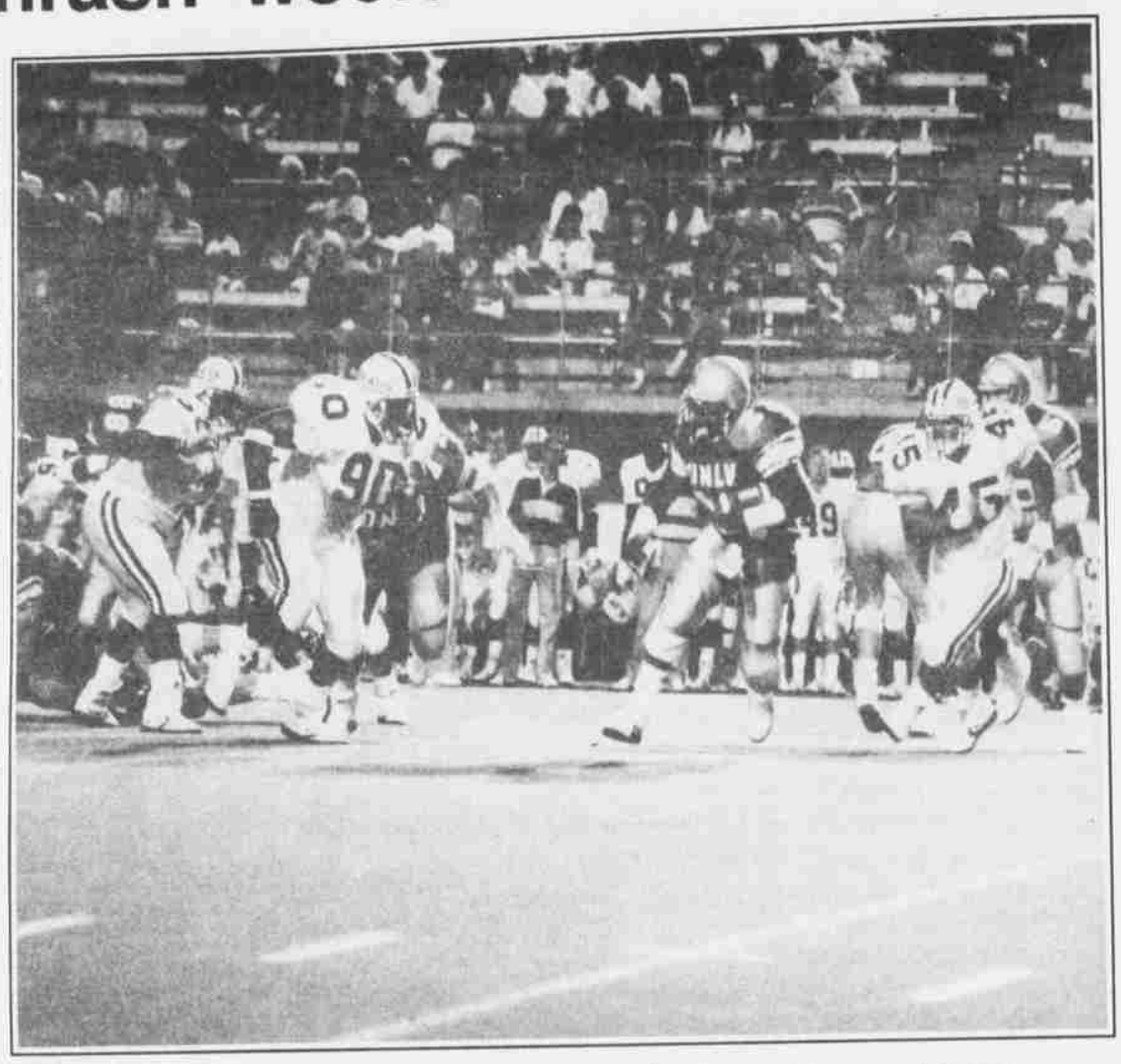
Rebels kick pelt, thrash woeful Beavers, 45-20



The University of Las Vegas, Nevada Rebel football team scored 33 points in the second half of their game against Oregon State on Saturday in Corvallis, Oregon to rout the Beavers, 45-20.

The Rebels entered Saturday's game at Parker Stadium in search of their first win of the season, and their first win under new head football coach Jim Strong.

Coach Strong said before the game, "We're making progress in certain areas, but we're not a football team yet." You could have fooled the Beavers, as UNLV crushed Oregon State, 45-20; giving the Rebels a 1-2 mark on the season. Oregon State drops to 0-3.

The Rebels capitalized on six second half fumbles, five of them on consecutive drives, by OSU, to turn what was a close game, into a blowout. UNLV outscored OSU, 33-6, in the second half to turn a 14-12 halftime deficit into a 45-20 victory.

The 45 points by UNLV was their highest total since their victory last November against Long Beach State, in which they scored 43 points.

The Rebel offense was keyed by excellent offensive line play. UNLV's version of "The Hogs" threw around the Oregon State defense like they were rag dolls. The aggressive line play created huge holes for running backs *Marv Eastman and Derek Black, and also for quarterbacks Derek Stott and Hunkie Cooper to run effective option plays for big chunks of yardage.*

Early in the first quarter OSU took a 7-0 lead.

