

Commentary

Jealous Wolf Pack Fans, and How To Survive Them

Eight thousand UNR fans are expected to make the trip to Las Vegas for Saturday's Battle for Nevada.

Eight thousand, screaming, Jeff Horton-hating, blue and silver-wearing, UNLV bashers. Eight thousand people. That's one fourth the seating capacity of Sam Boyd Stadium.

It's scary. And they will be in a foul mood. They're mad, because in 1996, UNLV is going to the Western Athletic Conference, while their Wolf Pack stays in the Big West.

They're mad because Las Vegas and UNLV are better known than they are. They're jealous of our economic growth.

They're probably jealous of our mega-resorts.

Northern Nevada's claim to fame? They have the Loneliest Road in America.

They're also mad because we keep referring to them as UNR instead of Nevada.

Yeah, calling them Nevada will really clear things up, won't it? Now, how should we pronounce that, Ne-va-dah, or perhaps Ne-vah-dah?

It's obvious UNR boosters, students, alumni and fans are suffering from a serious identity crisis.

And they'll be ready to take out their frustrations on anyone wearing scarlet and gray.

But there are ways a UNLV fan can survive the snide comments of the Chris Ault worshippers.

The Hottentots from the north will brag about getting votes for the AP and CNN/USA Today top 25 polls. They'll brag about being 10 point favorites on the underground line. They'll brag about having the Fremont Cannon the last five years.

A Rebel fan doesn't have to sit back and take the abuse.

Sportscene



JOHN SANTANA

There's plenty of ammunition to fire back.

It's inevitable some UNR supporter will harass a UNLV fan about the basketball program, most likely the expensive buyout of former coach Rollie Massimino and the recently completed

investigation by the state Ethics Commission into Massimino's secret contract.

But UNR isn't 100 percent squeaky clean. You can mention Las Vegas City Councilman Frank Hawkins, a former Wolf Pack running back who played for the Los Angeles Raiders.

Hawkins was recently found guilty by the city ethics board for ethics violations regarding a for-profit golf tournament he hosted.

You can remind them that UNLV won the 1990 NCAA basketball title and has been to four Final Fours while UNR has never advanced past the first round in the NCAA Tournament.

You can remind them that Randall Cunningham has had a solid NFL career while Fred Gatlin was cut in training camp by the Las Vegas Posse.

But if one really wants to torture a Wolf Pack fan, just bring up the WAC. It's a sore spot with them. They wanted to go so bad. And who can blame them? Most Nevadans, regardless of whether they're from Las Vegas or Reno, would rather see their team play Brigham Young, Air Force and Colorado State instead of Pacific.

But in the event UNR wins Saturday, you can still give exiting Wolf Pack fans some flak.

Remind them Gerg's back.

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

Ault

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own. By the way, the Rebel offensive might want to be extra careful when No. 30 comes-a-knock-in'.

Deshone Myles won't just open up one can of 'Whupass' Saturday, he's gonna bring the whole damn box. Don't say I didn't warn you.

The 6-3, 215-pound freshman leads the Pack with 128 tackles this season. Ironically, the Cheyenne High School (Las Vegas) product said he chose Nevada over UNLV because the Rebels "always lose."

I know you won't argue that point. I mean, how could you?

Nevada's defensive supporting cast has had a stellar season, giving up less than 133 rushing yards a game to go along with 21 fumble recoveries, six interceptions and two safeties.

The game will likely be over by the third period but even if we win by only a single point, the satisfaction of beating Horton and the Rebels will be more than enough to last northern Nevada for the year.

See you again Dec. 15.

Prediction: Nevada 71, UNLV 27.

—Jeff Crites is sports editor at UNR's student paper, the Sagebrush.

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Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. —Jeremiah 33

Horton Poised to Pass Wolf Pack

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to college rivalries, the UNLV-UNR showdown hasn't exactly been UCLA-USC.

But when Jeff Horton left UNR to accept the head coaching job at UNLV last November, the stakes were raised.

"By me coming here, it's turned that game into the biggest game every year," Horton said. "It was always very important in Reno—the game of the year. It was not that way down here. And I think that's why lately, especially the last four or five times they've played, you could see that. I'm the same guy on the sidelines

last year beating UNLV 49-14. When I said I was coming here, people probably did think I was crazy."

One person who openly questioned Horton is UNR head coach Chris Ault. Ault stepped down as coach to become UNR's athletic director and then made Horton his choice as successor in June 1993.

After Horton left UNR, Ault reclaimed the coaching position and proceeded to slam Horton in the media. Horton said their relationship hasn't been the same since.

"We don't talk," Horton said. "I saw him at the Big West media day. We were both cordial to each

other—very short. We're not going to go out and eat together or have a drink together. And if that's the way it has to be, that's the way it has to be.

"He's got a program to run. I've got a program to run. I have no hard feelings. He gave me my first opportunity as an assistant coach and as head coach. Maybe he'll never understand why I left, but I have to do what's best for Jeff Horton and my family."

Horton said coaching is just like any other profession as far as loyalty goes.

"People want to think football's different, because they develop

Please see Horton—13

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