

Commentary

Defense the Difference in Rebels' Opener

Ever since Jeff Horton was introduced as UNLV's seventh head football coach last Nov., the emphasis was on excitement.

His offense at up-state Nevada led the nation in total offense in 1993. And when he promised to fill the air above Sam Boyd Stadium with footballs, you know that returning Rebel receivers were anxious.



In This Corner

PAUL GUTIERREZ

"The good times can roll again," senior receiver Henry Bailey said. "The way Coach Horton approaches things is so positive. He makes you believe you can be a winner."

So what happened when the Air Horton Era began at UNLV (complete with fireworks and an air raid signal)? The offense bogged down and several passes went through the hands of Rebel receivers.

But it didn't matter. Two busted plays went for long bomb UNLV touchdowns and the defense, yes, the defense, was UNLV's strong point in the Rebels' 17-3 win over Eastern Michigan Saturday.

"It really pleased me," Horton said of his defense's performance, "especially since all the talk was offense, offense. The defense did not get any recognition and we held them to three points."

"... the defense kept turning back their offense while ours was sputtering," Horton added. "The defense really came through for us tonight."

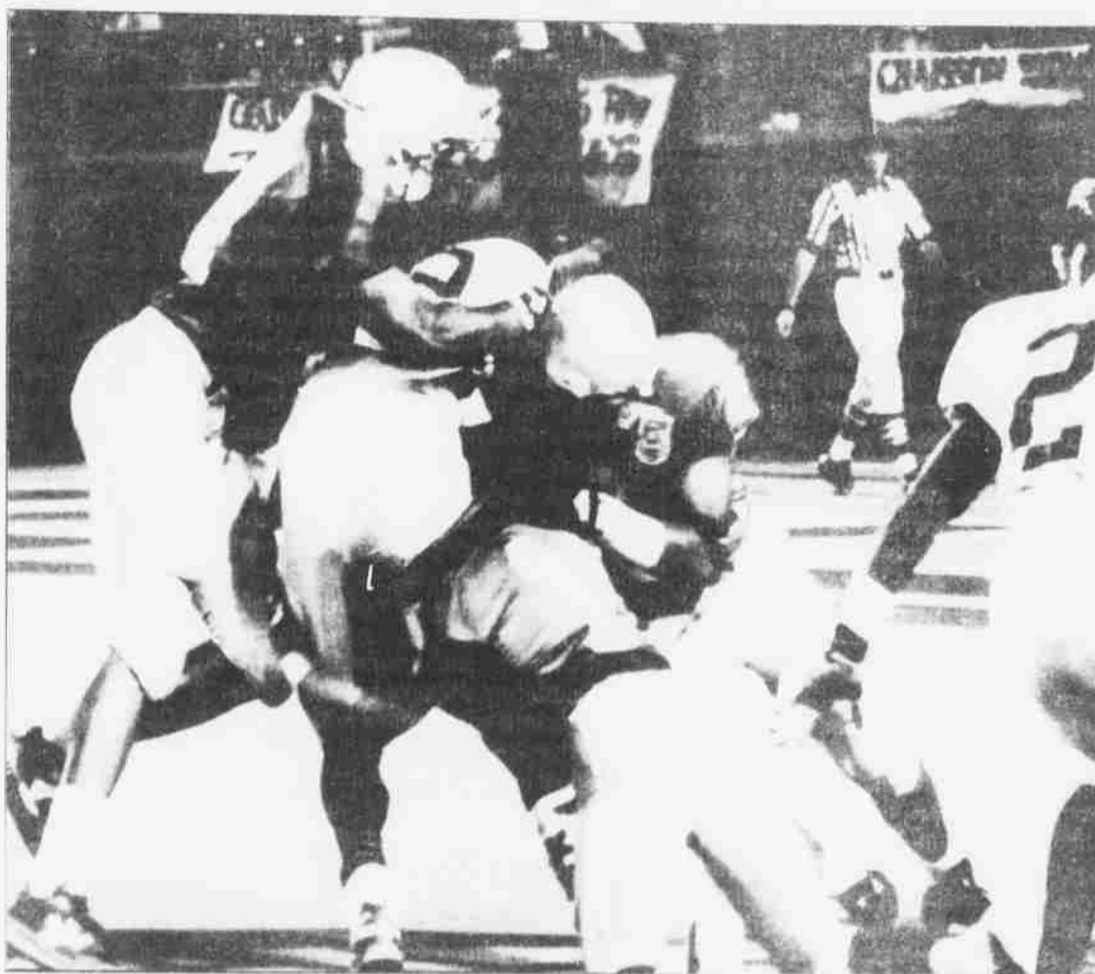
Eastern Michigan had just 224 yards of total offense. It was also the first time since 1991 a UNLV football team held an opponent to three points.

