

FOOTBALL

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last two seasons as a regular in the secondary, while Mack started nine games last fall.

The kicking game will be led by senior Brian Parvin, the top returning punter in the Big West and a preseason Academic All-America candidate. He averaged 41.9 yards in 1991 and will handle all the kickoffs this fall.

Sophomore place kicker Nick Garritano will look to improve on his performance of last fall that saw him make only eight of 16 field goal attempts.

Returning this season will be linebacker Keith Clough, who sat out last year to concentrate on academics. Tight end Tom Lewis, who was injured all of last fall, and Daemon Keener, a wide receiver who broke his collar bone prior to the first game of 1991 will also return.

In addition to three mid-season transfers, the Rebels added 18 athletes to the roster this fall. Among them are: Omar Love, a running back and a *Parade Magazine* All-American last year, Elroy Reese a tight end who was heavily recruited last fall and Erik Simien, a defensive lineman and a transfer from Notre Dame.

In addition to UTEP, the Rebels will host Northern Arizona, Nevada-Reno, San Jose State,

Montana State and Cal State-Fullerton. The Rebels will travel to Oregon, Pacific, New Mexico State, Hawaii and Utah State.

"UTEP is an outstanding team." Strong said. "They played BYU close last year—within a field goal—and the Cougars went on to win the WAC (Western Athletic Conference). UTEP is young and they're all coming back."

In the Big West, Pacific, under Coach Chuck Shelton, was 5-7 last year and expects to better that record with the nation's top returning passer, Troy Kopp, and All-America running back Ryan Benjamin. With a dominant run-and-shoot offense and recuperating defense, Pacific might contend for the Big West Conference title; however, they must retain year-long stamina playing Fresno State in the opener, Nevada-Reno a week later, and then non-conference match-ups with Pacific 10 powers Arizona State and Washington (the nation's second-ranked team in pre-season polls).

The New Mexico State Aggies, under Coach Jim Hess, were 2-9 last year. Losing half of their letterman to graduation, Hess must find a way to stay out of the cellar.

The Nevada-Reno Wolfpack foxed their way into the Big West

and the rest of the conference is hearing the howl. The Wolfpack is hungry to disprove the critics who have picked them second in the conference. With Bryan Reves, who caught 62 passes for 931 yards and Dedric Holmes, who gained 773 rushing yards, the Wolfpack should give a run at powerhouse San Jose State.

The San Jose State Spartans, under new coach Ron Turner, were 6-4-1 last year and are the critics' favorite to sweep the Big West Conference. Jeff Garcia (99 of 160, 1519 yards, 12 TD) raised his stock value with a (160.12) pass efficiency rating behind names like Ty Detmer and Mike Grbac. If the Spartans can make a smooth coaching transition and beat Bill Walsh's Stanford Cardinal then the Spartans should lock up the whole conference.

The Utah State Aggies, under new coach Charlie Weatherbie, were 5-6 last year and face a tough road ahead. Losing 21 letterman, the Aggies will have to rebuild with new men and a new coach.

At Cal State Fullerton winning had become secondary to keeping the program. It was dropped one week and reinstated the next. The result was a hapless 2-9 record.

Soccer team kicks off new season

The Rebel soccer team begins the 1992-93 season Sunday when they travel to Denton Tx. to face the Northern Texas Eagles.

Coach Barry Barto and his Rebels have a 1-0 career record against the Eagles. In the 1985 campaign, the Rebels shut out North Texas 3-0 at Fouts Field.

The Rebels, who compiled an overall 11-6-2 record and 6-3-1 in the Big West, are led by All-American-senior midfielder

Daniel Barber.

The Eagles, who play as a major independent, accumulated a record of 9-9-0 last season under Coach Richard Lowe.

On Monday, the Rebels travel to Dallas to play the Mustangs of Southern Methodist University. The Rebels look to change their luck in the Lone Star state while playing SMU as they have never defeated the Mustangs in five attempts (SMU leads the series 4-0-1).

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