

# Media day introduces "Strong" football team

By Mark Landwehr  
Staff Reporter



- Returning Quarterback Derek Stott.

The Rebel football team held a media day on Friday, August 10, at the Sam Boyd Silverbowl to give the press an opportunity to see and talk to this year's football team.

Rebel football enters a new era, a "Strong" era. The Rebels have a new coach this year in the person of former Notre Dame offensive coordinator, Jim Strong. This is Strong's first head coaching job after having helped Notre Dame to a 12-1 record, a victory in the Orange Bowl in 1989, and a national championship in 1988.

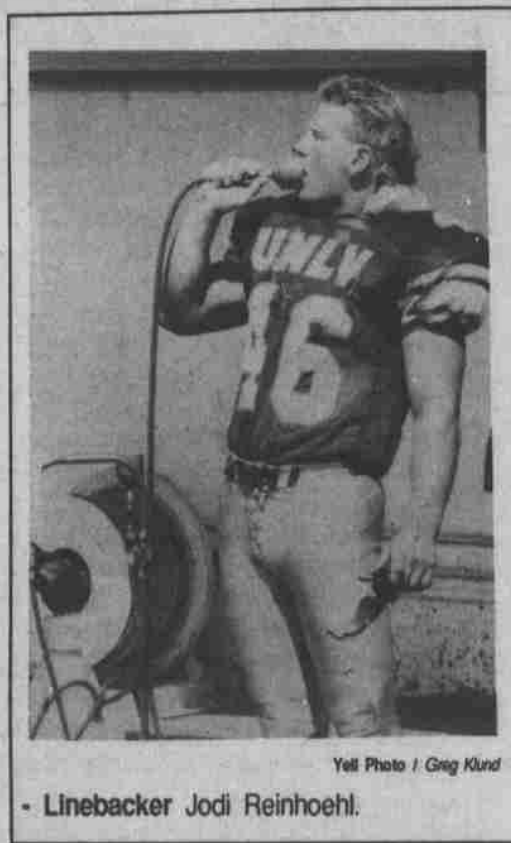
Coach Strong not only brings with him a new coaching staff, but a new attitude as well. Interviews with a half dozen returning Rebel football players, including stars Keenan McCardell, wide receiver, and Dustin Quinton, offensive lineman, yielded the same response to the question: "Whats' the main difference between last year's team and this year's team?"

The answer is the attitude.

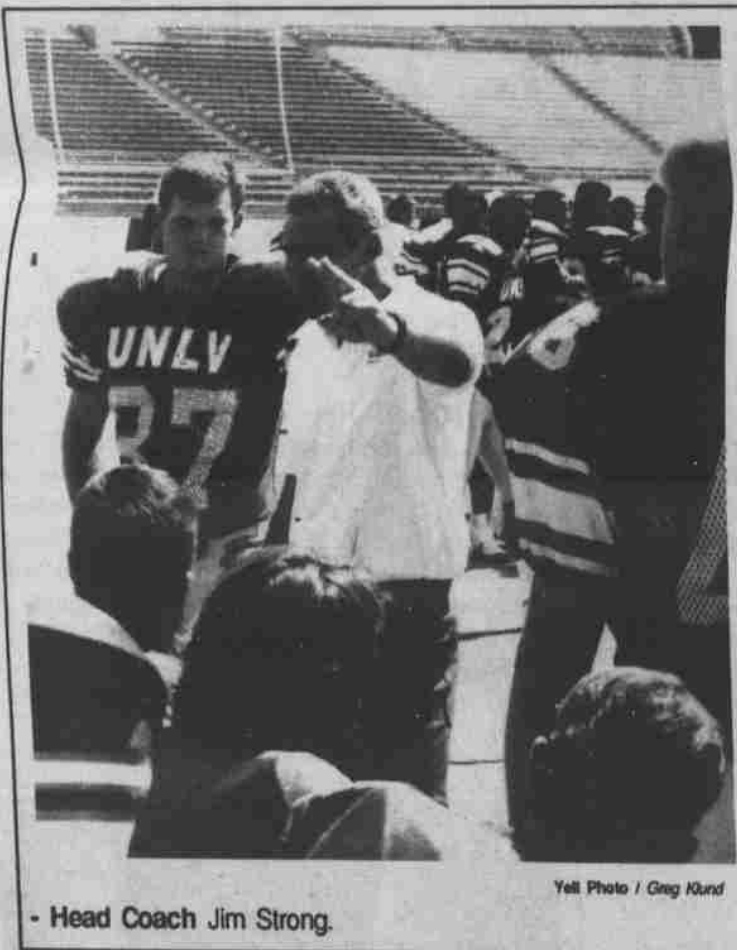
This year's team seems to have gained back confidence lost after last year's defeats. However, this year's team is determined to win games and has the confidence and ability to do it.