"The offense didn't play very good tonight so the defense came through and made a lot of big plays," said senior linebacker Brittney Posey, who was named Big West Defensive Player of the Week with 13 tackles and an interception. His interception at the Rebel 5-yard line came when UNLV led 7-3. "Therefore we came out with the victory."

"Defense is the key to any football game," Posey added. "Defense wins games. Still, our offense put up 17 points, even though they had a bad game."

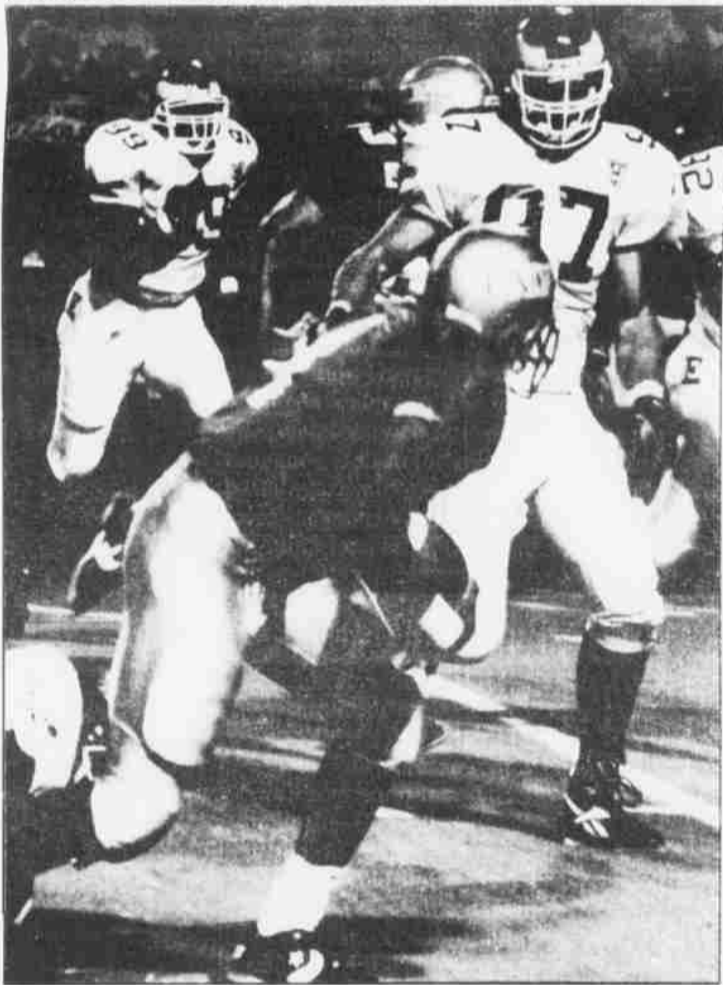
PLEASE SEE REBEL—18

Rebels Get Downright Defensive in Opening Win



PHOTOS BY MIKE LACY

(Above) The Swarmin' Rebel defense limited EMU to just 224 yards of total offense. Brittney Posey (left), Marvin Robinson (center), and Jason Davis (right) triple team Eagle running back John Rice. (Below) Omar Love ran the ball 21 times and gained 54 yards.



