once again UNLV marched for the touchdown without the aid of a complete pass. All 66 yards came courtesy of the legs of Brightmon, Eastmen and quarterback Derek Stott.

Pacific closed out the first half with their only scoring play of

the game. After two procedural penalties on the Rebel kick-off team, Solorio found himself kicking off from the 25 yard line.

Tiger freshman quarterback Troy Kopp, who had combined to throw for 863 yards in his last two games but for only 158 against the Rebels, hit Aaron Turner for a 14 yard scoring strike, closing the lead to 13-7.

When the two teams returned from the break, Brightmon took over. On his first carry in the half, he sprinted 57 yards up the sideline taking the Rebels out of a first-and-fifteen hole from their own 14-yard line.

A field goal by Todd Amrein, who replaced Solorio as kicker after Solorio missed his fifth extra point in nine tries, would finish off the drive putting UNLV up 16-7.

UNLV added a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns to close out the scoring.

Brightmon got into the end zone for the sixth time on the season on a one yard run and Stott would later score on a one yard bootleg.

On what would have been a near perfect Homecoming for the Rebels was spoiled when starting offensive guard Jon Jones left the game after suffering a knee injury in the first quarter.

The Rebels will have a week off before taking their running game on the road with a non-conference match-up against Northern Illinois.

## Tarkanian and the NCAA: The history, and then some

"NCAA Bounces Rebels." That was the headline of the front page of the Las Vegas Sun on August 24, 1977.

After this it all began. Among other sanctions, the UNLV men's basketball program was placed on probation and the NCAA requested that the school suspend head coach Jerry Tarkanian for the duration of the probation.

The events that followed could boggle the mind of even the greatest fiction writers of all time.

Over a period of twelve years, two trips to the Nevada State courts, and one trip to the highest court in the land, and I'm not talking about Judge Wopner's People's Court, but the United States Supreme Court, and what has been determined? The fact that the legal system can tie up any case for over a decade and come up with the same

finding it did in the first place. The NCAA cannot force the suspension of Tarkanian by the university.

Let's take it from the top. Nearly eighteen years ago, while

Tarkanian was building a basketball power at Long Beach State, the NCAA announced that they were about to open up an investigation of then-head coach John Bayer's UNLV men's basketball program for recruiting violations.

In 1973, Tarkanian left Long Beach to take the position of head coach at UNLV. Long Beach was soon after placed on probation for recruiting violations of their own. All the while, the NCAA was still looking into UNLV basketball.

It took the NCAA another four years before they announced the violations that the Rebels were

guilty of committing, and the speculation at the time was that the NCAA was delaying the announcement until they could catch Tarkanian in some type of wrongdoing before they tagged the school with its sanctions.

This acted as their way of getting Tarkanian for leaving Long Beach and its apparent probation to come to Las Vegas.

When the NCAA finally made the long-awaited announcement, UNLV's men's basketball program was found guilty of numerous violations, with the most serious occurring in 1972 while Tarkanian was still at Long Beach. To ask for the suspension of Tarkanian under these circumstances only strengthened the premise that the NCAA was out to sink Tarkanian.

Tarkanian and his attorney successfully filed for a court injunction through the Nevada State

Court. It blocked any attempt by UNLV to suspend him under the fact that Tarkanian was being denied his due process and the right to earn a living at the career of his choice. With the suspension, it would also mean a loss of income from his newspaper columns, radio and television shows, and any summer camps and lectures during the suspension.

Not only did the court rule in favor of Tarkanian, but District Court Judge James Brennan even went as far as to say that the evidence the NCAA had on Tarkanian was "100% hearsay" and that some of the NCAA investigators were "obsessed to the point of paranoia to harm the plaintiff [Tarkanian]."

After a period of ten years passed of what seemed to be a stalemate, the Supreme Court delivered what seemed to be a major blow to Tarkanian's defense. By the closest possible count, 5-4, they ruled

that the NCAA did have the right to discipline their members.

For the record, joining the NCAA isn't a requirement but a choice that universities freely make. Of course, schools could always pass up on the NCAA and join the highly-visible NAIA.

After months of speculation of what the NCAA would do after they were told they had the right to discipline its members, the Nevada State Courts ruled on Thursday the twenty-eighth of last month that their injunction that protected Tarkanian from suspension in '77 was still effective.

With Tarkanian now out of the NCAA's range, the NCAA may find it suitable to put the men's basketball program back on probation, for the second time, for the same offense.

**To be continued next  
issue!**

by Jim DeRusso  
COMMENTARY