

# Australian import an excellent addition

**P.J. Roberts  
captures young  
Rebel soccer team**

BY RAY BREWER  
STAFF WRITER

Ask anyone who follows the UNLV soccer team about junior sweeper P.J. Roberts, and you will get one answer: excellent.

A member of the Australian national soccer team, Roberts is currently the Rebels team captain and iron man in the backfield.

After the UNLV season concluded last season, Roberts left the states to join the Aussie's national team at the World University Games held in Fukoka, Japan. "I had to re-establish myself back home," Roberts said on how he had to get reacquainted with the Australian style of soccer.

In the tournament, Roberts helped his country finish eighth, after scoring the winning goal over Great Britain. The Australians were eventually eliminated by host Japan



P. J. Roberts decided to forgo a career in Australian soccer to play for the Rebels.

PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

in the quarterfinals.

Roberts is making a real sacrifice leaving his country to play for the Rebels. By not staying in Australia and work-

ing out with the national team, Roberts basically eliminated any chances he has to participate with the team at any Olympic or World Cup level.

"They told me that I need to stay there and play, and by coming over here, I basically ruin all my chances," Roberts said.

However, Roberts is at UNLV and doing a fine job anchoring the Rebel defense. "I really like it here, it's a good chance to get an education," Roberts said.

At UNLV Roberts is making a splash on the field with his exciting playing.

He has earned various honors this season for the defensive work he has done as a mid-fielder. Roberts was named to the Virginia Coca-Cola Classic All-Tournament team for his strong defensive play in the tournament.

For his play in the Snicker's Rebel Classic, Roberts earned a handful of honorable awards. First, he was named Defensive MVP of the tournament, then he was named MPSF Pacific Division player of the week. The most distinguished award came when he was named to Soccer America National Team of the Week.

Roberts shines off the field just as much as he does on the field. In the classroom, Roberts is ahead on credits, even after not attending classes last spring when he was playing in Australia.

## UNLV back home to face Hawaii

**Rebels hoping to rebound from a tough road trip**

BY JEREMY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels will try to get back on track Saturday when they return to Las Vegas for their second home game of the season to face the Western Athletic Conference's University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors, 7:05 p.m. at Sam Boyd Stadium.

UNLV, now 1-3 after a spanking at Iowa State University on Saturday, will try to continue where they left off, rallying 30 points to make what looked to be a drubbing into a somewhat respectable 57-30 final score.

For the first time this season, the Rebel's passing game worked with some efficiency. Jared Brown, in relief of starter Jason Davis, came in and threw for 244 yards on 19-of-28 passing.

Brown was named the starter this week against Hawaii.

The running game, which carried UNLV through the first three games of the season, struggled against the Cyclones. UNLV dropped from 20th in the nation on the ground to 41st, managing only 78 yards as a team against ISU.

The Rebel defense, which gave up a school record 586

yards on the ground at ISU, will face a triple-option offense on Saturday. Hawaii has an offensive scheme similar to the wishbone Rice used against UNLV in the season opener, a 38-0 loss at Houston.

"They use more formations and a lot more motion (than Rice)," Coach Jeff Horton said. "The (Hawaii) offense is much more complicated."

The Rainbow Warriors, who are 1-2 on the season, are one of UNLV's two oldest rivals. The schools played for the first time in 1969, the second season of Rebel football. Hawaii leads the series 8-3, but the teams have only played once in the last 11 years.

Saturday's game looks to be a high scoring affair. The average combined total when the teams meet is 55 with the Rebels averaging 23 and Hawaii averaging 32. The teams last met in 1992, with Hawaii winning 55-25.

Hawaii is coming off of a 42-21 win at the University of Texas-El Paso.

Saturday marks the return of running back DeJohn Branch, who injured his knee during summer practices. Branch will return to a crowded backfield with Tony Burton and Shannon Wilson.

"(Branch) worked hard on his injury 2-3 times a day," head trainer Kyle Wilson said. "He looked really good in drills. We wanted him to be 100 percent before he came back."

## Rebels find untapped talent in Gilmore

**Senior glad to finally get his chance to make a difference**

BY JEREMY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

Fifth-year senior receiver Jack Gilmore, 22, doesn't look like the average Division 1 college receiver.

He stands 6-1 with a 165 pound frame, has dark hair and an intense look in his eyes. A former walk-on to UNLV as a quarterback, Gilmore had his moment of glory Saturday in a 57-30 loss to Iowa State University, catching the first seven passes of his college career and getting his first college touchdown.

With his small size and self admitted lack of receiving talent, Gilmore has had to rely on sheer determination and patience to get his moment in the spotlight. His seven catches accounted for 62 yards and his 18-yard touchdown catch from Jared Brown has been called the best play of the football season for the Rebels by sports information assistant Scott Gulbransen.

"He has the least amount of talent out there but he comes out and works hard every day," Coach Jeff Horton said. "His performance (Saturday) was amazing. It was good to see him go out there the other day and make a lot of plays. He looked like an All-American."

Gilmore, who was named all-state at the quarterback position as a senior at Queen of Peace High School in New Jersey, has been banged around for five seasons at various positions on the team. He redshirted at UNLV as a quarterback then was moved to cornerback for two seasons.

Most of Gilmore's game experience came on special teams. When there was an open spot at receiver during the start of the Horton era, Gilmore jumped at the chance.

"I love to be out there as a receiver," Gilmore said. "I work my ass off to get a chance to start but those guys are great athletes out there—some of those freshman guys. There is nothing I can do about that, they are just more talented than me."

With many East Coast players being recruited to the college-football powerhouses, Gilmore saw UNLV as a chance to get some playing time with a program that could use him.

"I had to prove to myself that I could play



Jack Gilmore caught seven passes for 62 yards Saturday against the Cyclones.

Division 1 and back on the East Coast everyone goes to Syracuse, Penn State or Rutgers—those are some big time schools who recruit mostly for size. I guess I didn't fit the prototype of a quarterback back there. I like the heat out here so I thought I would give it a shot."

Some of his teammates have given him the nickname "Rudy," named after the Notre Dame walk-on who had a dream of glory to play for the Irish. Gilmore finds the nickname humorous but does not take it seriously.

"Because I was a walk-on and I wear #45, I just happen to fit the description," Gilmore said. "It is a joke, I am a humorous guy. I can take jokes. I don't play like him though, thank God."

Despite having the best college game of his career Saturday, Gilmore's thoughts were not on his personal success, but on the success of the team.

"I was hoping we would come back—get the team sparked up a little bit," Gilmore said. "I was hoping to pick it up a bit and be a leader out there."