

Garritano gets in his kicks

by Stacey Catapano

When most Americans think about college football, Nevada is probably last on their list; but there's one star shining in the Silver State, and his name is Nick "The Kick" Garritano.

While attending Chaparral High School in Las Vegas he became actively involved in football, baseball, and wrestling.

Garritano started as an offensive guard, linebacker, defensive noseguard and a punter. He acquired his kicking skills when he was younger playing against his friends to see who could kick the most.

He decided to become a kicker because he felt he was better than everyone else. Garritano felt confident and practiced kicking field goals during his eighth grade year. Between his junior and senior years in high school, he attended Brad Hoffman's All-American Kicking Camp to better his skill.

In high school he received his nickname, "The Kick," from local sportscaster Ron Futrell when he attended a game where Garritano kicked a 53-yard field goal in the remaining seconds of the game. His longest field goal was 65 yards in practice and 53 yards in a game. He said that the pressure of a long kick can be nerve-wracking.

"It's your job. You practice it and you get the hang of it," said Garritano.

At UNLV, the sophomore kicker is currently enrolled in the physical education program. His academic work is a separate issue from football. He has to ration time between the two. His athletic major requires him to maintain a 2.0 GPA in order to become academically eligible for the season.

"The Kick's" greatest feeling in his sports career came this fall when he won the opening game of the year against Texas-El Paso, a game ending with a 19-17 victory. The success elated him.

Garritano said, "I've never lost a game, and I never want to."

As a kicker, Garritano said, "It's mostly relaxing, but sometimes you can be thought of as a goat if you don't perform well."

"Take for example in the UTEP game. When I made the

winning kick I was a hero, but if I missed it, the whole team would not talk to me."

Sometimes people tease Garritano about his size as a kicker; 5' 11" and 240 pounds in comparison to the average size kicker of 5' 9" to 6' weighing 180 pounds. His accurate kick is backed by his added strength and power.

Garritano has no steady relationship with anyone now due to his busy life with practice, traveling, and school. Even though he has such an intense involvement with sports, he is just an ordinary guy like everyone else. He enjoys all kinds of on the phone, and, of course, playing all sports.

Garritano's all-time favorite football player is the ex-running back from the Dallas Cowboys, Tony Dorsett. His all-time favorite kicker is Chip Lohmiller of the World Champion Washington Redskins. The Kick admires him for his consistency.

The UNLV kicker feels his best trait is his personality because he gets along with everyone. What he likes least about himself is his weight. His weight also reflects one of his toughest

times in life when he was a sophomore in high school during the wrestling season. It was a tough time for him when he had to diet and lose 25 pounds in a month. He obtained this weight discrepancy with no problem. Garritano is most proud of all his athletic accomplishments.

His future goal is to get a shot in the NFL and play with the Dallas Cowboys. If that doesn't follow through, he will be satisfied with his kicking achievements and become a high school physical education teacher and football coach. During and after his football career, he says he would like to be thought of as a normal human being and not as a "dumb jock."

"Just because you play sports doesn't mean you haven't got a brain," he said.

When he asked what his three wishes in life could be, he responded, "Number one, to make it to the NFL and play for the Cowboys; number two, to have a happy and healthy family when I'm older; and number three, to end all the racial disturbances and to have all races and nationalities get along and be peaceful."

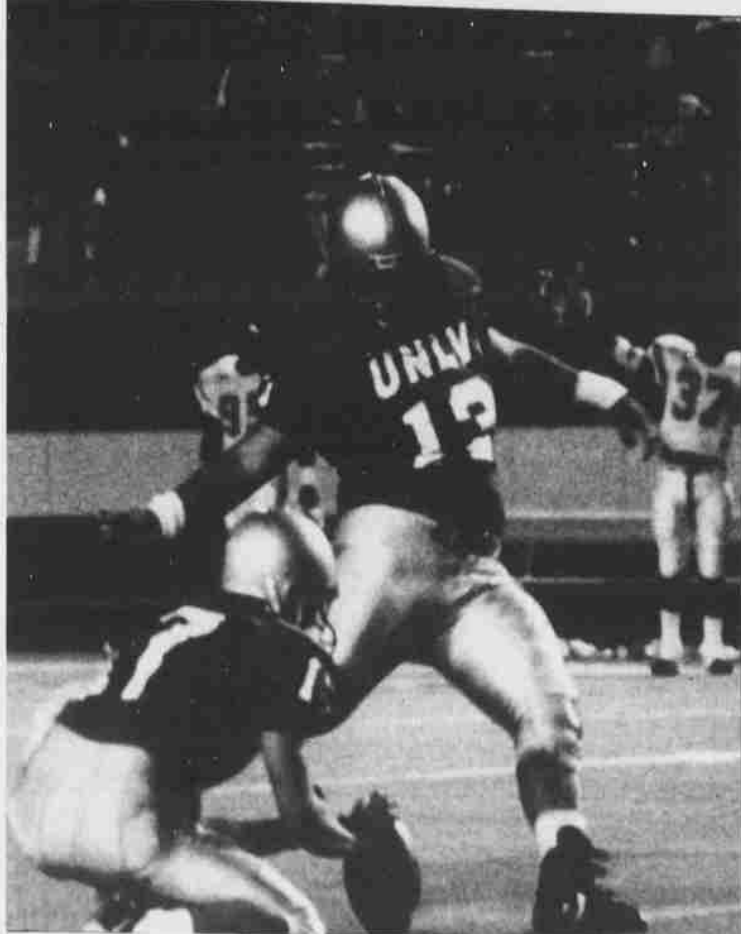


photo by Wray Halterman

Rebel placekicker Nick Garritano provided the margin of victory in UNLV's 19-17 win over UTEP earlier this season.

