



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Rebels swarm onto the field to the begin Saturday's Arkansas State game at Sam Boyd Statium.

Pre-game

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Big West Co-Champion Rebels who rushed on the field behind the Rebel Rouser. The sea of red that Coach Jeff Horton was hoping to see was there, he just had to look a little harder.

The banner signifying UNLV as last season's champions along with being the Las Vegas Bowl champions was unveiled above the Rebels locker room.

This was all built up to the climax of the Into the Fire

(formerly known as the Flying Elvis) skydivers who were to bring in the game ball.

Sailing to earth in \$10,000 jewel encrusted jumpsuits and red, white and blue parachutes, the three skydivers also displayed the largest American flag ever while parachuting.

The first Elvi touchdown at approximately 7:10 p.m. with the football tucked into a small backpack. However, since the game had to wait for the pre-game extravaganza to end, the Rebels were given a delay of game penalty, allowing Arkansas State to kick from the

45 yard line instead of the 35.

"The FAA has to give approval to fly through that space, and there was a plane that was having fuel problems before hand," said Mark Richard, coordinator of game operations. "We had a two to 10 minute delay period, and we thought it might be a seven minute delay. We talked with Coach Horton, and we decided that since the fans were out there we would still go with it. The FAA has total control over these things."

The second Elvi missed mid-field and came down in the middle of the cheerleaders. The flag holder came crashing down around the 10-yard line a few seconds afterward.

The marching band and dance squad filled the field for halftime. The finale saw fireworks in Rebel colors filling the sky just as the third quarter was starting.

Soccer

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the lead for the remainder of the game, earning the squad a 1-0 victory, improving their season record to 1-2.

In the second game of the tournament, the Rebels tied fourth-ranked Boston University 2-2 in an overtime thriller.

The heated battle saw BU player Francisco Tasende receive a red card and be ejected in the 70th minute.

The Rebels started the scoring off early when Bart Gallia scored his first goal of the season at 8:59. Gallia scored unassisted off a BU defensive error, where the Terriers lost the ball in the back field and Gallia chipped it over the goalie from about 20 yards out.

However, the Terriers answered back, putting two goals in the back of the net. Nick Bone scored both goals for Boston off Rebel misfortunes. Bone's first unassisted goal at 18:23 came when Rebel goalie Dan Abdalla dropped a Boston shot and Bone was in the right place at the right time to put it away. The second goal by Bone occurred at 24:34 when Bone received a pass and was able to blow by the Rebel.

At the beginning of the second half, the Rebels got the equalizer, when Michael Griego netted off a pass from James Guerreo. Credit Guerrero for this goal as he dribbled through four BU defenders before making the pass. Also, Boston goaltender George Azcurra let Griego's floating left-foot volley go directly through his hands.

The match was knotted 2-2 at the end of regulation, forcing the game into overtime.

Towards the end of overtime, the Terriers dodged a bullet when the Rebels had an indirect kick eight feet from the goal. Rebel Brian Wilson ripped a shot, but the BU goalie had a lucky save, getting one hand on the ball, sending it over the cross-bar.

BU had no serious scoring opportunities the entire second half and overtime period. On the other hand, the Rebels missed goal chances constantly. The Rebels could have broken the game open with a little luck.

The Rebels dominated the game, but were still missing several close goals on various occasions. BU captured the tournament crown with the overtime draw to UNLV, beating the Rebels in tie-breaker tournament goals scored (BU +2 UNLV +1).

"Everyone knows they had two questionable goals, we should be tournament champions. We outplayed them." Rebel defender T'Jon Akins said.

Barto expressed his satisfaction with Rebel performance over the weekend. "I was very pleased with both games, we had two good collective performances.

"We stuck to the game plan, and did things we wanted to do that we worked on all week in practice," Barto said.

Despite the feeling of being cheated of the tournament title, the Rebel locker room seemed optimistic about the upcoming games.



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