

Devils

continued from 11
UNLV, Borgel finished his collegiate career as UNLV's third all-time leading scorer. He finished the regular season tied for sixth on the team with 24 points (12 goals, 12 assists). He is currently fifth on the team in scoring during the playoffs with eight points after scoring one goal and delivering one assist Saturday.

Borgel said the ability to play professional soccer in Las Vegas is great.

"I make my home here now," he said. "When I came out to UNLV, we got great support. To be able to play again in this city with a lot of the guys that played up at UNLV was a dream come true."

Erickson, who played at UNLV for four years, did not play Saturday night because of a decision by coach Guy Newman.

"It was disappointing because this was such a big game, and as a player you always want to be in," Erickson said. "I have to look at it in a positive way because we won the game, and we've got one more to go. I'll work hard in practice all week and hopefully I'll be in the line-up for (game three Saturday)."

Erickson still remains tied for third in scoring on the team with nine points during the playoffs. During the regular season, he finished fourth on the Dustdevils with 16 goals.

Packer, a fierce defender who is known as "Pac-Man," is one of the crowd favorites at the Grand Garden. He scored 10 goals during the regular season and has five points during the playoffs. Four of those are off of goals, including one Saturday night off of a spectacular individual play by Packer, which gave the Dustdevils a 9-7 lead late in the game. His four play-off goals lead the team's defenders.

Packer said the transition to the indoor game has been tough.

"I miss playing for Barry (Barber, head coach at UNLV)," Packer said. "I'm still learning. I'll probably take a couple of years to really learn. I'm not perfect. I still make mistakes. I've got more to learn."

Erickson said some aspects of the game are the still the same. "Technically, you don't really have to adjust," he said. "You still have all the basic skills of soccer. But the tactics of indoor soccer are a lot different than outdoor."

Barber and Packer are the only Dustdevils that have played in every game this season. That commitment has been recognized by team management.

"Our local players have been a backbone for this team," acting general manager Pete Gibson said. "They've put in a tremendous amount of effort."

Barber said maybe now the Dustdevils will get the recognition they deserve.

"We sent a message that we're for real to everyone in the community that didn't know about us," he said. "This is my second home. I love Vegas. I love the fans, and hey, they want a winner and we're gonna try to give them one."

Game three of the series is scheduled for 5:35 p.m. Saturday at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

Don't Be A
Silly Monkey



Read Sports Each &
Every Thursday in
The Rebel Yell

Dustdevils Creating Own Fan Base in First Season

Commentary

They finally jumped on the bandwagon.

It took an appearance in the Continental Indoor Soccer League finals by the Las Vegas Dustdevils before more Las Vegans came to the MGM Grand Garden to watch this exciting team.

Saturday's crowd of 5,583 for Game 2 against the Dallas Sidekicks is small compared to the 11,581 who watched Game 1 at Reunion Arena. But considering all that was going on Saturday, the crowd, the largest this year to see a Dustdevils home game, was impressive.

Saturday, one could have gone to the Jaycee State Fair at Cashman Field, the Gambler Nationals drag races at Las Vegas Speedway Park, the Mickey Thompson off-road races at Sam Boyd Stadium, or stayed home and watched the Thunder open the International Hockey League sea-



JOHN
SANTANA

son at Phoenix on TV.

So, Dustdevils' management was happy with Saturday's crowd. The expansion team was last in the league in home attendance in both the regular season (2,709 per game) and playoffs (2,197) before Saturday's 10-9 overtime victory over the defending CISL

champions to even the best-of-three series at one apiece.

"I think everybody was putting in a good 12-14 hour day, seven days a week," Dustdevils general manager and part owner Pete Gibson said about promoting Game 2. "Making phone calls, touching base with the people who really could make the crowds come out and dropping flyers and doing everything we can to spread the word. And encourage people to come and enjoy first-class soccer."

The Dustdevils have done what no other Las Vegas expansion team this summer could—establish a strong following. The team has had a loyal fan base of about

2,000 all summer.

It hasn't hurt that Dustdevils tickets are inexpensive. During the regular season, prices ranged from \$6-\$18 per game. All tickets Saturday were \$10, and a 2-for-1 offer was available through Video Tyme.

While the Thunders' fan base is larger and seems to have many who abandoned UNLV basketball when Tark left, Dustdevils fans are true soccer fans, vocal and loyal as any in Europe or South America.

Saturday's game was proof. The largely younger crowd, including children in soccer jerseys, were excited throughout the game. They cheered loudly whenever anything good happened to their team, and boomed whenever Dallas scored.

They were led by Dusty the desert fox, Las Vegas' mascot. Portrayed by former UNLV mascot Beau Doyle, Dusty worked the crowd as good as the Chicken or the Phillie Phanatic.

He fueled the crowd's excitement at the end of the third quarter when he tore apart a mannequin dressed as a Sidekick that

had Dallas star Tatu's name and number on the back.

He's so popular one fan had a banner reading, "We love you Dusty."

Dusty wasn't the only one inspiring a sign, as the crowd showed its support for the Dustdevils with signs exhorting their favorite players.

"Pac-Man" (for Danny Packer), "(Danny) Barber for President," and "Eat our Dust Dallas," were just some of the many banners fans made.

The Dustdevils may not get a parade downtown like the Rebels did after winning the NCAA basketball title in 1990. Nor will fans likely take to the streets in celebration. But should they capture the CISL title in Game 3 Saturday in Dallas, there will be some very happy soccer fans in Las Vegas.

Unfortunately, most of the community may not even notice.

—John Santana is
a sports writer
at The Rebel Yell.

QUIKSILVER FACTORY OUTLETS

Come to QFO and
see why our
customers travel from
all over the world to
buy the hottest clothing at
prices so low we can't advertise them.

15% OFF

to UNLV Students
at any Quiksilver location



Call for Easy Directions • 792-5800 or 258-4991

Maryland Parkway & Flamingo Rd.
4047 South Maryland Pkwy.

St. George, Utah
805 Bluff Street South
801-674-2855

Meadows Lane & Decatur Blvd.
4530 Meadows Lane

