

Commentary

Notes from the Corner

It's been two weeks since *The Rebel Yell* last went to press. A lot has gone down since then. Thanksgiving came and went, as did the turkey and tortillas back home in Barstow, Calif. But it's time to get back to business. It's notes day here in the Corner.

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The Nov. 17 issue of *The Yell* contained a column that had a lot of people scratching their heads. A guest commentary by Jeff Crites incensed a few Rebel fans. You see, Crites

is sports editor at UNR's student paper, the *Sagebrush*. And it's become tradition to swap columns with the

Brush when the football game between the rival schools approaches. In other words, my column ran up north while his ran in *The Yell*. He predicted the Wolf Pack would run by the Rebels, 71-27. He was right in one sense, one team did score 27 points, the 'Pack. UNLV, meanwhile, scored 32. Crites was nowhere to be found following the Rebels' repossession of the Fremont Cannon. Go figure.

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And speaking of the Battle for Nevada, who would have guessed the goal posts at Sam Boyd Stadium would ever be torn down? It was beautiful. From the beginning of the day when the jets did their fly-by, to the 20,000-plus rabid fans donning their red and blue, to the players, coaches, students and alumni weeping openly after the final gun, it was a major college football game atmosphere, and it was good.

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After such an emotional game against UNR, it would be difficult at best, to get up for the Kansas State game last weekend. Losing 42-3 to the Wildcats did not, in any form, take away from the Reno win. It just didn't seem right to play again so soon after winning the Battle for Nevada. That win would have been a great way to end the regular season and send the Rebels to Las Vegas Bowl III against Central Michigan. But even with the blowout loss to KSU, the call here is for UNLV to avenge its earlier loss to the Chippewas and win the bowl.

Please see Corner—12



"This is the greatest football game in this school's history. Absolutely. Bar none."

—Jeff Horton



Senior wide receiver Henry Bailey turns the corner against UNR.

PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

From the Mountaintop to the Valley

Football: Throwin' Rebels reclaim Fremont Cannon with classic victory over UNR before being dismantled by Kansas State

BY KEVIN LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

They say an act never wanted to follow James Brown at the Apollo.

The UNLV football team found that to be true.

A week after earning their first Las Vegas Bowl bid as Big West Conference tri-champion with an epic 32-27 upset of Nevada-Reno

at Sam Boyd Stadium, the Rebels ran into a buzzsaw in the form of No. 11 Kansas State. The visiting Wildcats mauled UNLV 42-3, leaving the Rebels with an overall record of 6-5. But the Rebels' 5-1 Big West mark enabled UNLV to gain the tiebreaker advantage over both UNR and Southwestern Louisiana and go to the bowl.

"This is the greatest football game in this school's history," Rebel coach Jeff Horton screamed after the UNR game. "Absolutely. Bar none."

The win snapped a 10-year drought of post season play for UNLV, which had not been to a bowl game since Randall Cunningham took the Rebels to the California Bowl in 1984.

This year's team was picked to finish eighth.

While the players held a festive pile-on at midfield, their fans tore down the south end goal posts (a \$1,900 keepsake) and then hauled the slaughtered sac-

rifice to the victors' party.

This classic of a game was highlighted by running back DeJohn Branch, 26 carries for 161 yards, who scored the game-winning touchdown with 58 seconds remaining.

The game-winning drive survived a fourth down and three situation when quarterback Jared Brown found the Rebels' 1994 Most Valuable Player, Randy Gatewood, open on a slant pattern.

Rossie Johnson intercepted two passes from the top-rated offense in the conference. The first stalled a scoring threat from the Wolf Pack while the second theft was returned 48 yards for a touchdown to put the Rebels ahead 23-14 in the third quarter.

Both players earned Big West Offensive and Defensive Players Of the Week.

But the celebration didn't last too long.

By the time Kansas State rolled into town, the Wildcats found the Rebels still sky-high from the UNR game.

