

# Spartans crush Rebels in conference opener, 47-13



Yell Photo / Channing Perlaquand

Hernandez "Hunkle" Cooper - attempts a pass during Saturdays game against San Jose State.

by Lou Parolisi  
Reporter

half, thus keeping the defense out on the field most of the quarter.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) football team went into Saturday night's game against San Jose State in quest of their second victory of the season and a win in their Big West Conference opener. They came away with neither, as the Spartans, behind their steamroller running back, Sheldon Canley, rolled over the Rebels, 47-13 in front of a crowd of 18,934 at the Silver Bowl.

The beginning of the fourth quarter saw the Rebels cut the Spartans lead to only eight points, as Cooper threw another touch-down pass, this one good for 5 yards to "Special K," Keenan McCardell. The extra point made the score 21-13 in favor of San Jose State.

With the loss UNLV's record dropped to 1-3, 0-1 in the Big West Conference.

At that point, the fatigue of the Rebels' defense started to show. The Spartans, led by a fearsome running attack, scored 26 unanswered points in the last 13:43 of the game.

Canley gained 253 yards on 43 carries, against the UNLV defense. UNLV's offense, on the other hand, gained minus 13 yards rushing for the entire game. This ineptitude kept UNLV's defense on the field for most of the game.

San Jose State ran up the score unmercifully, a tactic that will not go unnoticed by Coach Jim Strong and the Rebel team.

The Rebels began the game in excellent form, with junior QB-RB Hunkie Cooper throwing a 58-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Keenan McCardell. UNLV, however, missed the conversion, its seventh straight failed conversion attempt over the last two games, leaving the home team with a 6-0 lead.

The Red and Silver attack never got untracked, as the blitzing Spartan defense kept it off balance throughout the game.

UNLV drew first blood, but San Jose State dominated the Rebels for the rest of the game.

UNLV's defensive line, somewhat of a suspect area to date, was exploited by San Jose State's power running game.

The awesome Spartan running attack dominated the game, rolling up 337 yards on the ground overall.

On the plus side, wide receiver, Keenan McCardell, turned in another sterling performance, with five receptions for 104 yards and two touchdowns. On the season, Special K has caught 22 passes for 423 yards and six touchdowns. If McCardell can maintain such numbers, he could possibly go in the first or second round of next year's NFL draft.

Spartan running back Sheldon Canley scored two touchdowns in the second quarter to give the Spartans a 14-6 lead.

The loss is a difficult one for the Rebels, coming on the heels of such a convincing victory over Oregon State last week. San Jose State and Fresno State are probably the two best teams in the Big West Conference, so Coach Strong and his troops can take some solace in that.

A touchdown pass from San Jose State quarterback Ralph Martini to Bobby Blackmon gave the Spartans a 21-6 lead at the half.

The Rebels next game is another Big West Conference contest, this time at Pacific, in Stockton, Calif. on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. UNLV's next home game is October 6, at 7 p.m., against Cal State Fullerton at the Silver Bowl.

The third quarter saw the Rebels defense come alive, as they held the potent Spartan offense scoreless through the entire period. The offense, however, was faring no better than in the first

### AP Top 10-How They Fared

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notre Dame (2-0), beat Michigan St., 20-19.<br/>Next: vs. Purdue.</li> <li>2. Florida State (3-0), beat Tulane, 31-13.<br/>Next: vs. Virginia Tech.</li> <li>3. Auburn (2-0), did not play.<br/>Next: vs. No. 6 Tennessee.</li> <li>4. Brigham Young (4-0), beat San Diego St., 62-34.<br/>Next: at Oregon.</li> <li>5. Southern Cal. (2-1), lost to Washington, 31-0.<br/>Next: at Ohio State.</li> <li>6. Tennessee (3-0-1), did not play.<br/>Next: at Auburn.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Michigan (1-1), beat UCLA, 38-15.<br/>Next: vs. Maryland.</li> <li>8. Nebraska (3-0), beat Minnesota, 56-0.<br/>Next: vs. Oregon State.</li> <li>9. Miami (Fla.) (1-1), did not play.<br/>Next: vs. Iowa.</li> <li>10. Virginia (4-0), beat Duke, 59-0.<br/>Next: vs. William &amp; Mary.</li> </ol> |
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### Big West Scores

San Jose State 47, UNLV 13  
Fresno State 42, New Mexico State 3  
Long Beach State 28, Pacific 7  
Akron 48, Cal State Fullerton 17  
Utah State did not play.

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Conference - QB Derek Stott and coach Strong talk over strategy during Saturdays game.

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