

Rebels upset Spartans in Halloween thriller

by Anthony E. Zuiker

Do you know the way to San Jose? The UNLV football team does.

On Halloween day, the Rebels upset the San Jose State Spartans 35-31 at Sam Boyd's Silver Bowl to stay alive in quest for the Big West Conference title. With a crowd of 5,222 on hand, the Rebels overcame San Jose State's 609 yards in total offense to preserve the win.

On their first defensive series, UNLV held San Jose State, the league's top offense, to a field goal after the Spartans drove the ball 68 yards. Preventing the touchdown turned out to be the difference in the game.

"Anytime you can hold an explosive offense like that to a field goal, you've got a chance," said Coach Jim Strong. "It's the biggest win we've had here that I've been a part of."

Backup quarterback Bob Stockham came off the bench in the second quarter and went to toss four touchdowns for 247 yards.

Along with Stockham's he-



roics, freshman Omar Love rushed for 144 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Love, a back-up for the injured Shannon McLean, had seen limited action before Saturday's game.

"I felt real confident when I came into the game," Love said. "I felt kind of iffy at the end of the game because I had the flu last week."

In the fourth quarter, the Rebels looked as if they were defeated and out of hope, but there was something in the air this Halloween. As the Silver Bowl scoreboard methodically neoned "never surrender," agitated fans started to file out, and it was then that rally began.

Stockham tossed a 75-yard touchdown pass with 6:42 left to cut the margin to 31-27. Opting for the two-point conversion, Ma'ae pumped once and swept

left to go untouched into the endzone, putting the Rebels within two.

On the following possession, the Spartans chewed the clock to 3:24 left and the Rebels drive was in the hands of Stockham and company. A pass interference call and an offside penalty later, the Rebels found themselves at their own 40-yard line.

Four plays later, Love caught a 35-yard pass that led to a first and goal. After two rush attempts, Stockham threw a high floater to Demond Thompkins to put the Rebels on top for good 35-31. The two-point conversion failed.

So, how did the Rebels start to find the way to San Jose? Turnovers. The Spartans let the Rebels intercept and recover a fumble in the second quarter.

With Stockham relieving Ma'ae, the Rebels converted both Spartan mishaps into touchdowns. With the Rebel win and Weber State defeating Nevada-Reno 23-21, UNLV must win on the road at Utah State and beat Cal State Fullerton at home to have a chance at the Big West title.



photo by Wray Halterman

Running back Omar Love rushed for 144 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown run in the second quarter of UNLV's 35-31 upset victory over defending Big West champion San Jose State.

Hornets sting Portland, 130-123

by Nick Haley

Friday's exhibition game was billed as the Charlotte Hornets versus the Portland Trailblazers, but it could have been called the Larry Johnson Homecoming. While the game itself was full of action, it was "LJ" that the fans came to watch.

"It's nice that he played well in front of his college fans," said Hornets Coach Allan Bristow. "I think they can see why everybody is so excited about seeing him play in the NBA."

From the moment Johnson first touched the ball, the crowd went wild. Johnson responded by scoring 32 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, recording his first triple double of the year and leading his Hornets to a 130-123 victory over the Blazers in an NBA exhibition match at the Thomas and Mack Center. Johnson, it seemed, was in on almost every play.

"Larry wants to work at his complete game. I think playing at the three spot helps him, especially when we're (fast) breaking," Bristow said. "It gives him an opportunity to handle the ball more."



photo by Wray Halterman

Former Rebel All-American Larry Johnson scored 32 points as his Charlotte Hornets beat the Portland Trail Blazers in an NBA exhibition game at the Thomas & Mack Center Friday night.

With starting point guard Muggsy Bogues sitting out, handling the ball was just what Charlotte needed to do. Rookie guard Tony Bennett had a respectable performance in di-

recting the Hornet's offense. By halftime, the former Wisconsin-Green Bay star had five assists and only one turnover. What the

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Barber ponders his soccer future

by Gregory Quinn

Individually, Daniel Barber has prospered as a Rebel soccer player. He was selected to the freshman All-America team in 1989, then played for the United States under-23 national team the following summer.

But he's had his disappointments, like not making the '92 Olympics. After a stint with the Olympic Development Program, he thought he had a shot.

"You never really know why you don't make it," he said. "They just ask you to come on a trip with them. If you get called back, you get called back. If (not) it's like, 'Well, work on your game a little bit.'"

Barber may be the finest player ever to don a Rebel jersey. But ironically UNLV has not made the playoffs since he's been here. This year, Barber has been the Rebel playmaker, which has cut down his scoring potential.

Does this bother him?

"Not really," he says. "I want to get to the tournament. Any way we get there, I'll be happy."

Playoffs or no, Barber is facing the twilight of his college career, which poses another problem. After college—and a degree, which he adamantly wants—there's not a lot for col-



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lege soccer players to do. Scant semi-professional leagues abound, but the American soccer scene is mostly splintered.

"It doesn't look good right now," Barber said, "unless I go overseas."

And the chances of that: "Yeah, there's a slight chance. I've got to talk to some people."

A jump to Europe is always a shock for American players, as they find the game faster and more physical. Top it off with the Europeans' less-than-stellar opinions of American-bred players and one can imagine the dilemma they face. But, after listening to an unbiased professional opinion from Sigi Schmid, who is no stranger to international play, one sees the potential for Barber.

"His game is predicated on speed and quickness," Schmid said. "He has solid determination. He's not a big tough guy, but then again, he's not the kind

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