

## Rebels face UTEP in football opener

by Anthony Edward Zuiker

The UNLV football team holds a 4-1 series edge against their opponent in the season opener, the University of Texas-El Paso Miners. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

A decade ago, the Rebels defeated the Miners 28-21 under Coach Harvey Hyde. Despite 4-7 finishes last season, both schools look to experience for improvement.

This season, the Miners return 34 lettermen; six on offense and nine on defense.

With a run-and-shoot offense and a 3-4 defensive formation, the Miners managed to come within two points of Western Athletic Conference champion Brigham Young on the road last year. The team missed a field goal with seconds left.

Last Saturday, the Miners sought revenge at the Sun Bowl in El Paso, but fell short to BYU 38-28.

This year, the Rebels return 36 lettermen including 13 starters from last season's squad and add an influx of prep school and junior college athletes. Junior John Ma'ae will lead the Rebel's offense at the quarterback position. Sophomores Henry Bailey and Demond Thompkins look to be Ma'ae's favored targets for Saturday.

In the 1992 Spring Alumni game, Bailey scored on a 69-yard passing play from Ma'ae on the final play of the game to give the Rebels a 27-24 come-from-behind victory over the Alumni team. For the game, Bailey led all receivers with four receptions for 119 yards and one touchdown.

Thompkins finished last

year tied for second on the team in receiving with 26 receptions for 409 yards and three touchdowns.

Coming out of Eisenhower High School in Rialto, Calif., Omar Love, a *Parade Magazine* All-American last year, is considered one of the nation's premier running backs and will bolster the Rebels running back stable with plenty of high-octane offense.

Defensively, the Rebels will return seven starters. Senior Tom Riley, who recorded five sacks last fall to lead the squad, will see action at defensive end. Leading the linebackers will be Mike Smalls, a 1992 *Sporting News* preseason All-Big West Conference first-team selection. The Rebels also return top punter and preseason Academic All-America candidate Brian Parvin who averaged 41.9 yards in 1991.



The Rebel Yell

Henry Bailey and the Rebel football team face UTEP Saturday at 7 p.m.

## New soccer league debuts in 1992

by Greg Quinn

This year marks the inaugural season of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, a merger of the three largest conferences in the West—the Pac-10, the Big West and the Western Athletic Conference along with several independent schools. Formed to pool resources in several non-revenue sports, the merger will affect men's soccer and women's indoor track and field at UNLV.

In men's soccer, the MPSF will be composed of 16 teams divided into two divisions based on geography. The Mountain Division (North) will include Air Force Academy, Fresno State, Sacramento State, California, Stanford, San Jose State, Oregon State and Washington. The Pacific Division (South) will include UNLV, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Northridge, New Mexico and San Diego State.

The teams will play one game against each of the seven schools within their

respective divisions. After the regular season, the top two schools from the North and South divisions will meet in a single-elimination tournament and the winner will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

With the combined strength of the three top soccer conferences in the West, the MPSF is perhaps the best soccer conference in the nation.

"There isn't a better conference," UNLV Coach Barry Barto said.

"Regionally, it affords us a lot of things. (Now) we have our own assigned officials. I think everyone benefits from the setup."

The conference should also establish stronger rivalries. "Quite frankly," Barto said, "most of us were playing each other anyway. (We) were playing UCLA, now they're in our conference. We were playing San Diego State, now they're in our conference. We were playing those teams off and on. Now we're playing them all the time."

## Kickers host soccer classic

by Gregory Quinn

The UNLV soccer team will kick off their season Friday at 7 p.m. when they host the Stanford Cardinal at Peter Johann Memorial Field.

The game is the first of the UNLV Umbro/Ethel M. Chocolates Rebel Classic. The nightcap matches Wake Forest against Air Force Academy at 9 p.m.

Saturday's schedule will begin at 7 p.m., pitting UNLV against Air Force. The tournament will conclude with Wake Forest against Stanford at 9 p.m.

The event will give UNLV a chance to play two of its rivals in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. Both Stanford and Air Force are in the MPSF—Northern Division while

UNLV is in the MPSF-Southern Division.

Stanford Coach Colin Lindores returns 15 lettermen from last year's NCAA tournament squad which finished 12-4-5. Top returnees are Ryan Collins (nine goals, six assists), Jim Talluto (10 goals, three assists) and goalkeeper Kyle Krpata (1.10 goals-against average).

The Rebels hold a 4-1 series advantage over the Stanford Cardinal.

The Air Force Falcons returned 17 of 21 players from last year's 9-4-2 team. Coach Luis Sagastume's top players include Dave Walick (five goals, three assists), Nick Gismondi (five goals, one assist) and Pete Gbelia (one goal, five assists). The Rebels have a 2-1-1 advantage in their series against the Falcons.

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