

UNLV Football Matchup

UNLV vs. Pacific

Where: Amos Alonzo Stagg Memorial Stadium, Stockton, Calif.
 When: Saturday, September 29, 6:30 p.m., PDT
 Records: UNLV, 1-3, Pacific, 1-3
 Last Meeting: 1989, UNLV won, 30-7, at UNLV
 Media: Radio - KDWN (720 AM) will carry the game live

Offense

UNLV

The key man in UNLV's attack is senior wide receiver Keenan McCardell. McCardell has 22 receptions for 423 yards, a 19.2 yard average, so far this season. He has at least 100 yards receiving in seven of UNLV's last eight games. Quarterback Derek Stott will be looking in Special K's direction for much of the game.

The Rebel rushing attack was shut down by San Jose State last week, but still has the potential to grind out yardage. Senior fullback Marv Eastman is averaging 4.6 yards per carry. Injured junior tailback Teddy James may return this weekend. James was slated to start before suffering an ankle injury prior to the Rebels first game of the season.

Junior QB-RB Hunkie Cooper is always a threat

with the ball. "The Hunkster" has 580 all-purpose yards for the season; at this rate he would wind up 273 yards short of Mike Thomas' 1973 school record. Cooper has averaged 3.0 yards per carry rushing the football, and has thrown three touchdowns on the season.

Junior quarterback Derek Stott had a mediocre outing against San Jose State, but still has completed 56.1 percent of his passes on the season. Stott has passed for 608 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions this season.

The Rebels' offensive line had a poor performance last week, but has shown it has the ability to move people off the line of scrimmage. The line has pass-and-run-blocked with equal effectiveness this season.

Pacific

The Tigers run a balanced offensive attack. Using primarily a single-

back formation, with three wideouts, Pacific tries to mix their play calling evenly.

Pacific has two good quarterbacks, sophomore Troy Kopp, and senior Kris King. The two have combined for 803 yards passing so far this season, with King providing 604 of those yards.

Whichever quarterback is throwing the ball will be looking to get it to one of three wide receivers. Sophomore Aaron Turner, junior Melvin Johnson, and junior Daryl Hobbs have been on the receiving end of 552 of Pacific's 803 yards passing.

The running chores will be handled by senior Brian Fisher. Pacific's other starting running back, junior Anthony Williams, is listed as doubtful for the game due to a strained knee.

Defense

UNLV

The strength of the Rebel defense still lies in the secondary. The secondary is where the "Las Vegas Connection", junior Carlton Johnson and senior Charles Anthony, prowl. Johnson has 31 tackles on the season, 25 of them unassisted. Anthony has 13 tackles, 11 of them unassisted.

UNLV's linebacking corps is also strong. Led in tackles by freshman Ru-

mone Hilton, with 24, 17 of them unassisted, the group is solid. Freshman Reese Thomas, junior Stacy Monroe, and senior David Clarke have combined for another 44 tackles on the season to give the Rebels a solid unit overall.

The Rebel defensive line has been somewhat suspect this season, not having registered a sack for the whole season. Improvement is needed in this area, but the potential is there.

Pacific

The Tiger defense has

been anything but fierce, surrendering 478.5 yards and 36 points per game.

One bright spot is at linebacker, where Pat Aragon has 45 tackles to lead the team.

Strong safety, Kyron Johnson, is also having a good season, providing 44 tackles and three quarterback sacks for the Tigers this season.

Pacific has been outscored 86-14 in the first half this season, and 144-69 overall.

Forecast by Mark Landwehr

Look for the Rebels to rebound from their 47-13 debacle with a drubbing of their own.

The Rebel offense should be able to move at will against an obviously inadequate Tiger defense.

The Stott to McCardell combination could enjoy a record setting game against a defense that is all too willing to give up

the long ball.

UNLV's running game should enjoy success as well, with the Rebel offensive line rebounding from its sub-par performance to open large holes for the backs to run through.

Pacific's offense can be a threat, as they showed in scoring 41 points against Sacramento State - but not this Saturday. Johnson

should get at least one interception, and will keep the Tigers from going deep the entire game.

I pick the Rebels in a rout; taking out their frustrations over the loss to San Jose State on the woeful Pacific team.

My Pick:
UNLV 42
Pacific 13

Overall

The Rebels face their second Big West Conference opponent in a row, an

the road this time. Pacific is coming off a 28-7 loss to Long Beach State last Saturday and is 0-2 in conference play. The game should show-

case a great deal of UNLV's offensive skill, as the Pacific defense is more than generous in giving up large chunks of yardage.

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Yell Photo / Channing Perkaquard

Great performance- Keenan McCardell (#84) caught five passes for 104 yards and two touchdowns in Saturday's game against San Jose State.



Yell Photo / Channing Perkaquard

Dejected - Quarterback Derek Stott leaves the field after a not so great game against San Jose State.