

## Commentary

# Rebels Must Improve Before Joining WAC

While UNLV football coach Jeff Horton has done a good job in his first year, the Rebels still have a long way to go before UNLV leaves the Big West for the Western Athletic Conference for the 1996 season.

Sure, the Rebels are 5-4 and have won games this year they would have lost under former coach Jim Strong. But close road wins over bad teams like New Mexico State (3-6 overall) and Utah State (2-7, including a 49-31 home loss to Division I-AA Eastern Washington) are hardly the makings of a contender in a major conference.

The WAC this year has improved considerably and is no longer the pass-happy, no-defense league dominated by Brigham Young. Three of its teams (BYU, Utah and Colorado State) are ranked in the Associated Press top 25.

The league had more teams ranked in the top 25 last week than the Big 10 (Penn State and Michigan) and the Southwest Conference (Texas A&M). The league also had the same number of ranked teams as the Big 8 and Big East.

"It's pretty strong this year," Horton said of his team's future conference. "Utah, Colorado State and BYU are all having good years. Fresno State's having a down year (4-6 overall) but they're usually tough."

It is. New Mexico, usually a conference doormat, handed Utah its first loss of the year Saturday, 23-21, in Albuquerque, N.M. Hawaii is 0-6 in the conference, but 2-0 against the Pac-10, the top rated conference by *USA Today*. Wyoming gave top-ranked Nebraska its biggest scare of the year.

As many as four WAC teams could get bowl bids. Only the Big West champion will get a bowl bid, to the Las Vegas Bowl.

The WAC that the Rebels will join could be stronger. Rice, Southern Methodist, Texas



JOHN SANTANA

Christian, Tulsa and current Big West rival San Jose State will be WAC members in 1996 along with UNLV.

Southern Methodist tied Texas A&M 21-21 earlier this year, the only blemish on A&M's unbeaten season. Tulsa defeated

Rebels 44-22 in Tulsa on Oct. 15. Rice and Texas Christian are in contention for a bowl bid out of the Southwest Conference.

San Jose State is 1-8, and has an even tougher road to WAC respectability than UNLV.

By 1996, the league will also have arrangements to send its teams to more prestigious bowl games, including the Cotton Bowl.

"It's gonna be solid," Horton said about the expanded WAC. "When all is said and done it's going to be one of the best conferences. It'll have exposure from Texas to Hawaii. It's a conference on the upswing."

Working in UNLV's favor is Horton. His enthusiasm and upbeat attitude should help lure better recruits to UNLV. So should the move to a real Division I-A conference and talk of a new domed stadium.

"We need to be bigger on the offensive and defensive lines," Horton said. "We can't take the guys who are 6-4, 240 and make them 280. We need to take guys who are 280 now and get them to 300."

"We need to get more skill kids in here with speed. . . . We need to get a couple of big runners so teams can't focus strictly on our passing game."

"Where we're hurt the most is that we have nearly no juniors or sophomores this year because the program's been down the last couple of years," Horton said. "We're gonna be bottom heavy the next two or three years."

