## Thursday, October 4, 1990

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## "Hunkie" Cooper, UNLV's all-around star

## by Billy Naftaly Staff Reporter

Attention: Football player ing situations. needed who can play quarterback, running back, flanker, and kick because it's better for me to get in returner. Please apply at UNLV.

heeded this call, is "Hunkie" Coo- a problem." per, a junior transfer from Navarro Junior College in Texas. season, the Rebels have shown

59" 178 lb. Cooper has thrown for a bad team; sometimes, in the 110 yards and has compiled a to- same game. tal of 819 in all-purpose yards.

ing more quarterback, now I'm out at wide-out, slot-back, and returns." he said. " It's really not a outing the rest of the season," he change, it's all offensive positions said. and I feel the coach has put me there because he figured I can help first year head coach Jim Strong the team in the positions he put and feels that he'll do very well me in."

Cooper is quite happy with come. his choice of coming here and playing at UNLV. He had the oppor- coach!" Cooper exclaimed. "He tunities to play at bigger schools like Oklahoma, West Virginia, difficulties and adversities, but and universities in Texas.

"I came here to UNLV, so I could get an opportunity to play year, he'll have this program on football right now," he explained. "I made a decision to come here because I had two years to play and I didn't want to get lost in the rotation."

While some professional court as well. teams are rattled by huge quarterback controversies, UNLV is High School, Cooper was named bothered by a little one. Junior All-State in basketball. quarterback Derek Stott and Cooper have watched each other play out of high school and the doctor from the sidelines, but Cooper has said it wouldn't be wise for me to taken it all in stride.

affected me," Cooper said. " In junior college, I was splitting time with another quarterback in pass-

"It's not that I can't pass, it's on the option game and run the The versatile athlete who has corners. I don't really feel there is

With a 2-3 record so far this In five games this season, the that they can be a good team and

"We learn from our mistakes "At junior college, I was play- like any other team and if we can put together a decent two halves of football, we'll have a pretty good

Cooper has much respect for with the program in the years to

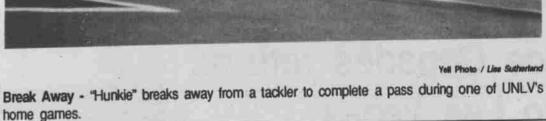
"Coach Strong is a great knew that there was going to be he's never let up.

"I figure by his second or third the right track."

Being able to play many positions on the football field, proves what an excellent athlete Cooper is, but he excels on the basketball

Coming out of Westwood

"I had ankle surgery coming get back on the basketball court," "Splitting time hasn't really explained Cooper. "I still love the



sport and plan on playing it again, another thing in common. but right now it's football."

you'll find him listed under his contribute to his team." nickname "Hunkie."

"I got the nickname "Hunkie" from my sister when I was small and a little bit chubby," he said. "My sister called me "Hunk" and degree in criminal justice. eventually put on the "ie" on there and it's stuck with me ever since."

"Hunkie" Cooper and Deion "Pri- doesn't, it's o.k. metime" Sanders, of the Atlanta but Cooper feels that they have pros, but being versatile, I feel I "Hunkie"?

When one looks up Cooper in Sanders because he's a versatile the Rebel football program, you player, like myself," he said. "He won't find his first name. Instead, can play offense and defense and football, I'll go home and work

> UNLV to be the best that he can coaching just to stay around the be, to help his team win football sport that made me what I am games, and to graduate with a today."

As for playing in the professional ranks, Cooper feels that he of great players in the NFL who One thing is for sure, can make it to the NFL, but if he have nicknames such as "Pri-

Falcons, have unique nicknames, with the intention of going to the athlete, that goes by the name of

have a better chance at playing in "My favorite player is Deion the professional league.

"I figure if I don't make it in with juveniles and in my spare Cooper has come here to time, I'll do a little umping and

There seems to be an influx metime," "Ickey," and "Refrigera-"Right now, I didn't come here tor." So, why not one more great

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