

New era dawns for Rebel Football

By Mark Landwehr
Staff Reporter

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas football team starts its season this Saturday with a home game against Southwest Missouri State at 7 p.m. at the Silver Bowl. A section of 5000 seats has been set aside for students. Admission is free with student identification.

This season marks the beginning of a new era for UNLV football. Gone is coach Wayne Nunnely, and here to resurrect the program is former Notre Dame offensive coordinator Jim Strong.

The Rebels, coming off three consecutive losing seasons, have a different attitude this year—a winning attitude.

Wide receiver Keenan McCardell said, "Coach Strong makes us feel like winners."

Strong certainly brings a winning tradition, having coached in winning programs at the University of Minnesota and of course, at Notre Dame.

There will be a number of changes with the Rebels this year, aside from the change in attitude.

The Rebel defense will feature a 5-2 alignment, emphasizing speed rather than the 3-4 alignment the Rebels used last year that yielded 30.9 average points per game. The offense will be different as well, with UNLV featuring a veer oriented attack similar to the one used by Notre Dame last year.

Many of the personnel remain the same, but the Rebels also have an infusion of new talent and returning players coming back from injury. Former Western High School star Teddy James is gunning for the running back spot, as is returning player Marv Eastman. Eastman is trying to come back from knee surgery which ended his season early last year.

The strength of the team would seem to be in the offensive line. The line was decimated with injuries last year. Injured were Duston Quinton, Joe Biritz and Tim Lyons. All three are back to join incumbents Greg Mattes and Jon Jones to form a fearsome fivesome indeed.

The key player to watch for big plays is wide receiver Keenan



Yell Photo / Robert Anderson

Starter - Quarterback Derek Stott won the starting job for the opener against S.W. Missouri State.

McCardell. McCardell caught 54 passes for 883 yards last year (16.4 average), including five touchdowns. McCardell is a big play man and the starting quarterback will certainly be looking in his direction quite often this

year. This year's Rebel football team promises to be an exciting one. Considering the success that coach Strong's programs have enjoyed in the past, UNLV fans look to see a lot of winning football at UNLV. The Rebels play five home games this year starting the season with SW Missouri State (10-3 in 1989) and completing it with defending Big West Champion, Fresno State on November 3.



Yell Photo / Robert Anderson

Speedster - Backup Quarterback, "Hunkie" Cooper, shows how dangerous he is as a running back as well as throwing the ball during a closed scrimmage last Thursday.

REBEL NOTES

by Andrea Reitan

University of Nevada Las Vegas part time Assistant Coach Cleveland Edwards recently accepted a full time position with Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Edwards had been with the Rebels for six seasons as a part time assistant, academic consultant and administrative

assistant. He left UNLV mainly because he was seeking a full time position so he could be involved in recruiting. "It will be difficult to leave this program," Edwards said. "I'm not only leaving a good program, but I'm leaving a lot of good friends."

Edwards joined Marshall who has recently been put on proba-

tion for two years. Marshall was 15-13 overall last season and 9-5 in the conference. Marshall Coach Dwight Freeman is looking forward to working with Edwards.

"I think he will do a good job for us because of the time he spent with a successful program," Freeman said.

Former UNLV basketball players David Butler and Moses Scurry are on their way overseas to continue their basketball careers. According to Coach

Jerry Tarkanian, Scurry is going to Japan and Butler will probably go to Greece. Both Players were drafted by The Continental Basketball Association Rapid City

Thrillers.

Former Rebel Jarvis Basnight has played for the Thrillers for the past two seasons.



Yell Photo / Robert Anderson

Alumni shines - Former UNLV Runnin' Rebel star Freddie Banks, is still a lethal outside shooter for the Silver Streaks. The Streaks finished their regular season in the Thomas and Mack against the Saskatuwan Storms last Aug. 22 and 23. The Streaks now go on the road for the W.B.L. playoffs to bring Las Vegas another world basketball title.