

Mazion

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But Mazion's true love is football. UNLV Sports Information Coordinator Tommy Sheppard sees that in Rodney.

"Football is Rodney's first love," Sheppard said. "The hard work and dedication Rodney puts into his football game show just how much he loves the game."

Mazion said that the attempt by Athletic Director Jim Weaver to fire Coach Strong has had no ill effect on the team thus far.

"All of us on the team feel as though it never happened," Mazion said. "Coach Strong has instilled in us that if we just believe in one another, we will all come out fine."

If last Saturday's game at Clemson is any indicator of the confidence Mazion and the Rebel football team have, the 1993 season should be full of victories.

"It's great being the underdog," Mazion said. "That way only we know just how good we are."

Mazion may or may not be the next Deion Sanders. But you can bet the bank on one thing: Rodney Mazion does not quit.

Rebels at UTEP in rematch of last year's opener

By PAUL GUTIERREZ SPORTS EDITOR

Fresh from their impressive showing at Clemson, the UNLV football team travels to face the University of Texas-El Paso in the Sun Bowl.

Both UNLV and UTEP fell to ranked teams on the road last week as the Miners lost to No. 13 Arizona, 24-6.

The Rebels lead the all-time series with UTEP, 5-1.

A year ago, Nick Garritano kicked a 48-yard field goal with 27 seconds left in regulation to propel the host Rebels to a season-opening 19-17 win over the Miners.

The Rebel defense paced UNLV as it limited the Miner wish-bone attack to 312 yards of total offense. The defense also forced three fumbles, one of which was returned 58 yards by Keith Washington for a score.

The Miners went on to a 10th place finish in the Western Athletic Conference at 1-7, 1-10 overall. The

Rebels at UTEP Saturday, Sept. 11 6 p.m. (PST)

Miners return 37 lettermen, including nine starters.

UTEP runs a multiple offensive formation and runs the defense out of the 4-3.

Rebel Outlook

The Rebels proved to themselves they can play with just about anyone based on their performance at Death Valley against Clemson. And though they lost, much was learned about the heart and soul of the team.

But they cannot get complacent because UTEP is waiting in the wings for revenge.

A controversial call at the Silver Bowl last year helped UNLV steal the season opener from the Miners. Vengeance-minded UTEP would love nothing more than to knock off a high-rolling UNLV football team.

The Rebels must beware and not take anything for granted.

Bailey

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Player of the Week honors after helping the Rebels upset San Jose State with two touchdown catches. In that game he totalled 313 all-purpose yards, but most fans left the game early and missed the second TD, a 75-yard pass that brought the Rebels back from ten points down. The fans missed out - and so did the Spartans, who lost 35-31.

Another of Bailey's best efforts came last season against Montana State. In the first quarter, Bailey caught a Bob Stockham bomb on a dead run for a 58-yard touchdown. A great play, but Bailey wasn't finished.

On the first play of the second half, Bailey took the kickoff and blurted through the MSU defense for an 82-yard TD return. By the end of the day he had 207 all-purpose yards and helped the team even its record at 5-5, but there were less than 10,000 fans to witness it.

The next week Bailey came back for more, returning a Cal State Fullerton punt 74 yards for another touchdown. Only 3,500 people showed up for this game, so Bailey per-

formed his magic for the Silver Bowl seats. The team had its first winning season since 1986, and Bailey had the school record for most total yardage in a single season.

Bailey ended 1992 with 42 catches for 832 yards and eight touchdowns as a receiver. Add in 817 yards and a TD as a kick-off returner, and 219 yards and another TD returning punts and you've got one helluva player.

You can expect more good things from Bailey this season.

Clemson found out about Bailey's abilities last Saturday when he pulled down four catches for 78 yards. Other teams will find out about No. 33 as the season goes on. Las Vegas should find out about him now.

Bailey has the ability to be a Heisman Trophy candidate. Unfortunately, he lacks the attention needed to contend. And playing in an empty stadium does nothing for his chances. If anything, a player of his caliber deserves the support of the fans at his own university.

Chris Jones is sports columnist of The Rebel Yell.

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