"These players have never been through anything like this before," Horton said. "There was no way they were coming back down to earth after that (UNR) game. I'm still 7,000 feet up there."

Led by quarterback Chad May (126 yards on eight passes), the Wildcats had Thanksgiving leftovers with the running of J.J. Smith (34-227) to down the Rebels.

Smith rushed his way into the Wildcats record book by eclipsing Tony Jordan's 1986 mark of 218 yards rushing against Iowa State.

Mark "The Terminator" Byers gave the sparse Rebel crowd of 10,113 something to cheer about when his third sack of the game

Please see Valley—13

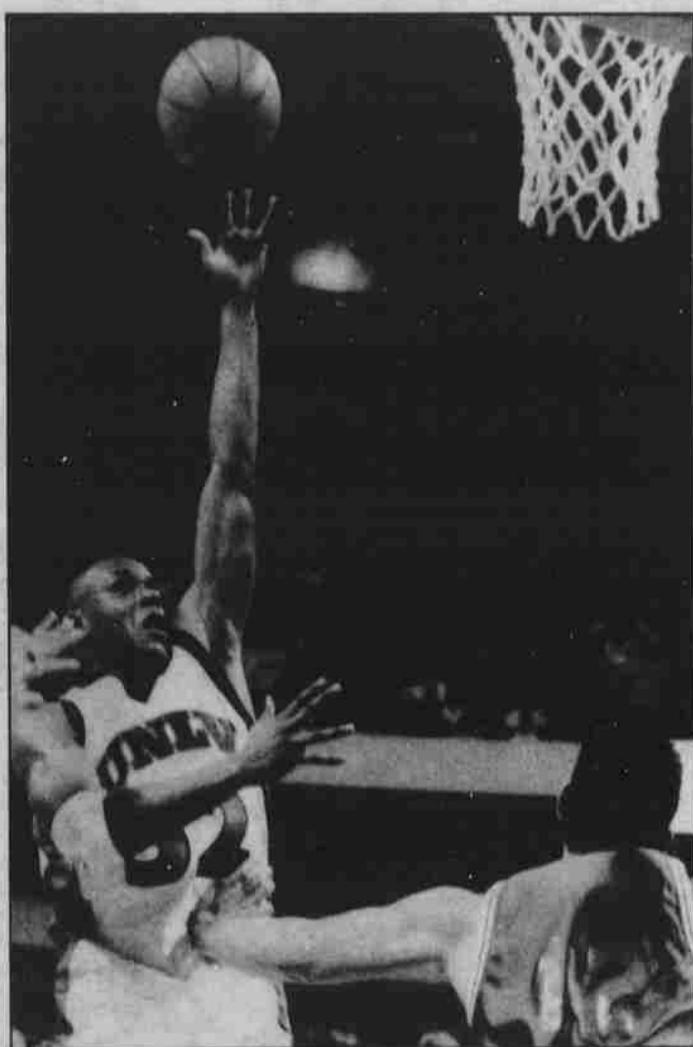


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY
Clayton Johnson goes up for two against Mexico

Runnin' Rebels Rally, But Come Up Short

Basketball: UNLV overcomes a 23-point halftime deficit before falling to Marquette in overtime

BY JOHN SANTANA
STAFF WRITER

At halftime of Monday's UNLV-Marquette game, the 13,325 fans in attendance at Milwaukee's Bradley Center probably felt comfortable their Golden Eagles would cruise to a season-opening win.

After all, the Golden Eagles led 42-19 at intermission, and the Runnin' Rebels shot just 18.5 percent from the floor in the first half.

But the Rebels rallied in the second half to tie the game at 68-



all, only to succumb to the Golden Eagles, 82-74, in overtime.

The marked the debuts of both head coaches, UNLV's Tim Grgurich and Marquette's Mike Deane.

"The first half we were ridiculous on offense and the kids knew it," Grgurich said. "We shot too quick. But the effort was as good as I can ask

Please see Rally—12