

**Commentary**

## Hardly Happy Trails

It was hard not to cheer for the Posse.

They were, after all, Las Vegas' team. What's that, you say? They're still here

and plan on finishing their initial campaign as one of four American franchises in the Canadian Football League?

O.K. But the underlying fact remains, Las Vegas didn't support the Posse and the team will be leaving.

Just 7,438 showed at 32,000 capacity Sam Boyd Stadium Sunday night to watch the Posse take on the league's marquee player in Doug Flutie and the league's marquee team in the first place Calgary Stampeders.

"It's a shame," said Doug Flutie, who has won the CFL's last three Most Outstanding Player Awards. "It seems like (Las Vegas) would be a great city to play in, but it's just not working. I just have the feeling, and it's pretty obvious, that they're going to end up having to move this team."

But to where? San Antonio has been mentioned. Maybe the Texas fans will be less fickle than those in Southern Nevada, where winning big is the litmus test for success.

In Las Vegas, the bottom line is winning. If you don't win, the fans won't show. Sure, there will always be that faction of hard-cores that will stick it out to the bitter end, but sadly, that won't be enough to fill the stands or pay the salaries.

Why, even Sunday night, Posse fans in their Posse gear (souvenir stands had blow outs on memorabilia) stood and cheered their team on in the waning minutes.

A Crazy George look-alike implored Las Vegas to rally their team. All that was missing was a rainbow wig, a drum and a "John 3:16" sign.

The 45-26 final was not indicative of the game's competitiveness. Calgary scored 15 points in the last 1:17 of the game.

"They played a great game tonight," Flutie said of the Posse. "(Las Vegas) fought very hard against what's considered the best team in the league. People

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In This Corner

PAUL GUTIERREZ

## Rebels' Defense Makes a Stand

Football: Byers named BWC Defensive Player of the Week

BY KEVIN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV football team's defense opened the game with a big play and closed out a 31-27 road victory over New Mexico State in Las Cruces, N.M., with an even bigger one.

The game was won when the defense held on a goal line stand at its own 4-yard line with less than a minute remaining.

Rebel cornerback Marvin Robinson, stepping up his game, separated an Aggie receiver from the ball on third-and-goal in the end zone. He then batted down a fourth down pass from NMSU's quarterback Cody Ledbetter to Lucious Davis in the end zone.

"We're coming together as a team," Robinson said of the UNLV defense coming through the past two weeks on the road. "It's having a snowball effect and it's getting bigger and bigger."

During the Aggies' opening drive, Rebel defensive end Keith Washington leveled Ledbetter. The result was a 44-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown by Mark Byers, who was named the Big West's Defensive Player of the Week.

"Byers is on a mission," said

## Rebels Have Bulldog for Homecoming

BY KEVIN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

The Throwin' Rebels return for a homecoming game against Louisiana Tech at Sam Boyd Stadium after winning two last

minute thrillers on the road.

The victories move UNLV, 2-0 in conference, 3-2 overall, into a first place tie with arch-rival Nevada-Reno in the Big West Conference.

Louisiana Tech, 0-1, 1-3, lost

on their homecoming last weekend to Southwestern Louisiana, 13-3.

Last year, the Bulldogs took an 18-game home-field winning

streak into their homecoming date with the Rebels and saw a fourth

quarter rally fall short in a 28-23 loss, thanks to Rodney Mazion's interception of a Aaron Ferguson's pass with

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Usila Chepkemboi

## Lady Rebel Runnin' to Olympics

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Usila Chepkemboi did not come to UNLV to become the school's top cross-country runner. It just worked out that way.

As a former walk-on, the junior from Lessos, Kenya came here because of the school's hotel administration program, not to run. But after a little coaxing, Chepkemboi eventually joined the team, won a scholarship and earned last year's Coaches' Award.

"I came in as a walk-on and put in a lot of work," said Chepkemboi, who will be competing Saturday in the UNLV Invitational at Silver Springs Park in Henderson. "I have an inner-fight in me. That's what happened last season. I was always there to practice. I'd be sick because I was getting adjusted to the weather. But still I kept on going and improved my time every meet."

Last year wasn't without its drawbacks though. A hip injury sidelined Chepkemboi at the end of the season. This season however, she has been the top UNLV finisher in all three cross country meets so far. She attributes this to training and her teammates.

"I trained over the summer and lifted weights to gain weight and strength," Chepkemboi said. "Before I was a little bit weak. Now I'm healthier. The kind of team that we have is all part of it. You want to do things right. When you have that kind of group of people behind you, you can do it."

With a personal best time of 19 minutes, 25 seconds in the 5,000-meter run, Chepkemboi is closing in on her goal of breaking the 18-minute mark. By the end of the 1992 season, she had improved her time by more than four minutes. In another two years she wants to be able to run in the area of 14 to 15 minutes.

"The most critical time for my running is this year and next year because next year is my last year running (in college)," Chepkemboi said. "I want to go to the Olympics for Kenya. I want to wear the nice

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## Former Rebel Stars Lead Dustdevils

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Las Vegas Dustdevils are one win away from a Continental Indoor Soccer League championship thanks to help from four ex-UNLV soccer stars.

A power-play goal from Danny Barber, a 1991 All-American at UNLV, gave the Dustdevils a 10-9 overtime win Saturday night at the MGM Grand Garden to even the best-of-three series at one win apiece. The goal was Barber's second of the game.

"Now it's anyone's game," said Danny Packer, a Rebel player in 1991 and 1992. "It's there for the taking. We came out here with our backs to the wall and just came out fighting from the first whistle. They were pretty much lucky to be in the game. I can't believe some of the goals they got, but that's all right. We stuck in there, we fought and we won."

Besides Barber and Packer, the Dustdevils have received contributions from UNLV alumni Doug Borgel and Ben Erickson, exceeding all expectations for a first-year franchise.

"That was our goal at first, just to get to the playoffs," Borgel said. "Now, once we got to the playoffs, we felt we could win it. You know anything can happen in the playoffs, and it has for us so far. All season long we haven't quit. This is the greatest win so far, and next week will be the greatest."

Of all the former Rebels on the squad, Barber has received the most accolades. He was the second-leading scorer on the team during the regular season with 53 points and 32 goals. And in the playoffs, he remains the second leading scorer with 10 points and seven goals. Barber finished



Danny Barber scored the game winner in overtime Saturday.

second in the CISL Rookie of the Year vote.

"I'll take a championship over Rookie of the Year any year," Barber said. "I'd rather be playing right now than be Rookie of the Year and not playing. Since I never got to the playoffs at UNLV, that was my goal here.

To be involved in a championship is unbelievable, especially with some of my closest friends on the team."

One of those friends is Borgel, the 1990 Big West Player of the Year. A four-year starter at

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PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN