



photo by Wray Halterman

Sophomore running back Shannon McLean carried 30 times for 187 yards in the Rebels' win.

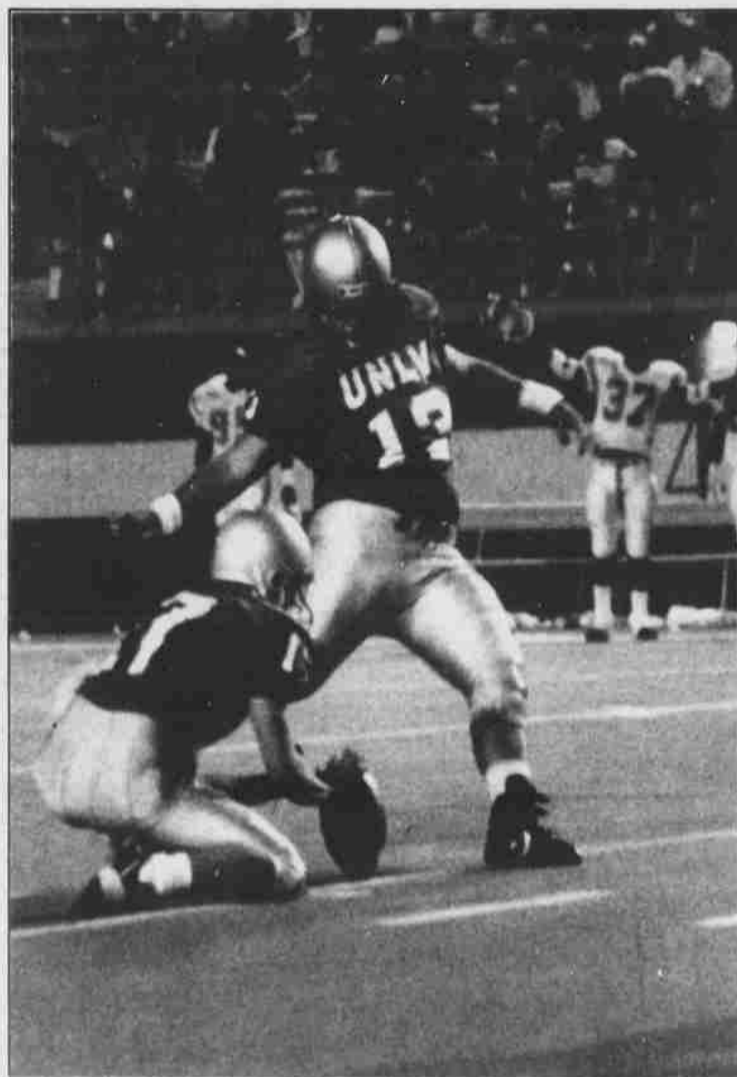


photo by Wray Halterman

Nick Garritano's field goal with 27 seconds left overcame his earlier missed extra point and lifted the Rebels to a 19-17 victory over UTEP.

Garritano's last-minute field goal lifts Rebels

McLean runs for 187 yards; Rebels win opener over UTEP, 19-17

by Anthony Edward Zuiker

How do you lasso Texas-El Paso? In two words, Nick Garritano.

With 27 seconds left in the game, the UNLV sophomore kicker booted a 40-yard field goal

to lift the Rebels to a 19-17 win over the UTEP Miners Saturday night at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

"I'm so proud of Nick," UNLV Coach Jim Strong said. "He was a little nervous for the first home game of the year, but the hometown crowd was behind him and I knew that if he had the chance to be the hero, he'd do it for us."

With 2:22 remaining in the game, the Rebels faced a critical fourth down and 19 yards to go at mid-field until John Ma'ae connected a 35-yard pass to wide receiver Demond Thompkins. At the UTEP 15-yard line, the Rebels put extra pressure on

Garritano when Ma'ae was sacked for a 14-yard loss by Miner linebacker Pete Shufelt.

Although the Rebels struggled, the first two minutes of the opener had 15,146 spectators believing they were in for another year of traditional Rebel football.

Early in the first quarter, Ma'ae fumbled the ball on the second play of the game from scrimmage and the Miners turned it into a touchdown. After the Rebel *faux pas*, UNLV's offense outmatched that of UTEP.

