

Commentary

Notes from the Bench

First of all I would like to welcome everyone back to school, no matter how much most of you did not want to come back for another term....

It is a new regime at *The Rebel Yell* and I hope we can make this sports section as good as it has been over the past few years. Wish us luck, we are going to need it....

Off the Bench

MICHAEL
MELISSA

A sellout campaign is going to be announced Tuesday for the first home football game this season. Why do we need to have a campaign to sell tickets for a team that was last season's Big West Co-Champions and winners of the Las Vegas Bowl....

That loud, ear-piercing shriek you may have heard throughout the Las Vegas valley was probably from DeJohn Branch when he sprained his knee in practice and was told he would be out 4-6 weeks....

The second loud, ear-piercing shriek that you may have heard probably came from Coach Jeff Horton when he heard Branch was going to be out 4-6 weeks....

The final scream that could be heard more than likely came from Horton, and was born from joy, when he learned Demond Thompkins has come off the academic ineligibility list and will be able to play this season....

So the question remains, is the excitement going to be in the air or on the ground?

The first football game for the Rebels is Saturday against Rice. It is going to be shown on television, so tune in and yell at the screen as loud as you like when the throw-in/runnin' Rebels hit the field. Their first home game is Sept. 9 against Arkansas State at 7 p.m. I hope everyone is there, regardless of a sellout campaign.

A couple words on Mike Tyson ... like you haven't heard enough already, right? He still has the stare and the imposing ring presence, but does he still have the drive?

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A clean slate for UNLV soccer

Kickin' Rebs set to begin 1995 season with new look

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

After an embarrassing 4-15 1994 season, the 1995 UNLV soccer team is looking to reconstruct its team chemistry and return to its traditional winning ways.

This rebuilding process is under way, and according to Head Coach Barry Barto, "the players we brought in alone will improve the program. That is the starting point."

The players brought in to create this excitement are Lasse Anderson, Scott Graham, Michael Griego and James Guerrero. Their valuable experience will be needed for a competitive team.

Anderson, one of three European players on the squad, was a NSCAA All-American and record setting goal scorer at West Carrallton High School in Dayton, Ohio.

Graham, a junior with college soccer experience, comes to UNLV from College of DuPage in Illinois. He brings leadership and maturity to the line-up.

Guerrero, a NJCAA All-American, played last season at Ulster Community College in New York. He is a pure goal scorer who can be counted on to contribute to the attack.

"He is a hard-working, technically sound player who will give us that additional offense we lacked last season," Barto



T'Jon Atkins passes a defender in a scrimmage match.

said.

One key that will unlock the door to success is leadership. Most of the leadership will rely upon senior Coby Holt, who was UNLV's leading scorer last season. Holt should give the team quality play on the front line where he netted four goals in the last three games of last season.

One down point in the highly successful off-season was the departure of star midfielder Damon Bradshaw. He left the team for personal reasons, but his loss has not worried Barto.

"The loss of a player with his

ability will hurt your team, however soccer is not a one player sport and we have to play as a team not as an individual," Barto said.

Last year's team seemed to be hindered by a lack of effort and heart, but this season's team seems to be in high spirits.

Sophomore goaltender Dan Abdalla is positive that more effort on the field will make a difference. "This year's team has a lot of heart, we're all giving 100 percent," Abdalla said.

Freshman defender T'Jon Atkins has been very pleased

with the team's play since his arrival. "I'm real excited and we have a great team with good chemistry," Atkins said.

The team is using two daily workouts to put the pieces of the puzzle together.

UNLV opens the season Sept. 3 against four-time defending national champion Virginia. Abdalla believes this game will be a proper measuring tool for how the Rebels will compete this season. Another game where they will be tested is Oct. 6, when they face national powerhouse UCLA.



Centerfielder Sara Mallett circles the bases after hitting a homerun during last the regular season.

Lady Rebel Softball finishes third at College World Series

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

While the majority of students were off relaxing during their summer vacation, the UNLV Softball team was still working hard.

The No. 4 Lady Rebels finished their 1995 season with a trip to the College World Series in Oklahoma City, where they took third place. With that, the team put together the most successful season in Rebel softball history.

Although the Rebels failed to win the national championship, the team had a good showing. They won two games before being eliminated by top-ranked Arizona.

In the first game of the series, the Rebels lost a hard fought battle to Cal State Fullerton, 1-0. The Titans scored the only run in the sixth, sending UNLV to the losers bracket.

With elimination a game away, the Rebels had to step it up against Princeton. The Rebels struck early against the Tigers for two early runs, and held off a seventh inning rally by Princeton to win 2-1.

The Rebel bats came alive in the third game as they faced their next opponent, the Lady Cajuns of Southwestern Louisiana. They smoked the Cajuns for six runs, and a blow-out 6-1 victory. This win launched the Rebels into the semifinals against powerhouse Arizona.

The Wildcats put an end to the Lady Rebel season by crushing them 8-0. Faced with elimination, the Rebels put up an excellent fight, but just couldn't survive an Arizona eight-run thrashing. The Rebels were eliminated and sent back to Las Vegas.

As a club, the Rebels broke or tied 32 team records and 11 career records in the season. The Rebels finished the season with a 15 game winning streak as well as tying the mark for most wins in a season (49). The third place finish in the College World Series for the Lady Rebels is the highest in the school's history and it was the first

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