

Commentary

Something positive in Rebel football

Six ideas and 14 crumpled up pieces of paper later, I have found something positive for the Rebel football team this season.

Have you noticed who has been catching the passes lately? Or who has been making the tackles? Or even last week's starting quarterback?

For the most part they are freshmen.

Players like Damon Williams, Carlos Baker and Quincy Sanders have been catching the eyes of the UNLV football coaching staff.

"They are getting better," Horton said. "These guys are playing two years prior to when they should be playing and they are doing some good things."

In seven games this season, freshman wide receiver Damon Williams leads the team in reception yards and is second in catches and yards-per-catch average.

While freshman receiver, Amar Brisco, leads the team with a 16.1 yards-per-catch average.

On defense, young freshmen have been emerging as the new starters for the future. Players like Bobby Coffman, Bret Gilbert and Sanders have stepped their games up this season. Coffman, who is listed as 5-11 and 155 pounds, has helped out in, or taken down 21 tackles this year, averaging 5.3 tackles in four games.

Gilbert has combined on 32 tackles and averages 6.4 take downs per game. Sanders has also added some pop in the defensive backfield with 21 tackles this season.

"These guys are going up against players who are 22-23 years old, and most of them are only 17 or 18," Horton said.

The player to lead the Rebels in the future, should be freshman quarterback, Kevin Crook. Last week Crook started his first game as the UNLV quarterback, going 8-16 for 97 yards. Out of 29 passes this season, Crook has been intercepted once.

At the start of this season, Crook has been billed as the quarterback of the future, and so far it is making the future look bright. Get some of these other guys experience, and Rebel football could be ready to take on the likes of the WAC.

Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

NBA shines at Thomas & Mack

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

He hung off the rim for a good five seconds after slamming home the ball over Los Angeles Lakers center Vlade Divac.

And for a second it looked as if he had a Runnin' Rebel jersey on.

For former UNLV basketball star Larry Johnson, it was like a homecoming. He has come back once before, back in 1992, and after his first slam that night he proclaimed to the packed Thomas & Mack: "This is my house!"

It was his house again Tuesday night.

The Hornets were introduced first to the crowd of 12,346 at the T&M. Johnson was announced last and immediately the crowd was to its feet with a standing ovation. With his right hand in the air, Johnson gave a number one sign to the fans cheering for him.

"It was a great reception," Johnson said after the game.

The last time Johnson played in the T&M, Robert Maxson was president and Rollie Massimino was basketball coach. This time, Johnson felt that it was a real homecoming. President Carol Harter welcomed him, and UNLV basketball coach Bill Bayno had him talk to the Rebels at Sunday's practice.

"I talked to the new president, and she is the best, most snappiest dressing president UNLV ever had. I met with coach Bayno; he is bright and adds freshness to the team. They have a good young team and a good bunch of guys."

Johnson pulled in 23 points as the Hornets fell to Lakers, 103-94. Laker forward, Cedric Ceballos matched Johnson's haul, with 24 points.

The Lakers scored first. Then Johnson took over; he took a pass from Kendall Gill and pulled up for a jump shot. He then rattled off six more points, putting the Hornets up 8-4 early on in the game.

It was run-and-gun basketball, and for Laker fans it looked like the showtime days may be back. A half-court pass from Divac to guard, Nick Van Exel, sprouted a Laker comeback in the second quarter when they were down by 12.

There was a second reason for showtime on the court, Earvin "Magic" Johnson was at the game. During a twenty second time out in the first quarter, the crowd erupted as he walked in from the tunnel. He waved to the crowd and took his seat a few rows up from the Laker bench.

So were there any differences between this homecoming and the return to the T&M in 1992?

"Yeah, we won!" Johnson said.



PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Larry Johnson drives to the basket for two of his 23 points

Golf Squad Travels to Bama'

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The Swingin' Rebels will return to action after a two-week break, as they travel to Shoal Creek, Ala. to participate in the Jerry Pate Invitational.

UNLV is currently ranked number one in the nation in the Rolex Rankings, and coming off a first place finish at the Preview Invitational in Oregon.

They are led by three-time All-American and Walker Cup representative, Chris Riley.

Also pacing the Rebels is the 1992 South American Junior player of the year, Gilberto Morales.

Other starters include junior Michael Ruiz, freshmen sensation Ted Oh, and senior Chad Campbell. These five players earned a spot on the roster for the tournament by defeating other Rebel golfers in qualification rounds held this week.

The team has been on a two-week break with no formal competition since the victory in Oregon. "A long break isn't easy," coach Dwaine Knight

said.

With this varsity team on break, it gave the second team or "gray team" an opportunity to get some playing time. They traveled to Oregon to compete in the Nike Northwest Classic collegiate tournament at the Par-72, 6,933-yard Trysting Tree Golf Club.

They had an impressive weekend, shooting a team score of 888, nine shots off champion Oregon State. UNLV finished sixth in the 20 team field.

"I'm pleased with the fact that they could have won,"

Knight said on the performance of the gray team. "They played against varsity teams."

UNLV was paced by freshman Charley Hoffman who golfed a 219, putting him in 10th place for the tournament.

Aaron Oberholser of San Jose State was the medalist for the tournament with a 214 total.

"Their performance shows the depth of this year's team," said Knight. "It's nice to not play key people and still be successful."

Soccer in do-or-die situation

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

UNLV soccer is in a must-win situation as they host University of California, Santa Barbara on Friday night and travel to Cal State Northridge on Sunday. The Rebels must win the remainder of their matches to earn a conference play-off berth.

The Rebels were defeated by the Gauchos 2-0 last season, but won four consecutive matches prior to that against UCSB.

The Gauchos are led by senior sweeper Patrick Griffin, who was the defensive MVP of the Washington Husky Classic. UCSB has a strong defensive team, and gets solid play in the net from freshman Stewart Sanders. Sanders ranks

fifth in the Far West Region with a 0.96 goals against average.

UCSB played in Las Vegas, winning the Coors Light Soccer Invitational on Sept. 16 and 17.

On Sunday, the Rebels will travel to Cal State Northridge, who triumphed over the Rebels 1-0 last season at UNLV. Matador senior Keith West leads the team with six goals in the last six games. He is second in the division with 25 points.

The Matadors will face New Mexico on Friday before battling with the Rebels. Their defense is anchored by freshman goalie Zoltan Nagy, who has a 2.05 goals against average.

The Rebels will conclude their 1995 home schedule on

Friday against UCSB. Prior to kick-off, the Rebels will take time to honor their seniors for their hard work and dedication to UNLV soccer.

"The seniors are coming close to the end of their college careers, that's a special accomplishment," Coach Barry Barto said. "All three players have made the program better, and it is sad to lose people you're just starting to know," Barto said.

The three seniors who will be recognized are Bart Gallia, Coby Holt, and James Mitchell.

Gallia is the only four-year Rebel on the roster. A Las Vegas native and former walk-on, Bart netted the team's first goal this season. He has eight points this season on three goals and two assists. For his

career, Bart has four goals and five assists.

Holt, another Las Vegas native, is a three year Rebel, coming to us via Philadelphia Textile. He is the Rebel captain, and a key member to the defense. The Rebels leading scorer in 1994, has started all 15 games this season. He has been held scoreless this season, but has accumulated 12 points for his UNLV career.

Mitchell, a Torrance, California native, is a third year Rebel. He has 13 points on 5 goals and three assists this season. For his career as a Rebel he has 19 points, which is more than any other UNLV player this season. Mitchell is a big target up front who played one season for Morton in the Scottish second division.