

UNLV Football Matchup

(UNLV vs. University of Houston)

Who: UNLV v. University of Houston
Where: Astrodome, Houston, Texas
When: Saturday, September 8, 2pm, P.T.
Records: UNLV: 0-1, Houston: 0-0
Last Meeting: 1989, Houston won 69-0 at UNLV.
Media: Game can be heard on KDWN-720 AM

Offense

UNLV

When the Rebels are on the attack, they will be looking to get the ball into the hands of RB-QB "Hunkie Cooper". The multi-faceted Cooper ran for 46 yards on 14 carries in last Saturday's game against SMSU; including two key fourth down conversions and a two point conversion.

The Rebels hope to enjoy some success in the air courtesy of last year's big play wide receiver Keenan Mc-

Cardell. McCardell INT; hopes to have caught three passes for 66 yards, including 1 TD last week. Quarterback Derek Stott, 11-20, 142 yards, 2 TD, 1 Saturday.



Derek Stott

Houston

The Cougars boast one of the most prolific offenses in the NCAA last year, gaining an average of 624 yards and 53.3 points per game, (UNLV gained only 374 yards and 21.1 points per game).

The Cougars lost their starting quarterback, last year's Heisman Trophy winner, Andre Ware, to the Detroit Lions of the NFL. Houston's new quarterback, David Klingler, however, is

said to be as good as Ware, meaning the offense won't miss a beat. This is bad news for Rebel defenders, as the Cougar's Run-and-Shoot offense racked up 5624 yards in the air last year.

When the Cougars "shoot", they will fire in the direction of AP All-American wide receiver, Emanuel Hazard. Hazard caught 142 passes last year, for 1689 yards.

When the Cougars

run, they'll hand the ball to Sporting News All-American, Chuck Weatherspoon. "Spoon", who squats 655 pounds, rumbled for 1173 yards last year on just 119 attempts, a whopping 9.6 yard/carry average.

Needless to say, the Cougar offense is the type that NFL teams wish they had, and defensive coordinators around the country wish they hadn't.

Defense

UNLV

UNLV's defense yielded 306 yards rushing and 70 yards passing last week against SMSU.

The bright spot is that once UNLV deployed their "46" defense, SMSU staged only one serious offensive drive and only got

10 points, instead of the 21 they got in the first half.

The strength of the Rebel's defense would seem to lie in the secondary, as SMSU gained only 70 yards through the air against the Rebels air defense. Safety Carlton Johnson

recovered a fumble and made an interception in last week's game, setting up 10 Rebel points.

The Rebel defensive line and linebackers must be classified as suspect, as SMSU was able to gain 306 yards on the ground against them.

Houston

Houston's defense allowed only 13.6 points per game last year, (UNLV allowed 30.9 points per game).

The strength of the Cougars defense is their linebacking corps, led

by all-SWC candidate Reggie Burnette. (270).

Houston's defensive line is also solid, anchored by returning starters Jason Youngblood, (6-4, 290), and Tray Hooper, (6-0,

6-0, in Spring practice. The secondary is the Cougar's weakness, as they lost all four starters from last year. Additionally, three of this year's starters didn't even participate in Spring practice.

Overall

Only the eternal optimist would hold out any hope for a UNLV victory here, so when we find one, we'll quote him as saying the Rebels are going to win.

In the meantime, it will not be a pretty sight in the Astrodome this weekend. Although the Rebels have better than a decent team, the problem here is that they are matched up against a team that could give many NFL teams a run for their money.

There is an intangible factor here though, that could work in the Rebels favor. Houston's football team is banned from participating in postseason play this year, (the same penalty that UNLV's basketball team suffered). So perhaps the lack of incentive, coupled with the fact that Houston's new head coach John Jenkins was one of the leading candidates for the job Jim Strong now holds, may make the Cougars merciful.



Chuck Weatherspoon - Houston's 1989 Sporting News All-American running back.



Defense - UNLV's defensive line gangs up on a S.W. Missouri State player.



Defensive coordinator - Ronald Cooper goes over tactics to stop the Bears scoring machine during Saturdays loss.