

## Commentary

### A letter to UNLV football

Dear Sirs:  
I have noticed that the UNLV football team is mired in a four-game losing streak.

After watching Rebel football this season, I feel there is a need for defense on the team.

I know you have tried this season to play without a defensive squad, but going

Off the Bench

MICHAEL  
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into a stretch of conference games (four of the last five will be against your foes in the Big West) you may want to play a defense. I have always thought that it was mandatory that a football team fielded 11 guys for a defense.

I guess I was wrong. The Rebels have proven that a defense is not necessary to play in NCAA Division I football, giving up an average of 48 points an outing (289 total).

Now the team has scored 108 points, which isn't too bad, but none of those have come in the first quarter. The last time I checked, though, a football game was still four quarters long. They didn't just change the rules this week and start the game in the second quarter, did they?

If you did play a defense maybe then you would not give up so many yards rushing. 1,478 yards have been rushed against the Rebels. That's not a season total, sirs, that is a three game summary. Last time I checked, that was a heck of a lot of yards to give up in three sittings.

Not to mention the fact that when you played Iowa State, one man, Troy Davis, ran for 302 yards in two-and-a-half quarters. That is only one guy, right? There wasn't like a couple of guys rushing under the same name or anything, was there?

Davis almost rushed for more than the Rebels total yards in that game. So don't you think that it would be a good idea to play a defense? I think so.

Northern Illinois, a team that has been having their troubles scoring this season, also ran it up against the scarlet and gray. They had two guys rush for more than 100 yards each, and scored 62 points. Sixty

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## Rebels try to snap four game losing streak

BY JEREMY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels will try to snap a four-game losing streak Saturday when they travel to San Jose, Calif., to take on conference rival San Jose State at Spartan Stadium at 1 p.m.

UNLV, 1-5 overall and 1-1 in league play, is coming off of four consecutive losses where the team gave up more than 50 points.

Last Saturday the Rebels travelled to DeKalb, Ill., where the Northern Illinois Huskies embarrassed them 62-14.

The Rebel rushing defense again faltered, giving up 456 yards on the ground and allowing two Huskie backs to rush for over 100 yards.

UNLV's rushing defense and scoring defense are the worst in the nation.

In six games the Rebels have been outscored 289-108 and in the last three weeks the defense has allowed nearly 1,500 yards on the ground.

"We need to be much more physical and play much harder," Coach Jeff Horton said. "We need to wrap up tackles and play with more emotion than we have."

UNLV has also been held scoreless in the first quarter of all six of its games this season.

The Spartans, who will be joining the Rebels in the Western Athletic Conference in 1996, sport a 1-4 record and are 0-1 in Big West Conference play.

One team will have to give way to success Saturday because the Spartans are the BWC's last ranked rushing team with an 87.8 yards-per-game average. The Rebels are

