

Commentary

Business of Sports

"Did you ever get the feeling that everything in America is completely screwed up?"

The first line said by Christian Slater in the movie "Pump Up the Volume," can also apply to sports.

Take a look at what we have around us on the

Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

sport pages. The NBA may not play next season because of a disbanded players union. Baseball went through a nine month strike, and nothing was ever settled. The NHL season was only a few hours away from being cancelled after a four-month strike.

Football is not even exempt from business problems facing the sport. Players have been complaining for a few years now about salary caps, and sooner or later this sport will also be facing a season cancellation date.

Why?

The money. What else? It is what makes the world go round, right? We live and die by the green stuff we call cash, and sports figures take more than most of us will ever see in our lifetimes.

Or even our next life for that matter.

It was not too long ago that these players were playing these games in backyards, sandlots, schoolyards and streets. At that time it was still a game to these future players, but now it is a business.

But it is not the players nor the owners who lose out, it is Joe Fan who loses out.

Mr. 20 oz. beer in one hand, a bag of peanuts under the arm, and a spicy footlong hot dog in the other hand is the person who gets trampled on when the stampede for money is on. Then, after the dust is settled, there is Joe Fan laying in broken heap in front of the ticket gate, trying to peel his Farmer John hot dog off the asphalt.

But the sports elite know, they conspire, they are all in cahoots, because no matter how much the players and owners argue they realize the fans will be back.

Sports fans are the nicest people in the world too. Not only do we support the owner by going to their park to watch their event, we also help out in paying the players

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UNLV faces Arkansas State in home opener

Throwin' Rebs hope to score in this week's game

BY JEREMY E. MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Rebel football home opener vs. Arkansas State Saturday at Sam Boyd Stadium raises many questions.

Will the Rebels bounce back from the 38-0 shutout at Rice? Will a receiver step up to fill the shoes of the academically ineligible Demond Thompkins as a deep threat? Will quarterback Jared Brown put his three interceptions against the Owls in the past and lead the team to victory?

All these questions will be answered at Sam Boyd Stadium Saturday at 7 p.m. in front of a sold out stadium.

The Arkansas State Indians, who did not win a conference game last season and went 1-10 overall, are returning 18 starters (8 offense, 7 defense, 3 specialists) and are coming off a 21-17 Big West Conference home win against Utah State.

"The team has 25 seniors—most of the guys have been there for a long time. They are excited about their win against Utah State. They are a lot better than last year," Coach Jeff Horton said.

The Rebels will have to focus on senior quarterback Johnny Covington who impressed Horton against Utah State. Covington, a three-year letterman, was the Indians leading passer in 1994 completing 85 of 185 passes for 830 yards and six touchdowns.

Stopping All-BWC honorable mention running back Corey Walker, ASU's best ground gainer, will be an important task for the Rebel de-

Knock down



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Alonzo Jones, 49, gets double teamed by Talance Sawyer, 85, and David Walker, 40. Rebels try to bounce back after getting slammed last weekend at Rice.

fense. Horton was pleased with the way the defense played the Rice running game and hopes that success continues.

ASU third year Coach John Bobo will be using a one-back set similar to the Rebels.

"Our defense has played against the same system all the way through camp," Horton said. "We need a good pass rush and we need to stop the running game."

In this week's practice Horton has stressed the red zone

offense and the importance of not turning the ball over.

The Rebels had the ball inside the 40-yard line five times against Rice in the first half and failed to score. They also

Please see Arkansas—14

UNLV soccer winless in last nine outings

Rebels blanked in Virginia

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV soccer team was handed two losses in the season opening Virginia Coca-Cola Classic last weekend in Virginia.

The two defeats set a UNLV school record for most consecutive games lost with nine.

The Rebels were completely shutdown as they did not score in either game, being shut-out 3-0 to host Virginia and 2-0 to American University.

In the loss to four-time defending NCAA champion Virginia, the Rebels were overwhelmed by the Cavaliers', being out shot 18-7. The Rebels allowed two goals on three shots in the second-half.

At the 60 minute mark in the game, Tim Prisco scored off an assist from Ben Olsen. Fifteen minutes later Virginia put the nail in the coffin

when Matthew Leonard scored off a dazzling pass from Mike Fisher.

The Virginia squad won the tournament by beating Boston College 3-2 in the tournament finale.

On the following day, the Rebels lost again, falling 2-0 to American University.

American started the scoring 13 minutes into the match when Domenick Alberto nailed a penalty kick. Their next goal came toward the end

of the game when Scott Pearson scored their second goal in the 75th minute.

For the Rebels, there is no excuses, they just were outplayed, forward George Pavlantos said. "We didn't finish our chances, we didn't put the ball in the net," Pavlantos said.

Pavlantos believes the Kickin' Rebels have the young talent to win, but it will just take time. "Hopefully with every game we'll improve," Pavlantos said.

A bright spot for the Rebels was that they placed one player on the all-tournament team. P.J. Roberts, who missed every summer work-out while playing on the Australian National team, was placed on the team for his outstanding play in the tournament.

UNLV opens its home schedule Friday night against No. 25 Marquette in the opener of the UNLV Rebel Classic tournament at Peter Johann Memorial Field.

MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION STANDINGS

Pacific Division
(Through Matches of Monday, Sept. 4)

School	Division			Pct.	Overall			Pct.
	W	L	T		W	L	T	
UCLA	0	0	0	.000	2	0	0	1.000
UC Santa Barbara	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	1.000
CS Fullerton	0	0	0	.000	1	1	0	.500
CS Northridge	0	0	0	.000	1	1	0	.500
New Mexico	0	0	0	.000	1	1	0	.500
San Diego State	0	0	0	.000	1	1	0	.500
UC Irvine	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0	.000
UNLV	0	0	0	.000	0	2	0	.000