

Stott leads the team to victory over Long Beach St.

By Jim DeRusso
YELLIN' REBEL

Long Beach State and UNLV seemed to match up pretty well with each other. Both teams average around 350 yards in offense and 20 points per game. Both teams came into Saturday's game with losing streaks, Long Beach's at three and UNLV's at two, and both teams were out of the Big West race a lot sooner than they had hoped to be.

When game time rolled around, UNLV shook off a sluggish start and put their best foot forward. No, make that their best arm forward. Quarterback Derek Stott had his best game as a collegiate player completing 18 of 23 passes for 326 yards (first time since Kendall Cunningham in 1984 has a Rebel QB passes for 300 yards), and 3 touchdowns as he led the Rebels back from a 14-7 halftime deficit to a 43-21 victory.

UNLV wiped out the 49ers lead by scoring 26 straight points over a span of just under 10 min-

utes during the third and fourth quarter. Over this period, UNLV got into the end zone 4 times on scoring drives of 38 seconds, 2:13, 2:24, and 1:39 as the Rebel defense was able to give the offense great field position every time they took the field.

Down 14-7 early in the third period, UNLV's Charles Anthony picked off a Paul Oates pass ending a 49er drive deep in Rebel territory.

After a 16 yard run by Tommy Jackson, Stott faked a hand-off to Jackson, freezing the 49er defense. Stott aired out a long bomb down the middle of the field allowing Rickie Wills to run under it for a 51 yard touch down reception. The pat was no good, so the Rebels still trailed 14-13.

On the 49er's next possession the Rebel defense stood tall again, as a pressured Paul Oates hit Rebel defender Freddy Phillips for an easy interception. A clipping penalty on the return wiped out a brilliant criss-cross run by Phillips, so instead of getting the ball on the Long Beach 11 yard line the Rebels took over

on the 37.

UNLV worked their way inside the five yard line through the running of Jackson and a key interference penalty on the 49ers. Klye Toomer finished things off with his first of two touchdowns. Stott hit Jackson for what looked to be an apparent successful two point conversion, but an interference penalty on the Rebels negated the reception, keeping UNLV ahead by only 5 points.

UNLV's defense got the ball back again as they forced the 49ers to punt after just three plays. After a couple of Stott completions, 16 yards to Jackson and 28j to Kenny Rogers, Toomer once again finished things off as he cut back into the end zone for an 11 yard run and what turned out to be the winning score. With the pat by Todd Amrein good, UNLV was ahead 26-14.

With the Rebels holding on to a 12 point lead early in the final quarter, they faced a 3 and 9 situation near mid field. Looking to

keep possession of the ball, Stott found an open Keenan McCardle just past the first down marker. A missed tackle, a good block, and 49 yards later McCardle found himself in the end zone. After a successful kick by Amrein, UNLV boosted their lead to 33-14.

After a quick 49er touchdown got them back to within 12, UNLV scored their sixth touchdown of the day. A pair of big gains, Stott to McCardle for 20 yards and a 17 yard run by Toomer, put the Rebels on the 49er 10 yard line.

From there, freshmen Anthony Vannucci scored his first college touchdown on only his second carry. A field goal by Amrein closed out the scoring. For Amrein, it kept alive his streak of at least one field goal in his last 4 games.

Ove the first 2 1/2 quarters, it didn't look as if there would be any celebrating on the Rebel side lines as Stott was sacked four times, a pair of UNLV penalties led to a 49er score, add in a couple of turnovers and a missed field goal and it

didn't seem to be the Rebels' day. The only bright spot in the early going was Stott's first touchdown pass. A 14 yard hook-up with Jackson that saw Stott scramble out of the pocket and before corssing the line of scrimmage hit Jackson in the back of the end zone tied the score at 7-7.

As the third period started, the UNLV defense seemed to pick it up a notch as they began to get into Oates' face on nearly every play, and with that momentum started to swing in the Rebels' favor. UNLV never looked back as they finished with their highest score since 1986.

Toomer finished with 143 yards rushing, Jackson rushed for 100, and combined with Stott's 326 passing, the Rebels piled up well over 500 yards total offense.

UNLV improved to 4-4 overall and 3-2 in conference as the 49ers dropped to 3-7 and 1-4. UNLV travels to Nevada-Reno next week before finishing out the home schedule with Utah State on November 18.

SCORE IT!



photo by Robert Anderson

LAAARRRY!- Rebels newest addition Larry Johnson muscles in for two of his 30 points in an exhibition victory over High Five America Sunday at the Thomas and Mack Center. Look for the Rebels taking on the Soviet Union basketball team tonight at 7:30PM at the T & M.

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