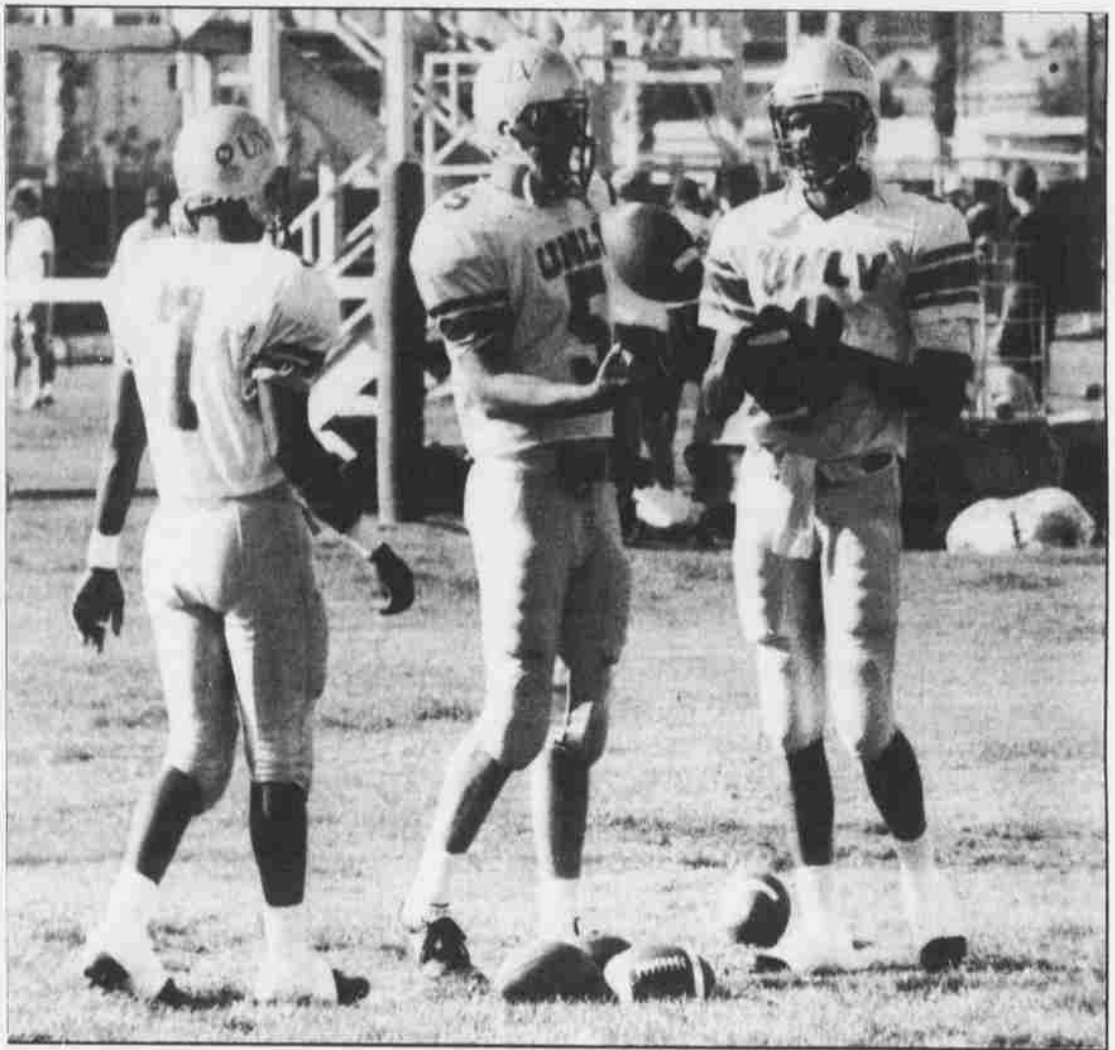


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Future quarterback Kevin Crook, no. 5, is flanked by Jared Brown, no. 7, and Jason Davis, no. 9. All three are waiting for the nod from coach Horton to lead in Saturday's game against San Jose.

giving up an average of 360.7 yards per game.

The Spartans are coming off of a bye week but their last game, Sept. 30, was a 32-30 home win against Utah State.

SJSU has had a tough schedule with games against the Huskies, Stanford, Southern Cal and California counting for the four losses.

The Spartans use an offensive system similar to the

West-Coast offense employed by the San Francisco 49ers, Horton said.

"They use multiple sets and formations," Horton said. "Their quarterback does a nice job and they have a couple of good receivers."

Horton stressed the importance of not getting behind early.

"We need to get our running game going to control the ball

and the time of possession," he said. "We need to start taking advantage of good field position and we need a big play. Maybe this will be the week we get one."

SJSU leads the lifetime series with an 8-5-1 record. The Rebels have racked up three consecutive victories over the Spartans, including a 23-10 win last season at Sam Boyd Stadium.

## UNLV gears up for rivalry weekend

### Rebels host Fullerton and San Diego this weekend

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

It will be a rivalry weekend at Peter Johann Memorial Field when the Rebels face Cal State Fullerton on Friday and San Diego State on Sunday.

The Rebels (3-7-3 overall, 0-1-1 in Mountain Pacific Sports Federation-Pacific Division) have not fared well against these two teams over the years. Against the Fullerton Titans, UNLV is 11-13-2, and when facing the San Diego State Aztecs, they are 6-11-3.

UNLV does hold an edge in matches played in Las Vegas. They are 8-3-1 against the Titans and 4-4-2 when facing the Aztecs. The Rebels have won three straight when playing in Las Vegas against Fullerton.

Both of these rivalries are the longest the Rebels have had in soccer and some of the best games were against these two squads. The Titans and Rebels have played each other

the tightest, with 18 of the 26 meetings either tied or won by a single goal.

Last season, the rivalries were played on the road with UNLV dropping both games, 3-0 to Fullerton and 3-1 to San Diego, a game the Rebels lost in overtime.

Fullerton went to the Final Four in 1993 with only one loss in division play. That loss came from the hands, or rather, the feet of the Rebels, who beat them 2-1 at Peter Johann Field. The Rebels have not beaten the Aztecs since 1992, when they won 3-1 in San Diego.

The Rebels extended their winless streak to six games after getting spanked by No. 2 UCLA, 7-1, and tying up with UC Irvine, 1-1. Once again the Rebels let a late lead slip away as the Irvine Anteaters tied the game up with less than five minutes remaining.

With five games left in the season, the Rebels would have to go 5-0 to grab second place in the Pacific Division. All three teams will be playing in must-win matches this weekend.

The Titans will be led by head coach Al Mistri, coaching in his 13th season and his 300th game at UNLV. They are led by senior midfielder

MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION STANDINGS				
Pacific Division (Through Sunday, Oct. 8 matches)				
Division Standings				
School	W	L	T	PCT
UCLA	3	0	0	1.000
Cal State Fullerton	2	1	0	.667
UC Santa Barbara	1	1	0	.500
San Diego State	1	1	1	.500
UC Irvine	1	1	1	.500
Cal State Northridge	0	1	1	.000
UNLV	0	1	1	.000
New Mexico	0	2	0	.000
Overall Standings				
School	W	L	T	PCT
UCLA	10	1	0	.909
Cal State Fullerton	8	4	0	.667
UC Santa Barbara	9	2	1	.792
San Diego State	4	4	3	.500
UC Irvine	3	7	1	.318
Cal State Northridge	4	5	2	.455
UNLV	3	7	3	.346
New Mexico	5	7	0	.417

Matt Bradbury who is having a strong season. He has collected 24 points on eight goals and eight assists. Freshman goalie Mike Forensich has also turned in a good first year with a 1.80 goal-against average.

Head coach Chuck Clegg is also in his 13th season at San Diego State, and with a young team they are looking to return to the top of the division.

Junior forward Aaron Susi leads the Aztecs in scoring with 17 points on five goals and seven assists. The Aztecs have also been going with a freshman goalie, Ryan Thompson, who has 1.58 goals-against average with one shut-out.

The Rebels will be led by their top scorer, freshman

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