



Rebels try to halt three-game skid

by Jay Sapovits

The UNLV football team will host the New Mexico State Aggies in front of an expected crowd of 10,000 people on Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. The Aggies will bring a 2-2 conference record into Las Vegas along with a bright, 2nd-year head coach, Jim Hess.

Since Hess arrived at New Mexico State, the team has snapped what was the nations longest losing streak (27 games in a row) at one time, won two games in a row, and gave the Rebels a competitive game last year.

Five weeks before the Aggies snapped their losing streak against Cal State Fullerton in a 43-9 trouncing of the Titans, UNLV came within minutes of being the first team Jim Hess was victorious over. In last

year's game Derek Stott scurried 14 yards to cap a 71-yard play drive in a dramatic come from behind 24-20 win over the Aggies. After UNLV's drive reality would set in, New Mexico State would need to learn, not only how to play, but how to win, it was the NCAA leading 23rd loss in a row for the Aggies.

The Aggies still are a couple of years away from Big West title hopes, but a difficult non-conference schedule may be hinting towards a team to reckon with in the future. In the first game of the season the Aggies lost in the closing minutes to Texas-El Paso 23-22. They went on to be beaten soundly by Kansas 54-14. Next they played New Mexico, a team UNLV beat by one point, and lost 17-10, and were beaten 29-6 to Oregon of the Pac-10 Confer-

ence to start the season off 0-4. Since the four losses in a row, the Aggies have won twice and lost three times.

In Las Cruces last week, third string quarterback, Charles Puleri threw two touchdown passes, including one with four seconds left in the game to rally the Aggies to a 28-24 win over Long Beach State. With the victory, NMSU won two games in a season for the first time since 1987, when they were 2-9. The last time the Aggies won three games in a season was in 1982 when Gil Krueger was their head coach.

Although last year's game was close, UNLV has been successful against New Mexico State. The Rebels have beaten the Aggies each of the seven times they have played, only once with Hess as coach.

In strong opposition of head coach

by Richard Munson

"Coming on Strong, Building A Strong Tradition," Translation: boring football and a losing records.

With the controversy going on about the taping of a conditioning class, everyone has lost sight of what the football team is doing. The Rebels are 3-6 overall and a dismal 1-3 in the conference. Who is to blame?

The guy who changed the football helmets to look like Notre Dame's—head coach Jim Strong.

His teams look like they should be on "America's most pathetic home videos." He has taken one of UNLV's most highly talented backfields and turned them against him. One fumble and he sits them down. How about a boost of encouragement instead of destroying their confidence. It wouldn't be so bad if the Rebels lost, but played exciting football. Instead its run up the middle, run up the middle and throw the ball up in the air like Pop Warner

Football. Maybe that's why University of Nevada Reno's student newspaper diagramed "plays to watch for" the week before the Rebels played them.

The exciting thing about Rebel football is turning on a local sportscast and listening to a sportscaster tell how the Rebels were "lambasted" this weekend.

Strong has taken his star player, Hunkie Cooper and changed his starting

position nearly every game.

How can Strong expect his team to play with any degree of quality when the line-up is always changing. There might as well be a turnstile on the field at the quarterback position. And maybe during haltime Cooper will come out of the locker room and play with the band.

During the season, Strong has alienated more than a few players. Two coaches have left, players quit, flare ups with the sports information director and problems with the media. Since we are in Las Vegas I would bet that Coach Strong won't be here too much longer. Too bad we can't bet on UNLV sporting events.

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One good thing Coach Strong has done is promote the football department. He has done a great PR job for the university, but that isn't his job.

Watching the Rebel soccer team battle defending national champion UCLA provides more action than do the football games. But the soccer team needs more PR. Maybe a deal down the line?

Coach Strong continues to run around talking up Rebel football like the Energizer bunny makes commercials. This is UNLV not Notre Dame but there is support for the team and if coach Strong can't live up to the head coach responsibilities maybe there is a commercial out there with his name on it.

COMMENTARY

REBEL FOOTBALL
UNLV vs. New Mexico State
 Saturday, 1 p.m.
 Sam Boyd Silver Bowl

Illustration by Robert Sundin III

Racquetball is an expensive pastime at UNLV

by Jay Sapovits

Racquetball is an exhilarating sport that combines the speed of tennis with the hand-eye coordination of videogames. Unfortunately, if you aren't financially able to purchase a racket during your college years, racquetball at UNLV may only be a fantasy.

Aside from the \$49 a credit fee, which already includes a physical education charge of \$12, the physical education and recreation department requires a \$1-per-hour rental fee for all racquetball rackets.

If you were to purchase a racket, the cost may vary from \$25 to \$100 depending on the quality and brand name of the equipment.

Some sociologists would say that when individuals say, "It's the point, not the money," it's not the point at all. The capitalistic feeling of what's mine is not yours and the goal to achieve the most money may embarrass people, and bring on this misrepresentation of the reason to argue over \$1. This

time it is not the point, it is definitely about the money.

"Some of the equipment is charged for, some is not," said John Massengale, the dean of health, physical education and recreation department at UNLV.

"Basketballs don't need upkeep, but rackets do, and so do the courts that are played on," he said.

But the argument of good upkeep would indicate that the rackets are being re-strung and the courts are in good condition. The courts have paint chipping, cracks in the floor and are generally dirty. According to Las Vegas Discount Golf and Tennis, the re-stringing of a racket costs anywhere from \$12.95 to \$19, and needs to be done every eight to 10 months after vigorous use. If the university needs to subsidize the cost of a racket, how can someone on a "college budget" afford the equipment?

In one year's time, at this university, students have been exposed to major construction to the Moyer Student Union as well as other buildings and the re-

cent incident involving Brad Booke, and the secret taping of a UNLV conditioning class instructed by a UNLV assistant basketball coach. If this school can afford to spend \$500 on a video camera that is used for secret tapings, why can't they bite the long term cost on 20, \$25 rackets, without gauging the students who want to exercise for \$1?

The Athletic Club, a physical fitness club that features weights, basketball courts, racquetball courts and nautilus machines, may cost as little as \$19 a month; that translates to 63 cents a day. The membership at that club is considerably less than what the 19,000 plus students are charged at UNLV.

Apathy is a common trait in humans, and after you read this you may still feel "What's a dollar?" If that's the case, the address of this publication is in the front fold of the first page, it's within walking distance and my name is on my mailbox!