

## SPORTS

REBEL  
YELL

"Ghostbusters!"

- the answer J.R. Rider gave when asked who he was to call after being charged by Alameda, Calif. police for outstanding traffic violations.

# Rebels win home opener with authority

## UNLV overcomes halftime deficit to defeat Central Michigan

By SCOTT GULBRANSEN  
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV Rebel football team was ready to explode. After dropping its first two games of the season, the Rebel squad needed a big win at home to build self-confidence. And with Saturday night's effort that is exactly what they did.

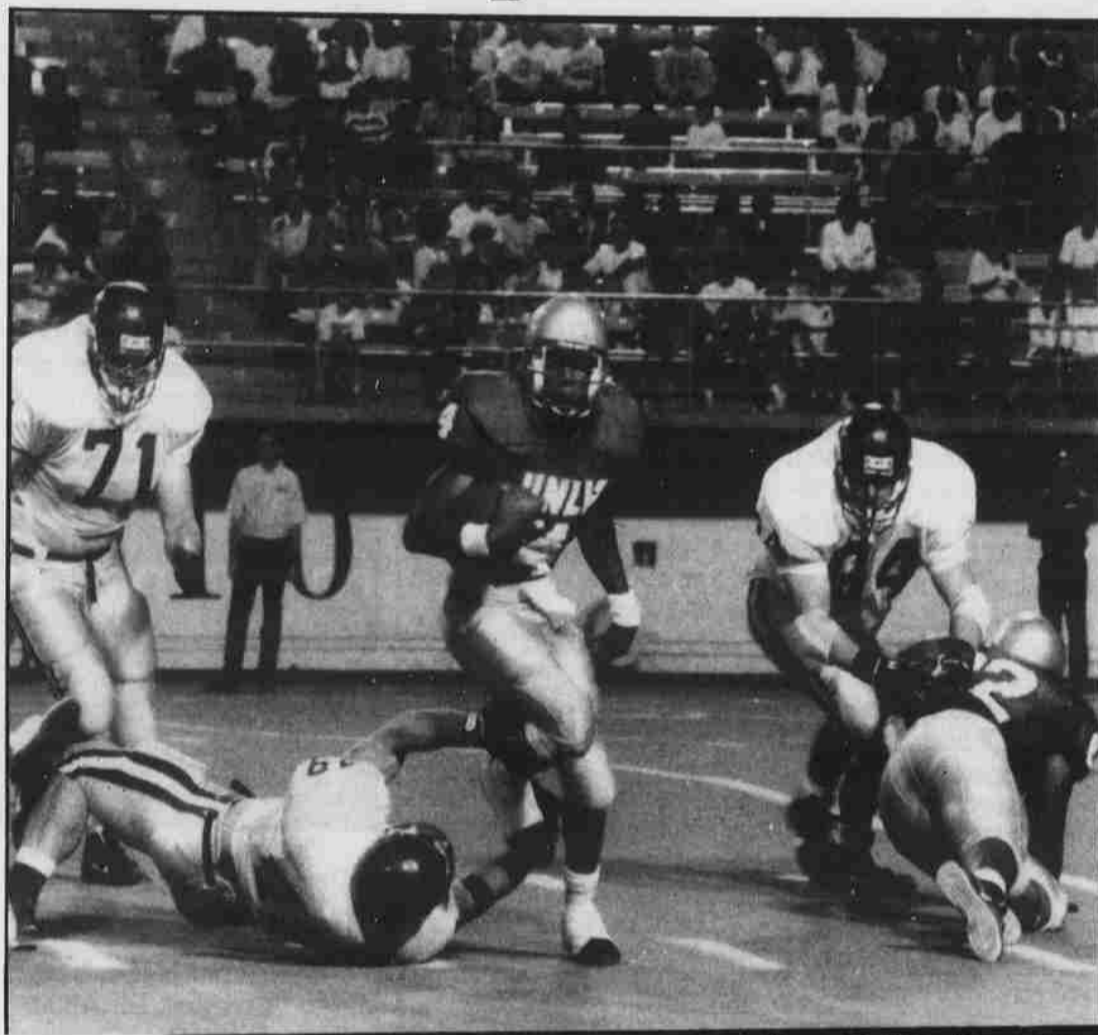
The Rebels erased a four point halftime deficit and pounded Central Michigan, 33-20.

Early in the game, CMU seemed to hold the emotional edge as the Rebels looked unsure of their competition. Chippewa quarterback Joe Youngblood had a tremendous first half, completing 12-of-17 passes for 223 yards and two touchdowns.

With the Chippewas leading 20-13 and 11 seconds remaining in the first half, Rebel starting quarterback Bobby Stockham was knocked out of commission after being slammed to the Silver Bowl turf chin-first. Stockham remained unconscious for a few minutes and then rose to his feet and walked off the field under his own power.