Ackles to play in CBA, signs with Thrillers

The Rapid City Thrillers announced Tuesday that former UNLV star George Ackles has signed a 1992-93 Continental Basketball Association contract. Terms of the deal are not disclosed.

Ackles, 6' 9" 225 pounds, started 62 of the 71 games he played for UNLV in 1988-89 and 1990-91. In those two seasons, the Runnin' Rebels were a combined 62-9 and made it to the Final Four and the Championship Game of the NCAA tournament.

In his UNLV career, Ackles averaged 7.2 points and 5.4 rebounds. He is second on the school's all-time list in blocked shots (141), and holds the Rebel record for most blocks in a single season (77 set in 90-91).

Ackles was selected to the All-Big West second team and was an honorable mention All-America by the Associated Press after his senior campaign. He sat out the 1989-90 season due to a broken wrist.

This past summer, Ackles played in the L.A. Summer



Ackles

Pro League. He earned honorable mention All-League when he scored 12.5 points, grabbed 7.7 rebounds, and had 2 blocked shots per game. Ackles was drafted out of college by the Miami Heat in the second-round (29th pick overall) of the 1991 NBA Draft. He wound up playing overseas in Spain for Coren Ourense, where he averaged 10.8 points and 8.0 boards a game.

Ackles is presently attending Miami's veterans camp.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Pacific Division

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
CS Fullerton	3	0	0	9	4	0
New Mexico	4	0	0	11	2	1
UNLV	2	1	0	7	3	4
UCLA	2	1	0	9	2	2
CS Northridge	2	3	0	8	6	0
San Diego State	1	2	0	5	5	1
UC Irvine	0	3	0	3	8	0
UC Santa Barbara	0	5	0	2	10	0

Mountain Division

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Washington	4	1	0	8	2	3
Stanford	4	1	0	10	4	0
Air Force	4	2	0	9	4	0
Oregon State	2	3	1	8	5	1
Sacramento State	2	3	1	7	5	2
Fresno State	3	3	0	8	5	1
San Jose State	1	3	0	6	7	2
California	0	4	0	4	8	1

Friday

UNLV at San Diego State, 3 p.m.
Washington at California
San Jose State at Stanford
Oregon State at Air Force
New Mexico at CS Fullerton
UC Santa Barbara at UC Irvine
CS Northridge at UCLA

Sunday

UNLV at CS Fullerton, 2 p.m.
New Mexico at San Diego State
Fresno State at California
UC Santa Barbara at UCLA
Washington at Stanford
CS Northridge at UC Irvine

Against Hawaii, Rebels to see 'there's no place like home'

by Anthony E. Zuiker

If all the UNLV football team had to do to win on the road this weekend was "follow the yellow brick road," the Rebels would leave a trail of cleat marks.

Indeed, winning on the road is no fairy tale. Ask Brigham Young and Fresno State, both found out "there's no place like home" when they fell at Hawaii this year. If the Rebels are not to be Hawaii's third road victim, Jim Strong must find a way to

win on the road.

The Rebels and Rainbows will kick off the Homecoming game at 10:05 p.m. Saturday at Aloha Stadium.

The series began in 1969 and has continued on a sporadic basis with Hawaii holding a 7-3 edge in the 10 meetings. The last meeting was Sept. 29, 1984 at Aloha Stadium. The Rainbows won 16-12. UNLV, with quarterback Randall Cunningham, came into town with a 3-0 mark, but the Rainbow defense,

behind Kurt Kafentzis and Thad Jefferson, held UNLV to 232 yards passing, including three key interceptions. Hawaii, led by quarterback Raphael Cherry, rushed for 203 yards.

This year, the Rainbows are 4-1. They opened their season with two tough road games defeating Oregon 24-12 and Air Force 6-3. Returning home, the Bows' nipped Brigham Young 36-32, lost at Utah 38-17, and returned home to defeat Fresno State 47-45.

The Hawaii Rainbows return 11 starters; seven offensive and four defensive. Of the top 61 players on the roster last year, 36 have returned.

Although UH posted a 4-7-1 record last year, 3-5 in the Western Athletic Conference, the Rebels will get their first glimpse of the Hawaii's "golden leg."

Jason Elam, "the man with the golden leg," is the nation's premier placekicker who holds just about every kicking record at UH and the WAC. He is al-

ready the WAC's career scoring leader. Elam is a 1992 *Playboy* magazine All-America and a 1st Team Pre-Season All-American. Named WAC Special Teams Player of the Week twice in 1992, Elam boasts a career kicking percentage well over the .800 mark and from inside the 40, he is 90 percent. In 1992, he has punted 26 times for a 46.2 average with longs of 78 and 61. Elam has made 125 of 127 PATs with two of his three misses being blocked.