

Bench

from 11 salary. It makes you kind of feel like you are being goosed by a red hot poker, right?

These are also the same players who would do the same thing as we do today. They went to the parks, shelled out five bones and rooted on their favorite team or player. But do they remember that now?

This whole thing goes much deeper than just the four major sports. It happens in Tennis, Boxing and even golf (but not quite on the same level).

So how do fans fight it? Is there a way to fight it?

Probably not. The sport magnates will keep feeding us the barrage of overpaid, overpriced sports that they have been giving us for the past thirty years and we all swallow it whole.

College sports is a way to escape the entire professional gambit that is rammed down the fans throat.

There are players in college sports programs who actually

care about the games they play. From football to baseball, basketball to soccer, these players give up what it takes to win the games.

We sometimes forget that the college athletes are working two full-time jobs. During the day they are the student; going to classes and taking notes, doing the readings and getting the homework done. Once night hits they are changed into competitive beasts trying to figure out anyway to win their games. But that is what makes college sports so much more appealing.

The athletes are not paid (legally at least), but they give 110 percent. That is what makes college sports special. The pride the players take in representing the school is the piece that is missing out of professional sports.

I can't say that all professional sports are evil. That's not completely true. There is some good in there. For instance, Cal Ripken, on Wednesday night, broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive games

played streak of 2,130. He did this all while playing on one team: the Baltimore Orioles.

Ripken's feat is not that great until you actually put it all into context. Ripken plays at probably one of the most injury prone positions in baseball, shortstop, and for 13

years he has played the game with a desire that is rarely matched by his peers.

He wanted to stay with Birds and when the Minnesota Twins offered him more money, Ripken declined and kept the same salary to play in Baltimore.

This is what is missing out of professional sports, the dedication and desire that is seen on the college field and in a few rare instances in the pros.

—Michael Melissa is the Sports Editor at The Rebel Yell.

Arkansas

from page 11 had six turnovers in the shut-out. "We need to finish off our drives, the key is to correct our mistakes and not worry about the other team," Horton said.

The injury bug has bitten the Rebels but the instances are not serious. Backup quarterback Jason Davis and linebacker Daniel Martin both suffered sprained ankles in the Rice game but both are listed as probable for Saturday, Horton said.

Starting running back DeJohn Branch is still out with ligament damage in the knee.

He is expected to return for the Sept. 16 game at Eastern Michigan at the earliest.

The Rebels are 19-8 in home openers and Horton is 2-0 including one win with the Nevada Wolf Pack.

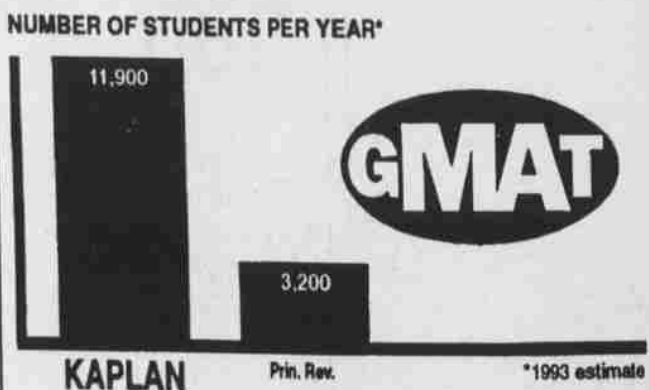
Over 30,000 commemorative tickets have been sold for the game by the Stadium Sell-Out Committee made up of 16 community leaders from around the city.

There will be a pre-game tailgate party along with special attractions and a half time fireworks show. The Las Vegas Bowl champion banner will be unveiled before the game.

"We need to finish off our drives, the key is to correct our mistakes and not worry about the other team."

—Coach Jeff Horton

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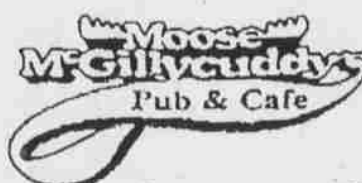
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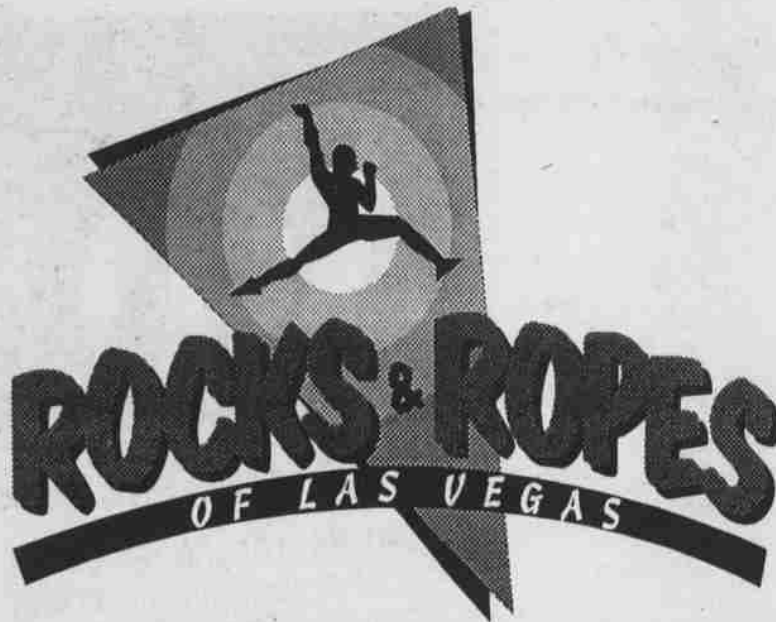
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