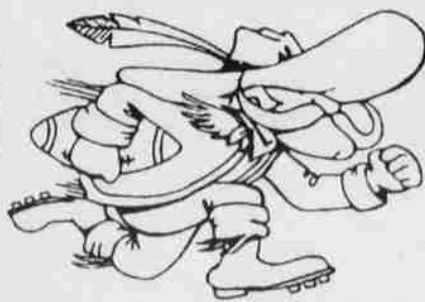


SPORTS

REBEL
YELL



"I was late because there was an accident on the Bay Bridge."
-Isaiah Rider after reporting late to the Minnesota Timberwolves.

A giant step forward

Christmas came early for UNLV athletics this year.

Last week, the Lied Foundation Trust donated \$4 million toward the construction of a new state-of-the-art athletic complex.

Needless to say, Athletic Director Jim Weaver is ecstatic.

"I feel like a little kid on Christmas morning," Weaver said.

The donation will allow construction to begin on the \$8.5 million complex next June. Upon completion, expected in July 1995, the complex will give UNLV athletics the facilities needed to stay competitive well into the 21st century.

Weaver said \$2.5 million is still needed for completion of the project. If his past record is any indicator, he'll have the money in no time.

It was said a new athletic complex was only a pipe dream less than two years ago. Now it's a reality. Best of all, not one dime has come from the academic or athletic budget. The 75,000 square-foot building will be entirely funded from outside sources.

The impact of this complex, which will include sports medicine, weightroom and locker room facilities, is enormous.

For the first time in UNLV history, every sport will have its own locker room. Student-athletes will no longer have to use the antiquated McDermott Physical Education building for training.

The new weightroom is much larger than the one currently used and will include a space for warming up on the second floor. There will be an auditorium for team meetings and other affairs, new offices for coaches, and other special features like visiting team and official's locker rooms.

The most minute details in planning are evident, as well. From the temperature controlled

storage room (to keep athletic tape fresh) to the hydro-therapy baths, the designers of the complex sought to make it as user-friendly as possible. Several members of the UNLV support staff, including

Director of Athletic Training Jerry Koloskie and equipment manager Paul Pucciarelli, were consulted on

what the new building should contain.

"This will benefit all sports," Weaver said. "In the past, you've had some sports, like basketball, taken care of. This will help the other sports catch up."

Perhaps the greatest advantage of the new complex will come in recruiting. Imagine the added impact of a recruiting visit when a coach can take a player into a brand new building specifically for athletic use. It would be difficult to *not* want to play here.

Add in UNLV's other world-class venues like the Thomas & Mack Center, the Fertitta Tennis Complex, and the soon to be completed Earl E. Wilson Stadium at Bamson Field, and UNLV has to rank among the best for athletic facilities on the West Coast.

"It's going to make us that much more competitive in our recruiting and in our ability to produce better athletes," UNLV strength and conditioning coach Mark Philippi said.

Athletics have played as much of a role in the growth of this university as any other area. If the new complex allows UNLV to remain competitive in some sports and become contenders in others, the exposure brought to this university will do more good for the students and staff than any number of commercials or magazine ratings.

From the looks of things, UNLV athletics has reason for optimism. The Lied complex is only the beginning.



Sportstalk

Chris Jones

Nightmare season continues

Rebels fall to NMSU, 52-40.

By SCOTT GULBRANSEN
STAFF WRITER

If you wanted to see something horrific and frightening on Halloween, all you had to do was watch a replay of the UNLV football team's 52-40 loss at the hands of New Mexico State. It scared so many that only 3,443 could stand to watch the horror show that has become Rebel football.

The Sam Boyd Silver Bowl resembled a graveyard of sorts as the Rebels dropped their fifth game in a row as their record slipped to 1-7 on the year. The student section was empty in apparent disgust with last week's fraternity brawl and a declining interest in a losing football program. Still, a few Rebel faithful stuck it out and, early on, it appeared they would have something to cheer about.

