

Commentary

Lightning May Strike Sunday

The big game is upon us again—the battle for NFL supremacy.

The question remains—can the San Diego Chargers upset this year's NFC juggernaut, otherwise known as the San Francisco 49ers? Or better yet, can they cover the spread?

Well, I'm no professional handicapper, but I do think the Chargers will cover 19 points, or whatever inflated number is now being posted around town.

Oh yes, I am slightly biased, as I've been a fan of the Lightning Bolts since 1979. I've seen the lean years, and I've been burned before by the team, but it was all worth it to see my beloved Bolts in this year's Super Bowl.

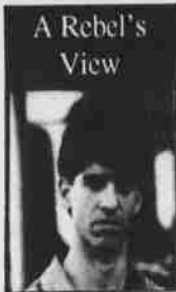
Go ahead and laugh. Say the Chargers don't have a chance in Hell. They probably don't, but then again, who thought they'd get this far.

Here are just a few things the Chargers must do to compete with the Niners.

First and foremost, the Chargers cannot turn the ball over, period.

The Chargers must disrupt Steve Young in the pocket. The Chargers, who finished second in the AFC in sacks with 43, didn't get to Steeler QB Neil O'Donell once in the AFC championship, and he had a career day. Imagine what Young, the NFL Player of the Year, will do if he has time.

The Charger secondary must close off the middle of the field. Pittsburgh burned San Diego all day with crossing routes. If Jerry Rice is running unscathed down the middle of the field on Sun-



A Rebel's View
SEAN DEFRANK

day—bye bye Bolts. The Chargers must control the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. They cannot allow San Francisco to run, while at the same time, they cannot afford to have a letdown by Natrone Means and the offensive line.

Look for the

Chargers to run Means between the tackles. The Niners have too much team speed for the Chargers to be able to run outside. The keys to the Niners' success in controlling Means rests with linebackers Ken Norton and Gary Plummer, as well as defensive tackle Bryant Young.

Linebacker Junior Seau must have another incredible game for San Diego. If he doesn't have at least 12 tackles, the Chargers are done.

The Chargers must win the battle of the special teams. Return men Andre Coleman and Darrien Gordon must come up big Sunday.

The Chargers have to score touchdowns. While they've been able to survive this season, greatly on the leg of John Carney, field goals will mean nothing against the Niners' high-powered offense.

Ronnie Harmon must be involved in the Chargers' offensive scheme. He must touch the ball at least 10 times, and he must be the go-to-guy on third down.

This is asking a lot, but if the Bolts accomplish these things, it will be the biggest upset in NFL history.

—Sean DeFrank is a sportswriter at The Rebel Yell.

Corner

continued from 11 counterpart with an elbow to the face.

"We're more sure of ourselves and of our press," White said. "We can go after it now and take chances sometimes."

The question remains. Have the defending BWC tournament champions (who have a bleak

overall record of 5-9 but are a game over .500 at 4-3 in conference) turned the corner?

"We're happy that we've turned it around a little bit," Bolla said. "Our work is still ahead of us but we're just going to take 'em one at a time."

—Paul Gutierrez is sports editor at The Rebel Yell.

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Rebels Kick Splash at Irvine

Swimming: A sweep for UNLV

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF WRITER

UNLV's swim teams continued their respective quests for Big West Conference titles last weekend as both the men and women earned victories in meets at UC Irvine.

The men dominated the Ant-eaters, 130-62, while the women won a three-way meet.

Freshman Kam Sengthavy and junior Calvin Weis led the

men. Sengthavy posted wins in the 50-yard freestyle (22.08), and the 200-yard backstroke (1:56.00).

Weis seized victories in the 100-yard freestyle (47.71) and the 200-yard freestyle (1:45.36).

Other men gaining wins were junior Matt Cardwell in the 1000-yard freestyle (9:43.78), sophomore Peter Buss in the 200-yard butterfly (1:56.48) and freshman Mike Mintenko in the 500-yard freestyle (4:42.80).

The women earned substantial victories in their three-way meet, destroying UC Irvine, 87-24, and Fresno State, 61-34.

Senior Xiaohong Wang was the swimming star for the women,

grabbing wins in the 50 freestyle (24.63), and the 200 butterfly (2:06.12).

Seniors Dawn Emery and Julie Mroziak also claimed victories. Emery triumphed in the 100 freestyle (53.48), while Mroziak posted her win in the 200 backstroke (2:06.55).

Other women with wins were junior Melissa Meacham in the 1000 freestyle (10:35.73), and freshman Jennifer Crowder in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:24.58).

The Splashin' Rebels travel to Washington this weekend to take on the Huskies in a dual meet.

Sprintin' Lady Rebels Compete in Reno

The UNLV track & field team participated in the Silver State Invitational last weekend at Nevada-Reno.

Sprintin' Lady Rebel Kamara Mayberry blazed to a first-place finish in the women's 800-meter race with a time of 2 minutes, 23.19 seconds.

Shannon Brick finished in second place in the women's

high jump at five feet.

Judy Fraser took third in the women's 400-meters with a time of 55.65.

In the women's 200-meters, sprinters Andrea Burnside and Fraser finished third and fourth, respectively.

Sarah Feliz raced to a second-place finish with a time of 11:38.78 in the women's 3000-meters.

Burnside placed sixth in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.58. Tasha Prothro finished first in her heat and placed third in the final standings with a time of 7:34.

The 400-meter relay team placed third with a time of 4:01.48.

—Kevin C. Lewis

Tennis

continued from 11 see time on the courts.

"We have lots of ability and the most talent of any UNLV team ever," Malmqvist said. "However, we don't have a lot of depth and with any injuries we could be in trouble. We have the potential to be a top 20 team."

In their first two meetings of the year, the Lady Rebels faced UC Riverside. They dominated Sunday, shutting out UCR, 9-0, with six singles victories and three doubles wins. Vallin, Stuart, Copano, Fylpaa, Kordic and

Vargas were all victorious.

Monday brought more of the same before the rains came as the team ran UCR ragged, beating them 5-0. Vallin, Stuart, Copano, Fylpaa and Kordic came

away with wins, while Vargas' match was rained out.

Undefeated after two matches, the Lady Rebels look good. Simply put, there's nothing more to say.

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