Running back Shannon McLean rushed for 114 yards in the first quarter en route to a

187-yard, 30-carry.

Despite McLean's efforts in the first half, the Rebels still trailed 14-7.

In the third quarter, UTEP's backup quarterback Mike Perez pitched the ball to nobody. Without hesitation, UNLV defensive end Keith Washington capitalized on this "miner" debacle and scampered 58 yards for a Rebel touchdown. Garritano's extra-point attempt failed and the Rebels still trailed the Miners 14-13.

"I don't know what kind of pass it was," Washington said. "(It looked) almost like a shovel pass, so I scooped it up and ran with it because I didn't hear a whistle. Even if I didn't make that play, I have the confidence in our offensive team. We know that if we play hard, we're going

to win the game."

Still in the third quarter, Rebel punter Brian Parvin had his kick partially deflected and the football skipped off a Miner into the hands of Rebel linebacker Travis Reid. Four plays later, Garritano booted a career-best 49-yard field goal, fifth best in Rebel history. The kick gave UNLV a slim 16-14 lead over the Miners.

With 9:12 left in the fourth quarter, UTEP led 17-16 on a Marshall Young field goal of 21 yards.

But UNLV overcame the adversity to come back with several key plays to help set-up Garritano's game winner.

Saturday, the Rebels host the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks at 7 p.m. at the Silver Bowl.

Academics and football prove 'Price' is right

by Anthony Edward Zuiker

John Price, a senior running back on the UNLV football team, was born on Feb. 19, 1971 in Monrovia, Calif., and aspired to receive a good education and become a football player.

He accomplished both.

"Ever since I was a kid, I always wanted to go to college and play ball," Price said. "I knew when I was little that I had the talent to run. It's what I do best on the field, so I went with it."

At the tender age of nine, Price was the star running back for his Pop-Warner football team. By age 14, his Culver City High School football team won the freshman state championship. In his sophomore year, Price skipped the junior varsity level and played varsity football



Running back John Price is a winner both on and off the field.

under the guidance of Coach Louis Lichtl. Lettering two years in football, Price's ability to elude tacklers and move swiftly up field earned him the honor of All-Southern Section as a running back.

But Price was not only talented in football. He lettered four years in track and set the school record in the 300-intermediate hurdles. He was clocked at 38.1 seconds. Today, that record still stands. Price also lettered one year in baseball and basketball.

Not only did Price excel as an athlete, he showed leadership on and off the field. After he would hang up his cleats after the weekend, Price would hit the books hard all week. His academic dedication did not go unnoticed. In his senior year, the student body voted him Culver City High School student body president. Acknowledging a job well done as president, Price was rewarded again when he was voted Homecoming King his senior year.

In 1988, Price arrived at UNLV. One year later, he would make the UNLV football team as a walk-on and rush for 12 yards on three carries as a reserve. In 1990, Price appeared in four games and rushed for 15 yards on five carries. By 1991, he was the leader of the special teams unit. He appeared in 11

games and was the back up running back in key passing situations.

This year, Price is the only three-year letterman returning to the UNLV football squad. He is the top reserve in the offensive backfield and can play either fullback or running back.

"I like the elusive style of Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Raiders," Price said. "Dickerson is quick and powerful. That's how I like to run."

Price is a talented role player with good quickness and has excellent blocking ability. His style of football is hard-nosed as a running back or special teams player.

Along with all of his athletic success, there is a young leader brewing in Price. A member of the UNLV 3.0 GPA Club, Price had the opportunity to go to Hol-

lywood, Calif., for a public relations internship with Motown Records. Last summer, he met the pop group Boys II Men and producer Michael Bivens for Bivens Entertainment. Bivens was formerly with the group New Edition and Bell, Biv, DeVoe.

Despite all of his scholastic and athletic success, Price doesn't take credit but instead praises his mother, Beverly.

"She is my inspiration," Price said. "She doesn't even like me playing football. She always told me that school is the most important thing."

Price took his mother's words to heart. Once he finishes his senior year at UNLV, he will leave football and pursue his education on the graduate level in communication studies.