Sophomore backup Jason Davis then entered the game.

Davis completed his first toss for a 25-yard gain to Demond Thompkins which



HYUN-HO HAN/REBEL YELL

The UNLV football team (1-2) travel to Kansas State for a non-conference match-up.

left the Rebels on the CMU 12-yard line. That set up a 29-yard Nick Garritano field goal that made the score 20-16 at the half.

According to Rebel Coach Jim Strong, that series was the turning point in the game.

"The last series in the first half was crucial," he said. "We cut into their momentum going into the half and that gave us an emotional lift."

The Rebels came into the second half with an unrelenting intensity. The Rebel defense crushed the Chippewas offen-

sive line.

"Going into the second half we really were committed to winning our home opener," Rebel defensive star Tiger Townes said. "We weren't going to let anyone beat us on our home field."

The Rebels have won six of their last seven games at the friendly confines of the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

Junior defensive back Jason David spoke of the importance of playing at home.

"Playing in front of the hometown crowd had a big

factor in our victory," Davis said. "The whole team is proud of our home record and we weren't going to lose our opener in front of our own fans."

The big play of the Rebel defense and the explosive offense anchored by Jason Davis electrified the crowd. The Rebels threw, ran and scored their way to 17 unanswered points.

UNLV running back Omar Love sealed his starting job by carrying the ball 27 times for 117 yards and one

touchdown. Love said his success was due in part to the amount of carries he had.

"I didn't even know I carried the ball 27 times," Love said. "I'm not used to carrying it that much."

Quarterback Jason Davis also had a banner rushing performance, gaining 52 yards, including a 22-yard touchdown run. But don't tell Coach Strong there's a quarterback controversy. He dismisses any chance of that.

"Bobby Stockham is the starting quarterback of our football team," Strong said firmly. "We had always planned on using Jason in certain goal line situations."

"We cut into their momentum going into the half and that gave us an emotional lift."

- Jim Strong

Even Stockham praised his back-up.

"Jason came in and really did a good job for us tonight," he said.

Stockham completed six of 10 passes for 98 yards and a TD.

Davis had strong numbers as well, completing nine of 18 for 141 yards and one rushing touchdown.

The Rebels travel to take on the Wildcats of Kansas State Saturday.

## Jones' reflections



By CHRIS JONES  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

*Random observations from the UNLV-Central Michigan football game.*

\* The Rebel defensive backfield gave up more territory than France did in the Louisiana Purchase.

\* UNLV kicking specialist Brad Faunce made the Chippewas' return man Brian Pruitt look like a 7-year-old little leaguer trying to catch his first pop fly. Seven kicks, seven touchbacks. Not a bad night's work.

\* Speaking of work, the security guards at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl certainly earned their pay Saturday night. They ejected almost half of a fraternity, broke up several fights and one guard even carried a fan out on his shoulders.

\* For a game played in perfect weather - on artificial turf no less - 12 fumbles are way too many.

\* What's the deal with UNLV placekicker Nick Garritano? He drilled two field goals from 39 yards out but played pinball when he banked an extra-point off the upright from half that distance. Make the easy ones, Nick. It'll save you stress.

\* You couldn't have asked for a better night for football. A cloudless sky, no wind and 79 degrees. So why was there a paid attendance

see Jones pg. 14

## Rebels suffer worst ever home loss against No. 2 Creighton

By JOE A. MARTINEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels went from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the sea in a matter of two days.

UNLV looked virtually unstoppable in Friday's opening soccer game of the UNLV Umbro/Ethel M. Chocolates Rebel Classic against Navy, winning 3-1. But they suffered their worst home loss ever Sunday against No. 2 Creighton, 8-2.

Against Navy, the Rebels entered the half tied at one apiece with the Midshipmen. Early in the second half, Rebel freshman Noah Gins fired a hard shot past the Navy keeper to put them up by one. Joey Mancuso followed to secure the victory with a goal midway through the second half.

THE REBEL YELL



HYUN-HO HAN/REBEL YELL

Rebels lost to No. 2 Creighton last Sunday at Peter Johann Memorial Field

Though the Rebel soccer team's slogan is "Just Net It," they did not live up to that statement against Creighton Sunday.

The Blue Jays jumped out to a 1-0 lead before the Rebels retaliated on a Richie Louis assist to Ben Erickson. Creighton then went on a tear, led by Lance Hill who tied former Rebel Doug Borgel's record of four goals in a game.

The Blue Jays scored seven unanswered goals as the phlegmatic Rebels endured their worst beating ever at home.

UNLV, 2-4, will attempt to regain some respect at the Air Force Academy Falcon Invitational Tournament this coming weekend. The Rebels begin play Friday against George Mason before facing the tournament hosts Sunday.