

Commentary

Notes from
the Bench

Is it basketball season yet?

The football team probably wish it was....

I thought the Rebels knew they could score in the first two quarters...

Off the
BenchMICHAEL
MELISSA

Against both Iowa and Hawaii, the Rebels waited until the second half to start the game ...

It was good to see the quarterbacks in rhythm again. Jason Davis was 5 of 9 for 52 yards. Jared Brown relieved Davis and tossed for 244 yards in the Iowa State game....

Also nice to see the receiving corps getting into the game. Senior, and usual Special teams regular, Jack Gilmore had seven catches for 62 yards, the most in his career, against the the Cyclones. Kwame Coleman also stepped up and grabbed five catches for 54 yards....

The passing game for the Rebels turned the game around from a sick feeling in the pit of your stomach to something that Pepto Bismol could take care of....

On the other side of the field, the Cyclones ran for just 586. That's all, 586 yards, no more, no less, just 586 yards. Troy Davis, who was the Nation's leading rusher prior to the game, ran for 302 yards on 36 carries. The only time I have seen a player or a team rush for so many yards was when I watched Barry Sanders do it against Tampa Bay, in John Madden Football for Sega...

All right class, it is statistics time here on the Bench. The Rebels have given up 227 points this season (204 in their three losses, but who's counting?). They have scored 94 in the early going of the '95 season. My question is this, can you name the only other Rebel team to allow more while scoring less this season? The Rebel golf team, who shot a 858 and beat out the closest opponent by 20 strokes....

The Rebels are still undefeated in the Big West Conference this season....

To me the name Rainbow Warriors sounds like something that was in the Wizard of Oz....

How can the Rebels lose to a team known as the Rainbow Warriors?

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

Rebels get beat ... again

UNLV football
drops third straight
game to HawaiiBY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels lost their third-straight game Saturday, again in blow-out fashion, to the Western Athletic Conference's University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors in front of a crowd of 15,764 at Sam Boyd Stadium.

The game, a 58-30 contest, was not much of a contest at all. The Rebel's rushing defense continued to struggle, giving up 436 ground yards in the losing effort, just a week after giving up a team record 586 yards to the Iowa State Cyclones.

"It was very disappointing," Coach Jeff Horton said. "I thought we would do a better job. Their option attack was working and we were not tackling good."

"We have to develop more consistency," he said. "We have to stop three plays in a row instead of stopping two and giving up a long one."

Hawaii, who improved to 2-2 on the season, used their triple-option offense to perfection Saturday, lulling the Rebels to sleep before breaking big plays on them.

The Rainbow Warriors scored on their first possession, an 82 yard drive that was capped by a one-yard run by Hawaii quarterback Glenn Freitas.

Freitas ran for four touchdowns and passed for one against the Rebel defense.

The last play of the game, also a Hawaii touchdown, was a 73-yard interception return



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY
With 25 seconds left on the play clock, running back Tony Burton receives the ball in the Rebel's 58-30 at-home defeat.

of a Kevin Crook pass by free safety Gary Ellison.

Crook, a redshirt freshman and the possible quarterback of the future for the Rebels, saw some time toward the end of the game for the second time this season.

Crook completed five of seven passes for 49 yards and his first ever college touchdown pass, a 15-yard strike to Carlos Baker.

UNLV continued their trend of quarterback rotation, replacing starter Jared Brown with Jason Davis, and eventually Crook.

Brown finished with 121 yards on 13 of 26 passes. He was yanked in favor of Davis due to three interceptions and a lopsided score.

In all the Rebels had five interceptions which contributed to the defeat.

Commentary

Rebels have one foot in grave

Welcome to my clubhouse of sports wisdom!

The UNLV football team has one foot in the grave and the other one on a banana peel.

The 1995 edition of the bombing Rebels has illustrated how young and helpless they really are.

After all the pre-season hype, the "Throwin' Rebels" have turned out to be a big disappointment. However, it's unfair to compare this young team of underclassmen to the mature team of last season.

On offense, quarterback Jared Brown has thrown enough interceptions, 10, to age Coach Jeff Horton 20 years. Someone needs to notify Brown that the Rebels wear the scarlet and gray jerseys.

The defense speaks for itself, yielding over 45 points per contest. The opposing team needs two scorecards

The
ClubhouseRAY
BREWER

to keep track of their scoring against the weak Rebel defense.

The defensive line is non-existent with opponents rushing for over 300 yards per

game. On Saturday, the Rainbow offensive line pushed the Rebel defensive line off the line of scrimmage on almost every play.

Granted the team is extremely young, with UNLV having only 15 returners on both sides of the ball. However, if Rebel football has any visions of fielding a respectable team in the Western Athletic Conference next season, there must be some dramatic changes.

There is really no cure to this problem that has dismantled UNLV from last season's glory, except experience.

With experience we will become better, and the outcome will be different. For example, the young Rebel receivers will learn to run actual patterns, and not aimlessly around the

secondary. As for the immediate situation, they'll need to get traffic signs posted throughout the field so they can complete their routes.

With 50 percent of the season in the record books, UNLV should start beefing up the the vigorous WAC schedule they'll face next year.

A good chance to make a positive outcome in this otherwise negative season, would be to defeat UNR in Reno on Oct. 28. But with their current performances, it would be cheaper to just mail our prized cannon back to the Wolfpack.

Don't fear, the young Rebels will improve. The main concern is how long will it take for these freshmen to make a difference —hopefully by next season as we jolt into WAC play.

—Ray Brewer is a Staff Writer at The Rebel Yell.

"No matter who you play, if you turn the ball over that many times, it is hard to win," Horton said. "We really had a legitimate chance to win the game but we gave it away."

Crook will get a chance to start some games this season, if he can win the job in practice.

"Kevin will be given an opportunity in practice," Horton said. "He will be given a good look but he has to prove he is ready."

Brown was the leading rusher for the once-grounded Rebels. He ran for 60 yards on seven carries.

Hawaii, on the other hand, had four runners with more than 60 yards including a 139-yard performance by true freshman George Ornallas.

Three true freshmen receivers made their presence felt for the second game in a row.

Damon Williams caught five passes for 55 yards, Carlos Baker caught five for 51 yards, and Amar Brisco caught a ball for nine yards.

All three players, recruited out of California, have stepped up on a team that had no premier receiver.

"(The freshmen) are doing good things," Horton said. "We are making progress in that area."

The Rebels will join the Rainbow Warriors in the WAC next season.

The Rebels, who dropped to 1-4 on the season, have not scored in the first quarter all season and will try to get some points this week when they face conference foe the Northern Illinois Huskies Saturday.

Despite the losing record, the Rebels still have a chance for success. They are 1-0 in conference play with a five-game conference schedule remaining.

Winless trip
for soccerBY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV Soccer team dropped a pair of games this weekend to the University of Washington and Portland University. It was their fourth straight loss.

In the game against Washington, the 3-6-2 Rebels were victim to another late goal by an opponent.

With the score knotted at three, Washington scored the go-ahead goal with only 2:20 left on the game clock, giving them a 4-3 victory.

The second game proved to be no different for UNLV as they fell 3-1 to Portland.

The Portland (6-0-3) squad was too much for the young Rebels to handle, as UNLV was destroyed by the powerhouse Pilots.

The Kickin Rebels open up conference play Friday night as they travel to UCLA to take on the powerhouse Bruin squad.