

# UNLV Soccer ready to stand up to first task

## Kickin' Rebs to take on four-time champs Virginia

## Barto Points!

BY RAY BREWER  
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV Soccer team is looking to get off on a quick start when they travel this weekend to Virginia to play in the Virginia Coca-Cola Classic.

They'll be trying to improve on their disastrous 4-15 record of last season, where everything went wrong and nothing went right.

After a rebuilding offseason that saw Head Coach Barry Barto bring in several new players, the "new era" Rebels will be first tested against defending four time Division I champions, Virginia. This will be a monstrous test for a team with only few returning players.

One concern of Rebel soccer is team chemistry. According to freshmen midfielder Casey Mays, the gelling process is underway.



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

"We should be in good shape by the time we leave for the Virginia trip. We've really

bonded in the past two weeks." Many teams who play Virginia are overwhelmed by the

greatness of their dynasty. The Rebels respect the accomplishments, but are not in awe of

their opponent.

"They're good and we respect the team, but we have to take it just like any other game," senior midfielder Bart Gallo said. "We can't go in thinking that they're the gods of soccer."

Players on the squad plan on giving one-hundred percent in the game. Casey Mays believes whatever talents they may lack against Virginia will be compensated for with huge hearts and desire to win matches.

"If you can't get up to play this game, you shouldn't play at all," Gallo said.

After facing challenging Virginia, the team will face American University the following day. If the Rebels defeat Virginia, this game will be for first place in the tournament. The team will need to be prepared to face the tough American squad, who will be in Virginia to earn respect for their young program.

The team has an optimistic outlook on the tournament, and firmly believes that they will shock the soccer world.

"It's a new season and a new year," Gallo said.

# Sam Boyd sells out for first home football game

## First home football game sold out

BY JEREMY E. MARTIN AND RAY BREWER  
STAFF WRITERS

UNLV athletic officials announced on Tuesday that the Sept. 9 home opener against Arkansas State is officially sold-out.

There have been 30,000 tickets sold to 150 businesses in the community.

Athletic Director Charles Cavagnaro was enthusiastic about the effort, "We want to sell-out all six games. The young guys will put on a show. It will be a fast-break exciting brand of football."

Head Coach Jeff Horton wants to see a sea of red at the game, reminiscent of the UNR

game last season. He noted that season ticket sales have doubled since last season, so excitement is in the air.

"We want to push forward and make good things happen, so we can move forward into the WAC," Horton said.

A committee made up of 16 community leaders spurred a grass-roots effort to sell out the home opener of the defending Big West Conference co-champion Rebels vs. conference foe Arkansas St.

The first and only sellout for a Rebel football game came in 1986 when UNLV beat Wisconsin 17-7. The attendance for that game was 32,207.

The Stadium Sell-Out Committee was formed to take advantage of the recent spark of interest in Rebel football. This was all brought on by a dynamic new football coach, a conference championship and a Las Vegas Bowl III win.

Each of the members of the committee were responsible for selling blocks of 100 tickets at \$5 dollars a piece with a goal of selling 2000 tickets.

The plan is similar to one used at the University of New Mexico in 1993 and was implemented with the help of consultant Kevin Kaplan of Albuquerque, N.M.

"We are trying to gain the benefit of long term support," administrative assistant of

football Terry Cottle said. "We want to get people exposed to Rebel football and build a fan base for the future."

A pre-game ceremony will include an unveiling of the Las Vegas Bowl champion banner.

Other promotions will include a pre-game tailgate party in the Sam Boyd parking lot, a half-time fireworks show, the National Anthem sung by Susan Anton and a half-time

jump from the Into the Fire Sky Divers who appeared as the Flying Elvis' in the hit movie *Honeymoon in Vegas*.

Horton believes that the program can compete with other entertainment venues in Las Vegas.

"The college football atmosphere is very exciting," Horton said. "We offer entertainment that is cheaper than the shows in the casinos with just as much excitement."

## Rice

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Kalu tied a Rice record last year with eight sacks including two in the Owls first victory against the University of Texas Longhorns in 28 years.

Senior Jared Brown will be the Rebel's starting quarterback, but he will share time with Senior Jason Davis.

"The way the game goes will dictate how much Jason plays," Horton said. "He will play at least two series."

Due to the injury of DeJohn Branch, who has ligament damage in his knee, junior Tony Burton will be the starting tailback and will split time with senior Shannon Wilson (formerly Shannon McLean).

Branch will miss 3-4 weeks and could be back as soon as the September 16 game against Eastern Michigan.

While awaiting Branch's return, Horton is confident Burton can get the job done.

"He is as quick as any back on the West Coast," Horton

said.

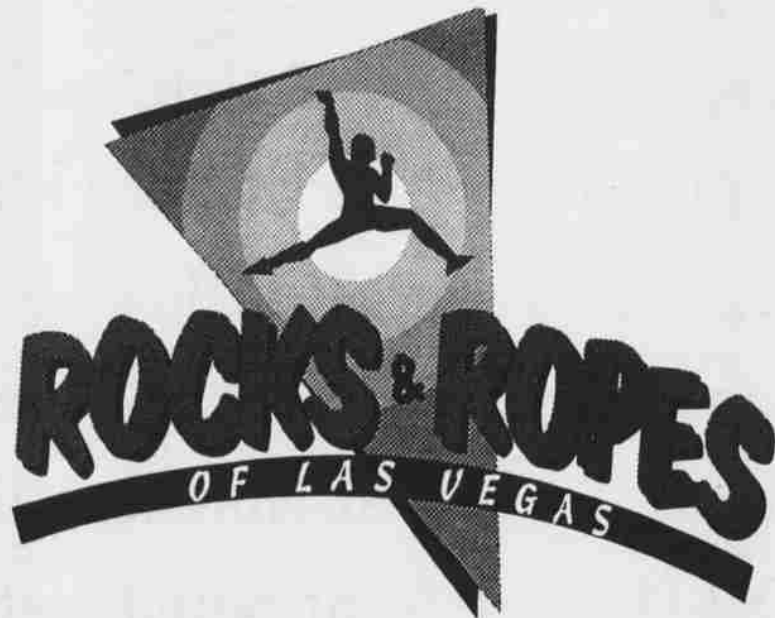
The return of senior Demond Thompkins after a year of ineligibility should provide some offensive firepower. Horton wants to get the speedy receiver involved with the running game as well.

According to Horton, Thompkins is one of the top three receivers in the conference and has a chance to break Henry Bailey's receiving records early in the season.

"Rice is a tough team who beat some quality people in Texas and Texas Tech last year," Horton said. "The game will be a real good way to start the season and to prepare us for some tough conference games down the road."

Walk-on Marshall Mathews got the nod from Horton as the last-minute choice at place kicker. Also travelling with the team will be freshman kicker Matt Rhea.

The game will be the first of three televised games this season. The broadcast will air Saturday at 5 p.m. on KUPN-21 (Cable 2).



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