

Louisiana

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Rebel quarterback Jason Davis, 17-37 for 210 yards, led his team on a 76-yard drive in nine plays in under two minutes, clinching the win with an 11-yard over-the-middle pass to All-America candidate Randy Gatewood.

"We felt the pressure a little, but we knew we could do it," said Gatewood, the nation's leading receiver in receptions and yards. "We were confident that we could move the ball downfield and score if we executed our fundamentals."

Running back Omar Love, 16 carries for 93 yards, forced the Bulldogs' defense to guard the run as well as the pass. It allowed wide receiver Henry Bailey to race past the secondary for two long touchdown receptions of 42 and 31 yards.

Bailey became UNLV's career all-purpose yardage leader with 4,378, breaking Henry Vereen's record of 4,280 from 1975-78. He is only 97 yards away from passing Demond Thompkins, 2,396 yards, as the school's career reception yardage leader.

The Rebel offense struggled to put the Bulldogs away by dropping several of Davis' passes, including a drop by Gatewood and Bailey each that potentially would have put the Rebels up 24-10 at the half.

"I told the guys at halftime that we were going to keep throwing the ball," Horton said. "So they may as well start catching it."

The Bulldogs ran Cooper left, right and up the middle to amass nearly 200 yards, only to find that the Rebels' rubberband defense could stretch, but not break. They gathered 461 yards in total offense, but were unable to finish off drives, and now have lost 16 straight games on the road.

"We can't expect to win on the road or at home," Tech's disappointed coach Joe Raymond Peace said, "if we don't finish off scoring opportunities, like UNLV has been doing."

Key plays in the Rebels game-winning drive included Davis using a long-count that drew the Bulldogs offsides and a huge 30-yard reception by tight end David White, who took advantage of the Bulldogs' preoccupation with Gatewood and Bailey.

Establishing another fine defensive effort were Rebel linebackers Brittney Posey, who harassed the Bulldog ballcarriers for 12 solo tackles out of 20 and Keith Clough, with 15 total tackles. Defensive backs Rodney Mazion and Marvin Robinson each had an interception and raised the Rebels' season total to three in six games.

UNLV's special teams were highlighted by the punting of All-American Brad Faunce, eight punts for a 46.5 average, while senior placekicker Nick Garritano had a 48-yard goal to add to his school record of field goals made. UNLV was penalized four times for illegal blocks on punts.

The health report indicates that defensive tackle DeShannon Campbell sprained his right ankle and is listed as day-to-day. Defensive end Keith Washington has a slight sprain to his right knee but should be ready to practice this week.

Don't Be A Silly Monkey



Read Sports Each & Every Thursday in The Rebel Yell

Washington Leads Rebel 'D'

BY KEVIN LEWIS
STAFF WRITER



Washington

There's an old football saying that a good offense will sell tickets while a good defense wins championships.

The Rebels share first place in the Big West Conference at 3-0 with Nevada because of three key defensive stands in each victory that set the offense up for scoring opportunities. If the Rebels are going to win the Big West, the defense will have to continue the efforts they've made in recent weeks.

Defensive end Keith Washington, 6'4", 255 pounds, realizes the opportunity to make this a special year after struggling with a knee injury that forced him to miss six games in 1993. The Dallas native had started in 27 straight games

prior to the injury and now the elder statesman is one of many reasons why the Rebels are in control of their own destiny.

"We can do some great things," said Washington, who is majoring in criminal justice. "If we stay focused out there we can take this program to the next level."

At key moments, the Rebels have refused to let their opponents cash in on scoring opportunities from inside the redzone against Utah State, New Mexico State and Louisiana Tech, with Washington forcing the action on the line.

"We practice the redzone defense all the time," Washington said. "This is nothing new for us. Coach (Jeff) Horton and the other coaches have prepared us well for this type of situation. We just need to concentrate on what we're

doing and everything will fall into place."

The Rebels looked down the gun barrel of defeat against Utah State but refused to let the Aggies score a touchdown in the closing moments of the game which forced them to settle for a chip-shot field goal that missed and enabled UNLV to escape with a scary 23-21 win. Last year, the confidence to pull out this type of victory from a solid defensive stand wasn't there.

"No question about it, Keith gives us the leadership we need," freshman nose guard Charles Fisher said. "When things get tough, Keith is right there telling us to relax and remember how we executed this drill in practice."

When UNLV hired Horton last fall, it was no secret that the emphasis would be on building a potent offense. The media campaign billed the offense as the Throwin' Rebels that would light up the scoreboard and record books. That realization came to

pass as several offensive records were smashed in the Idaho loss.

"We realized early on that the offense would get all the attention," Washington said. "But if we go out and do our jobs people would notice that we're a complete team."

Washington wears No. 56 on his uniform this season as a tribute to his favorite player, Lawrence Taylor, the future Hall-of-Famer of the New York Giants, who had his number retired during halftime ceremonies this past Monday night.

"I thought that was real nice because Taylor has always been my favorite player," Washington said. "He's such a deserving player of those honors."

Yes, good things come to those deserving and perhaps Washington and the Rebels will be rewarded with a conference title.

"If I am virtuous and worthy, for whom should I not maintain proper concern?"

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