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

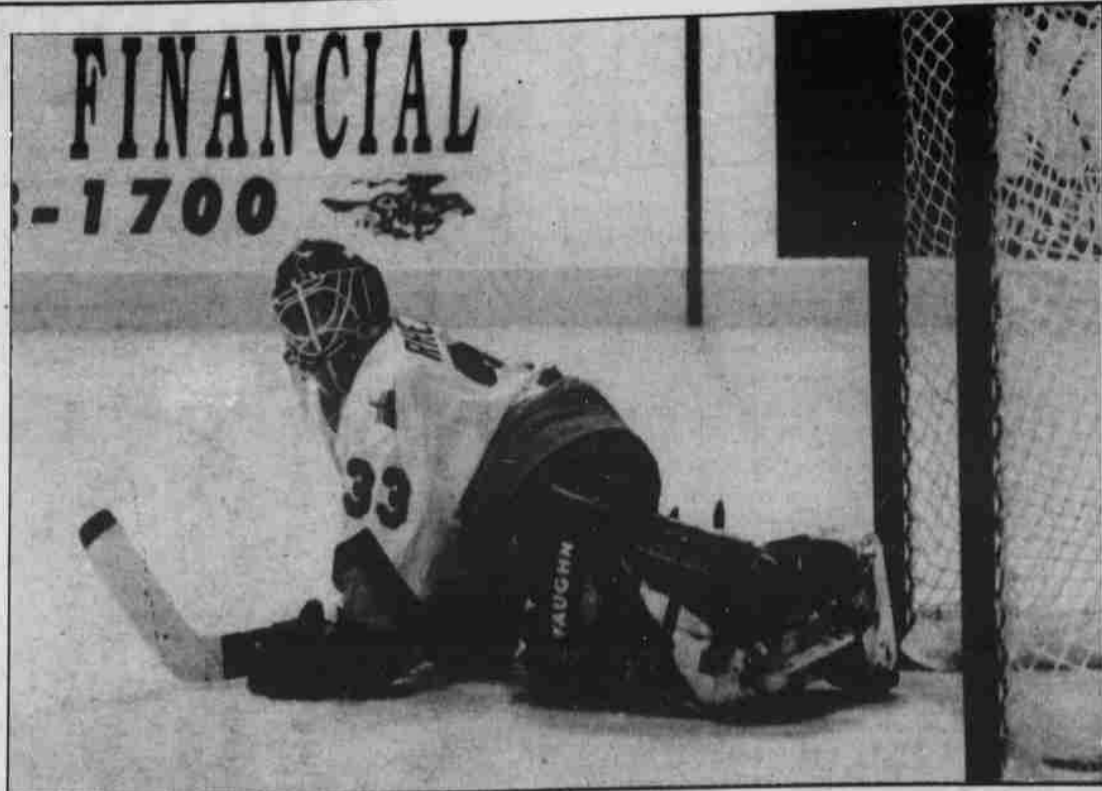


PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD

Manon Rheaume allowed three goals on 12 shots in two periods.

## Corner

continued from 15

Hockey League game.

"I thought she looked a little nervous early in the game," Strumm said. "But she really settled down as the game went on, made some great saves and she did everything we could have asked of her."

And the crowd seemed to appreciate her effort. She received both a standing ovation and the loudest cheers from the announced crowd of 10,491 (the third largest of the season) when she was announced as the starting goaltender. And every time she made a save, the crowd acknowledged it with more cheers.

A banner was hung that read "Vive Manon et le Deuce," a refer-

ence to the fact that the game was being broadcast live by ESPN 2. And she is referred to in the Thunder media guide as "The First Lady of Hockey."

"It feels great when you have the support of the crowd," Rheaume said. "And when you have the support of the crowd, it's easier to play."

Especially when you're playing for the love of the game.

# Boosters Hustle Up Big Bucks

## Baseball: Grant to help Rebel alumni

BY SEAN DEFRANK  
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV baseball team received a \$10,000 donation last week as the Hustlin' Rebel Dugout Club began its inaugural season as the team's official booster club.

The donation was made by a retail company that wishes to remain anonymous.

The club was started to "be a visible support group for the baseball players" and to "express gratitude to Coach (Fred) Dallimore," according to the club's president, Bob Feeney.

One of the club's main purposes is to pay tuition costs for players whose eligibility has elapsed.

The club is open to students and faculty, as well as the general public, and membership costs run from \$10 annually for students all the way up to a \$1,000 minimum for corporate membership. Faculty and staff members can join on any level for a 20 percent discount.

All proceeds raised by the club will directly benefit the baseball program, according to Feeney.

"All the money that is raised through the Dugout Club has the signature of Fred Dallimore," Feeney said.

The club will have a designated area behind left field during games at Earl E. Wilson Stadium and will control 500 seats on the third-base line that will be

distributed to Las Vegas businesses.

There will also be barbecues throughout the season for club members, players, coaches and parents.

"We are going to find a way to get to participate with the student body," Feeney said. "That baseball field is for the students."

The club will hold a 1,800-person fund raiser in February, with former UNLV celebrities such as Jerry Tarkanian and Matt Williams scheduled to appear.

Feeney said the club's goal is to raise \$25,000 the first year.

"I want to encourage and excite the students to come back to the ballpark and enjoy that beautiful park, because it's their field," Feeney said. "If we don't have a college atmosphere, we have nothing."

## Golf

continued from 15

Weather may determine where the Rebels finish this weekend. When the Rebels have played in good conditions, like they did at the Tucker Invitational in September and the Topy Cup last month in Japan, the Rebels fin-

ished in the top four.

But in wet conditions, like the Preview Invitational in September and the Pate Intercollegiate, the Rebels are a middle-of-the-pack team.

"The problem is we don't play in (rain) a lot," Knight said. "But that's why the schedule is set up so we can play all over the country and get used to different kinds

of conditions."

After competing in Hilton Head, UNLV hosts the 14-team IGT/UNLV Rebel Classic Nov. 28-30 at the Spanish Trail Country Club to conclude the fall season.

The Rebels swept last year's classic at the TPC at Summerlin, winning the team title with the graduated Ed Fryatt winning medalist honors.

Confidentially

Yours

Now Offering

72

American made  
Life Style Condoms

Only

\$29.95

Includes S&H

Send Check or Money Order

To

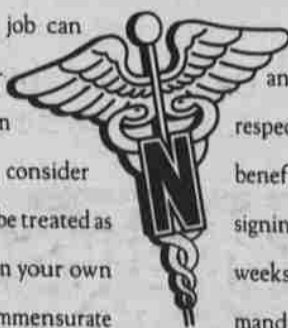
Confidentially Yours  
645 Southcenter #215  
Seattle, WA 98188

(Please allow 4-6 wks for delivery)

(Customer lists are not sold)

## IN THE ARMY, NURSES AREN'T JUST IN DEMAND. THEY'RE IN COMMAND.

Any nurse who just wants a job can find one. But if you're a nursing student who wants to be in command of your own career, consider the Army Nurse Corps. You'll be treated as a competent professional, given your own patients and responsibilities commensurate



with your level of experience. As an Army officer, you'll command the respect you deserve. And with the added benefits only the Army can offer—a \$5000 signing bonus, housing allowances and 4 weeks paid vacation—you'll be well in command of your life. Call 1-800-USA ARMY.

ARMY NURSE CORPS. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.