UNLV's most valuable player last year, wide receiver Keenan McCardell said, "He (Coach Strong) brings a winning attitude to the program and makes them (the players) feel like they're winners."

Coach Strong is optimistic about this year's team, but does not want to, "write any checks as a coach that I can't cash", and therefore keeps his goal set on a winning season, something the Rebels haven't had since 1986.



- Linebacker Jodi Reinhoehl.



- Head Coach Jim Strong.

"Our number one goal is to have a winning season. Our secondary goal is to win the conference championship and to go to a bowl game. And our third goal is to become a top 20 team," Strong said.

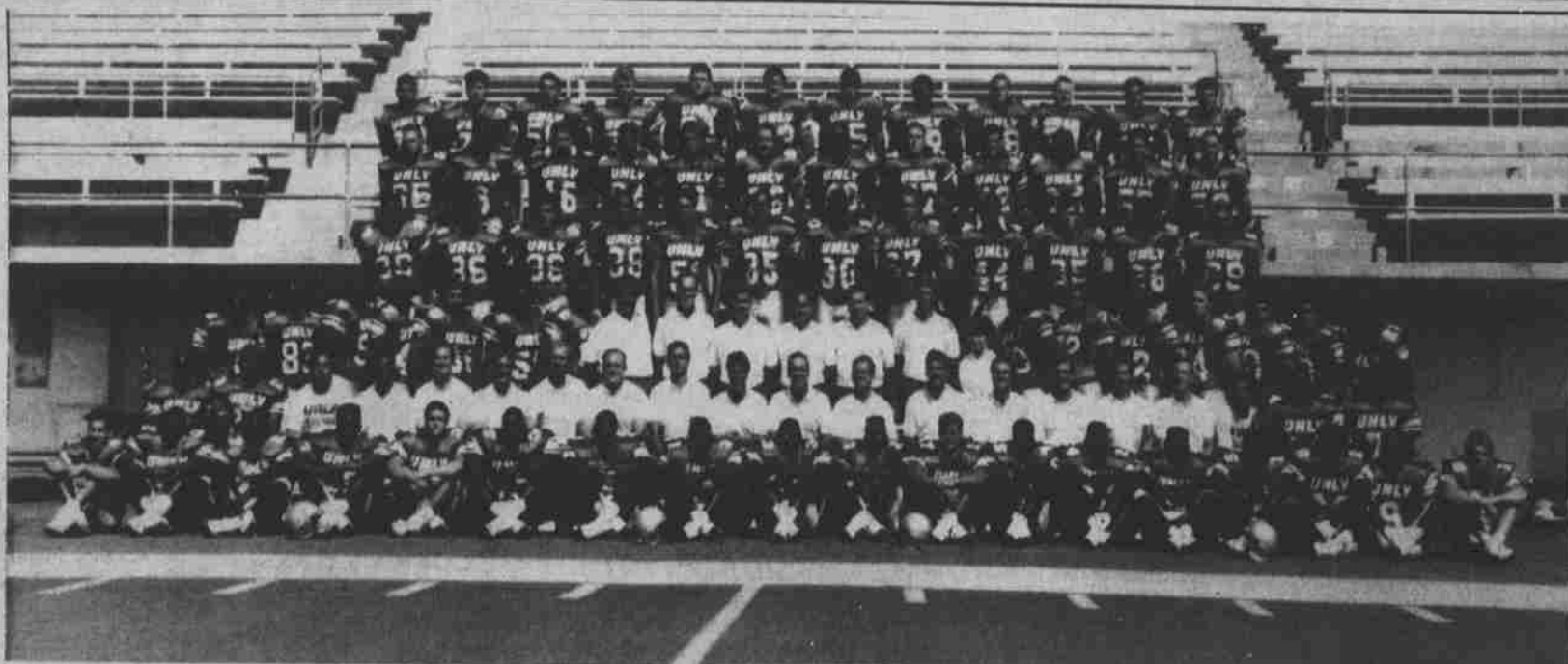
Coach Strong hopes to get the support of UNLV students, as a 5,000 seat section of the Silverbowl has been reserved for the students at no charge. It is Strong's wish that the football team could get support similar to that of the basketball team and the football teams of other big schools.

The Rebel team, 4-7 last year, looks to be much improved with the return of many key starters (32 lettermen) and a good class of recruits. The key difference is in the leadership of coach Strong, a man McCardell says, "could run for president; he's that strong of a leader."

The Rebel football team's first home game is at 7 p.m. on September 1, at the Silverbowl against Southwest Missouri State.



- Fullback Marv Eastman (#29).



1990 Rebel football team

Yell Photo / Greg Klund