UNLV's offense answered back with a drive of their own. The running of junior quarterback Derek Stott and junior QB-RB Hunkie Cooper set up a 27 yard touchdown pass from Stott to senior wide receiver, Keenan McCardell. Placekicker Todd Amrein missed the extra point, however, and UNLV still trailed 7-6. The missed PAT would be one of six missed conversions on the evening for the Rebels, three missed kicks and three missed two-point conversions.

The Rebels continued to move the ball well between the 20-yard lines, but were unable to get into the end zone in the second quarter.

UNLV had to settle for two field goals by Amrein in answer to another OSU touchdown; making the score 14-12 in favor of OSU at the half.

UNLV started the second half like a house on fire. Stott's passing, highlighted by a 37 yard pass to freshman wide receiver John Ma'ae, set up a Marv Eastman touchdown run that made the score 18-14 in favor of the Rebels.

UNLV kicked off, and OSU fumbled the ball on the ensuing drive, giving the Rebels the ball on the Beaver 47 yard line. A thunderous 47 yard touchdown run by junior Derek Black gave UNLV a 24-14 lead.

UNLV converted four more Oregon State fumbles into three touchdowns and a field goal, to open the widest margin of the game, 45-14.

The Beavers added a "who cares" touchdown at the end of the game that made the final tally, UNLV 45, Oregon State 20.

The Red and Silver attack showed an explosive nature that will send tremors through the Big West. Quarterback Derek Stott had his best game of the season, going 13 of 18 for 197 yards.

Receiver Keenan McCardell had a Heisman Trophy type day, catching six balls for 111 yards and three touchdowns. This sterling performance gives Special K 17 receptions for 321 yards and 4 touchdowns on the season.

Marv Eastman, coming back from knee surgery, spearheaded the Rebel ground game, rushing for 103 yards on only 16 carries, (6.4 avg. yds./carry). Derek Black added some key runs, rushing for 71 yards on only 8 carries, (8.8 avg. yds./carry).

The "Hunkster", Hunkie Cooper, added 175 all purpose yards to bring his season total to 493 yards.

The play of the secondary, especially the "Las Vegas Connection," Charles Anthony and Carlton Johnson, (Anthony graduated Western High School, Johnson graduated from Rancho), was exceptional for the third game in a row. The pair were like two heat seeking missiles, seeking out and destroying enemy ball carriers and receivers with wanton disregard for the physical damage they were inflicting.

The victory was the first for new head coach Jim Strong, but more importantly, it was a victory over a Pacific 10 team, a positive step for future recruiting for UNLV's football program.

The Rebels' next game is Saturday, September 22 at 7 p.m. at the Silver Bowl against Big West Conference foe, San Jose State As always, a section has been reserved for students to attend the game for free. Additional tickets may be purchased at the Thomas & Mack.

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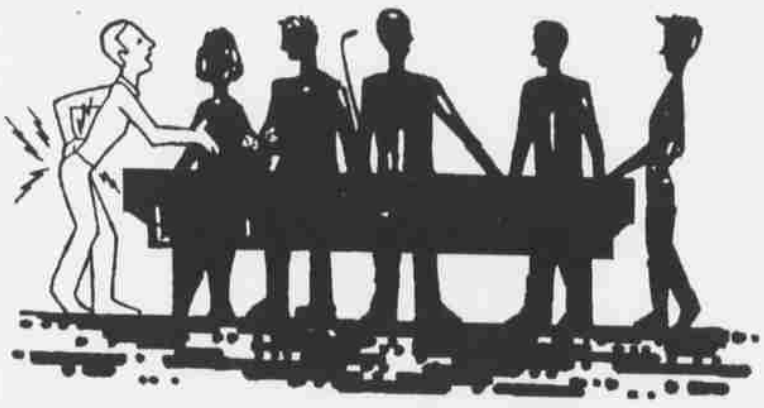

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AP Top 10-How they fared

1. Notre Dame (1-0), beat No. 4 Michigan, 28-24.
   Next: at Michigan St.
2. Auburn (2-0), beat Mississippi, 24-10.
   Next: at Tennessee
3. Florida St, (1-0), beat Georgia Southern, 48-6.
   Next: at Tulane
4. Michigan (0-1), lost to No. 1 Notre Dame, 28-24.
   Next: at UCLA
5. BYU (3-0), beat Washington St., 50-36.
   Next: at San Diego St.
6. USC (2-0), beat Penn St., 19-14.
   Next: at Washington
7. Tennesse (3-0-1), beat Texas El Paso, 56-0.
   Next: at Auburn
8. Nebraska (2-0), did not play.
   Next: at Minnesota
9. Colorado (1-1-1), lost to Illinois, 23-22.
   Next: at Texas
10. Miami (1-1), beat California, 52-24.
    Next: at Iowa

Big West Scores

UNLV 45, Oregon State 20
Missouri 45, Utah State 10
Mississippi State 27, Fullerton State 13
Kansas State 52, New Mexico State 7
Fresno State 31, Utah 7
San Diego State 38, Long Beach State 20
San Jose State 28, Pacific 14