FOOTBALL: Brittney Posey named BWC Defensive Player of the Week

BY KEVIN LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

The opening chapter of the highly anticipated Jeff Horton era began Saturday night on a winning note with an uneventful 17-3 victory over visiting Eastern Michigan.

The Throwin' Rebels, as billed in the off-season media campaign, found themselves unable to catch the ball and had to settle for two gift-wrapped touchdowns from the Eagles' secondary to pull out the victory.

The story of the off-season had been how explosive the offense would be. And the possibility of lighting up the scoreboard boosted Rebels fans' interest. But the defense, playing the role of the homely girl that no one asked to the dance, found solace in gaining the attention of the 10,756 fans at Sam Boyd Stadium.

"We made a couple of big plays for touchdowns," Horton said, "and the defense kept turning back their offense while ours was sputtering. The defense really came through for us tonight."

The big plays came courtesy of the Eagles' secondary in the first half as quarterback Jason Davis, making his first start in a Rebel uniform, tossed a 58-yard pass to Henry Bailey with 2:31 remaining in the first quarter. Bailey held a brief celebration in the end zone that earned UNLV a 15-yard penalty.

The Rebel defense found itself quickly under the gun as the Eagles marched from midfield to the Rebel nine-yard line before senior linebacker Brittney Posey intercepted Eastern Michigan's Michael Armour's pass. UNLV then began an 87-yard drive in seven plays, capped with a 55-yard touchdown strike from Davis to Randy Grantwood with 10:38 to play in the first half. The score put the Rebels up by 11, 14-3.

The game never really shaped into its anticipated high scoring affair because the Rebels were simply unable to catch the ball in crucial situations.

"No question the play of the

PLEASE SEE WIN—18



Chip's on the Table for UNLV

BY KEVIN LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV football team invades unfamiliar territory this weekend when it takes on Central Michigan a week after its tremendous defensive effort against Eastern Michigan.



The medical reports indicate the troops are in decent health with the exception of quarterback Jason

PLEASE SEE CHIP—18

Soccer Returns from Midwest Trip to Host Classic

► No. 5 Rutgers headlines Classic

BY STEVE SEELIG
STAFF WRITER

After a successful showing at Creighton's 1994 Ameritus Classic, the UNLV soccer team (1-1-0) is excited about its home opener in the 1994 UNLV Umbro/Snickers Rebel Classic this weekend at Peter Johann Memorial Field.

The Rebels begin the tournament by taking on Southern Methodist Friday at 7 p.m. UNLV will then take on No. 5 Rutgers Sunday at noon.

"We feel that we can be very competitive in this year's tour-

12th Annual UNLV Umbro/Snickers Rebel Classic at Johann Field

Friday
UNLV vs. Southern Methodist—7 p.m.
Washington vs. Rutgers—9 p.m.

Sunday
UNLV vs. Rutgers—noon
Washington vs. Southern Methodist—2 p.m.

namment," coach Barry Barto said. In 21 previous home openers, The Rebels have a record of 15-4-1.

SMU is 2-0 entering the Classic with wins over No. 18 Wisconsin and Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The Mustangs are led by junior midfielder Ivan Polic. He scored 18 points on five goals and eight assists last season. Sophomore

goalie Tom Presthus has a .50 goals against average with a shutout. SMU leads the all-time series with UNLV, 4-0-2.

The No. 5 Scarlet Knights (1-0) beat West Virginia 3-0 in their season opener and played South Carolina last night. Team USA and World Cup star Alexi Lalas

PLEASE SEE CLASSIC—14

► Three named all-tourney

BY STEVE SEELIG
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV soccer team began the 1994 season with a second place finish in the Ameritus Classic last weekend at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

After losing 3-0 to the host Bluejays Saturday, the Rebels redeemed themselves with a 3-2 victory against Tulsa Sunday.

"The team played a great match ...," Rebel Coach Barry Barto said. "We remained focused throughout the entire game."

PLEASE SEE TOURNEY—14