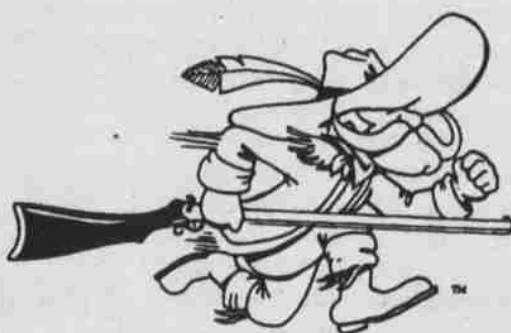


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL
YELL



"Sports do not build character. They reveal it."
-Heywood Brown

Different perspectives on UNLV-Nevada rivalry

Rebels to claw and maul Wolf Pack

FROM THE SAP

JAY SAPOVITS

Intrastate rivalry.
North versus South.

Good versus evil. (Although I truly believe UNR commits violations, just as every other school in the country does, UNLV President Robert Maxson isn't the president of the NCAA like UNR President Joe Crowley.)

That's what this Saturday's game between UNLV and UNR is all about.

Reminisce for a moment to last year's game.

There's 3:12 left in the third quarter. Twenty-five thousand homecoming fans are awaiting the outcome at the Silver Bowl. The score, 7-7.

UNLV has the ball on their own eight-yard line. Tailback Shannon McLean gets the hand off and promptly puts it on the floor. UNR recovers and runs it into the end zone from two yards out. The score, 14-7.

But the Rebels aren't done yet. They close the gap with a Nick Garritano (Chaparral High School) field goal. The score, then 14-10, deep into the fourth quarter lay in favor of the Wolfpack.

But to fully feel the drama fast

forward to the 4th quarter for a moment.

On the last possession of the game, UNLV has the ball on the Wolf Pack's 33-yard line. Rebel quarterback John Ma'ae throws an interception. Final score, 14-10, NOT UNLV.

Not UNLV last year. Not UNLV the year before last. Not UNLV before the year before last year. And not UNLV the year before the last year's year.

That's right, UNLV has managed to lose four straight games to a Division 1-AA school, UNR.

In fact, the Rebels have been embarrassed by the Wolf Pack in the last four games, being outscored 135-39.

So why should this year be any different?

UNLV is 1-7 over the last two seasons on the road.

The Rebels also have a lousy quarterback. Bobby Stockham is to quarterbacks what Charles Manson is to peace and love.

Nonetheless, the Rebels will start their Big West season on the winning side.

So, on to the reasons why the Rebels will whip the Wolf Pack.

First off, Reno isn't strong this season.

They lost to the Fightin' Whocares of Northern Illinois 46-42, last week.

That's 0-1 in the Big West, boys.

And don't forget coaching.

Chris Ault has stepped down as the coach of UNR, allowing a year transition before Jim Weaver hires him to take the UNLV job.

So Jim Strong's disciple, Jeff Horton, steps into a weakened Wolf Pack crew, betrayed by Ault, fed to their own kind in Wisconsin to open the year, and is now in a back-against-the-wall game with UNLV.

The advantage must go to the Rebels.

Strong has rebuilt the UNLV football program. A few years back the Rebels would have been massacred by Clemson and Kansas State. Now they're competitive. Next year they would have been victorious, but as of Nov. 20 Strong is jobless. Athletic Director Jim Weaver had the vision to fire him before the season.

And that means that Strong needs to audition for a new job in his last conference games.

So what is the final score going to be?

How about UNLV 28, UNR 20, despite Bobby Stockham.

The Las Vegas Bowl is on the line this Saturday in Reno.

If UNLV wins, they are going to the Bowl.

And UNR isn't invited, not even to watch.

Jay Sapovits is the Perspective editor of the Rebel Yell. His column From the Sap appears every Tuesday and Thursday.

Rebels to drop five straight against the Pack

PAUL MELLO

SAGEBRUSH, UNR

For years Nevada-UNLV football games have given the northern school retribution for the beatings the Wolf Pack has taken on the basketball court.

On the gridiron, the Pack has beaten the Rebels in four straight years by a combined score of 135-39. But the pendulum of football ineptness is starting to swing the Pack's way.

After taking an aerial pounding from Northern Illinois, a running team, it's clear that the Pack has some serious defensive problems-especially in its secondary. The Pack has also been damaged by its cream puff schedule. Texas Southern has played the Pack in two straight years, and I've still never heard of them. And Boise State? The school is just a reminder of a poor scheduling contract.

This is not to say that UNLV's years of football obscurity are over. UNLV is still a lousy football team. And they should be. Who the hell would want to play football knowing it's 100 degrees outside. The Rebels would do better with a

Nintendo team or a gambling team-oh, there's always basketball.

But the Rebels seem to be moving in the right direction. Playing Clemson and Kansas State is good for the school. And it may be that a loss against a good team can be more productive than trouncing a nobody.

Then again the Rebels only win has come against Central Michigan.

Come to think of it, if the game wasn't between intrastate rivals, promoting it would be a bear of a job. A mediocre, on-the-way-down Wolf Pack (2-2) team against the never-has-been Rebels (1-3). Hey, honey let's watch the Brady Bunch reunion re-run instead.

But the game is between two teams from the same state, so naturally it's going to generate some excitement. And for the first time since 1987, the Rebels have a legitimate chance of coming away with a victory.

Unfortunately, for the Rebels, the Pack has an offense. Not all was bad in last week's loss to Northern Illinois. The Pack found it had a legitimate running game in junior-college transfer Marcellus Crishon to add to its already proficient Chris Vargas passing attack. Maybe next year, UNLV. Pack 38, Rebels 24.

Hey, there's always basketball.

Student Spotlight

Do UNLV's priorities lie with giving professors raises?



"I don't know whether I'd consider it a priority or not, I don't know that much about it. But I believe that at any institution of higher learning it's either a publish or perish type attitude. If a professor does not publish he/she won't get a raise."

Therese Brush
Senior
Communications



"I think it's probably the universities priorities to give them a raise because they know how much money they have and they know how much money they can spend on giving a teacher a raise or not."

Mike Devries
Freshman
Undeclared



"There's a lot of other problems that the university could be handling right know. I'm not saying they should emphasize on it right know but they should take it into consideration."

Trina Williams
Sophomore
Education



"Priority lies more in parking and room for students and having a bigger library."

Trevor Hayden
Sophomore
Sports & Leisure



"I think they would like to give the professors a raise but it all depends on the budget."

Eric Wolf
Junior
Secondary Education