New Mexico State started the offensive fireworks early as Aggie punt returner Paul Banks returned a Brad Faunce punt 73 yards for New Mexico State's first score. UNLV then tied the game at seven as quarterback Bob Stockham led the Rebels on a seven-play, 68-yard scoring drive capped by a touchdown pass to Demond Thompkins.

The Rebels caused an Aggie fumble that was recovered by UNLV on the Aggie 25. Omar Love then ran one up the middle to give UNLV the 14-7 lead late in the first quarter.

That would be UNLV's last lead of the game.

Aggie quarterback Cody



Nick Haley/Rebel Yell

Daemon Keener extends himself for a pass Saturday night.

Ledbetter threw for 426 yards and four touchdowns. His yardage was the second most in school history.

UNLV Coach Jim Strong took some of the blame for his team's poor performance.

"I'd like to do a better job as a coach calling plays in the redzone," Strong said. "It really hurt us when we would drive the length of the field and only end up with a field goal."

Twice Strong called for draw plays inside the 20-yard line on third down. Both times it failed and the Rebels had to settle for a field goal.

UNLV quarterback Bob

Stockham again threw for more than 400 yards but was erratic, throwing four interceptions.

New Mexico State cornerback Donald Stowers intercepted three of Stockham's mishrows.

"He was really erratic," Stowers said. "All we had to do was sit back in our zone and play with discipline. The quarterback just threw it to me a couple of times."

Stockham did not disagree with Stowers but offered some explanations into why he was picked off so many times.

see Nightmare pg. 10

Thunder sweep Milwaukee

By SCOTT GULBRANSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Las Vegas Thunder is forming a habit.

The habit is winning IHL hockey games via the shootout. The Thunder swept the Milwaukee Admirals in a weekend series.

"I know the fans like it when games end in a shootout, but I don't know how many more I can take," said Thunder defenseman Jim Kyte. "We're going to have to start winning in regulation."

Las Vegas started Sunday's game looking tired and unmotivated. The lifeless Thunder

trailed the Admirals 4-2 going into the last six minutes of regulation when Ken Quinney lit a fire under the struggling Las Vegas squad and scored his 4th and 5th goals of the season to tie it at four.

The Thunder then outscored Milwaukee 3-2 during the shootout. Marc Habschild, Todd Richards, and Patrice Lefebvre all scored giving Las Vegas the win, 5-4.

"Hockey is a game full of emotion, and for most of the night we couldn't seem to get it together," Goring said. "I think what it was was when Tomlinson and Steve Jaques and Spenrath started grinding some bodies and that got the crowd into it."

Rebel Report Card

Week 8: New Mexico State
By THE PROFESSOR, SCOTT GULBRANSEN

F

It's getting redundant but here we go:

Quarterback D Bob Stockham again threw for more than 400 yards. But did it really matter? As a major college quarterback you cannot average 3-4 interceptions per game. Why not let Jason Davis get some snaps so he'll be better prepared for 1994?

Running Back D Omar Love seems to have lost all concentration. He has shown no instinct. Robert Gi has provided some inspired play but is not a first-string back.

Wide Receivers C - Randy Gatewood made some incredible catches against the

Aggie defense. But he too seems inconsistent. Demond Thompkins also had another solid game.

Tight Ends W Withdrawal. Jim Strong never uses them. You didn't flunk guys, just come back next year when there is a new coach.

Offensive Line D - While most of the team has given up, the line still plays hard. They have no help and look tired.

Special Teams F How many times have we seen kickoffs and punt returns run back for huge gains or touchdowns? **Defensive Line F** How many times can the UNLV defense create another Heisman Trophy candidate?

Linebackers Expelled! Bad. Very bad.

Defensive Backs F This group has gotten burned so many times, Coppertone wants them for an endorsement. Every game a DB gets burned. But Rodney Mazion refuses to give up and continues to play hard.

Kicking C Brad Faunce seems to be losing steam though he's still effective and one of the best punters in the conference. Nick Garritano kicked well against New Mexico State.

Coaching F Now I know why Jim Strong's job was in jeopardy. He has been

see Card pg. 10