

Commentary

Crime and Punishment

It's not a day at the Bench for one reason, and one reason only, I am still recuperating from Wednesday's practice...

Six bumps and three bruises later I have

Off the Bench

MICHAEL
MELISSA

found something good to say about the Rebel defense — Paul Carrillo, Rossie Johnson and Marvin Robinson sure can hit, and hard...

The first drill I was put into on Wednesday was a running back drill where in three carries you have to get the ball 10 yards. Usually, though, there are offensive linemen in the drill to help protect the running back from those big bad defensive linemen. Well, it must have been lunch time for them when I was out there, because when I was handed the ball there was nobody around to protect me (now I know how Tony Burton and Shannon Wilson feel when they run the ball during games)...

My career rushing statistics: three carries for 33 yards. Give or take a few yards...

As a nose guard I was run up the field for 30 yards. Now I see why the Rebels are 1-6 on the season, for a guy weighing just 145 pounds, they only ran me up the field 30 yards...

I respected what the players do in practice and games before going out and doing this, but now that respect has been raised. They go through hell out there and receive only bad press for what is seen on the game field. The practice field is where it sometimes counts...

Although I did practice last week, and got pounded quite a few times, it still doesn't mean I can't pound them in the paper...

Its Nevada week here at the 'ol Rebel Yell, and the culmination of the week will be the battle for Nevada. UNLV against Reno this weekend will pit two teams that are complete opposites of each other. I will let you pick the opposites between the teams...

While the Rebels are 1-2 in conference play this season, Reno is 2-0 in conference and is dominating the rest of the Big West...

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Rebels keep play-off chances alive

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The UNLV soccer team is barely keeping their heads above water as they went 1-1 this past weekend against UC Santa Barbara.

To earn a conference play-off berth, the Rebels need to win their last regular season game against New Mexico on Wednesday and hope that Cal State Northridge can defeat UCSB on Friday.

The Rebels inched closer to the play-offs by defeating UC Santa Barbara on Friday. On the last home game of the season, UNLV took advantage of two UCSB ejections to capture the victory in overtime fashion.

This blood-bath of a contest saw three ejections and eight yellow cards issued. For the Rebels, senior captain Coby Holt was ejected for a foul play. And for the Gauchos, leading scorer Jason Deal and second leading score Jeff Johnson were ejected. Johnson's ejection in overtime proved to be detrimental because it gave the Rebels a penalty kick and a 10- to 9-man advantage for the remainder of the overtime session.

UCSB started the scoring off early as Ryan Schomberg headed in a cross pass from five feet out in the 13th minute.

The Rebels answered back in at the start of the second half when senior James Mitchell scored off a header from Brian Wilson.

The game stayed knotted at one for the remainder of the game, forcing overtime. Both squads were tense, since this

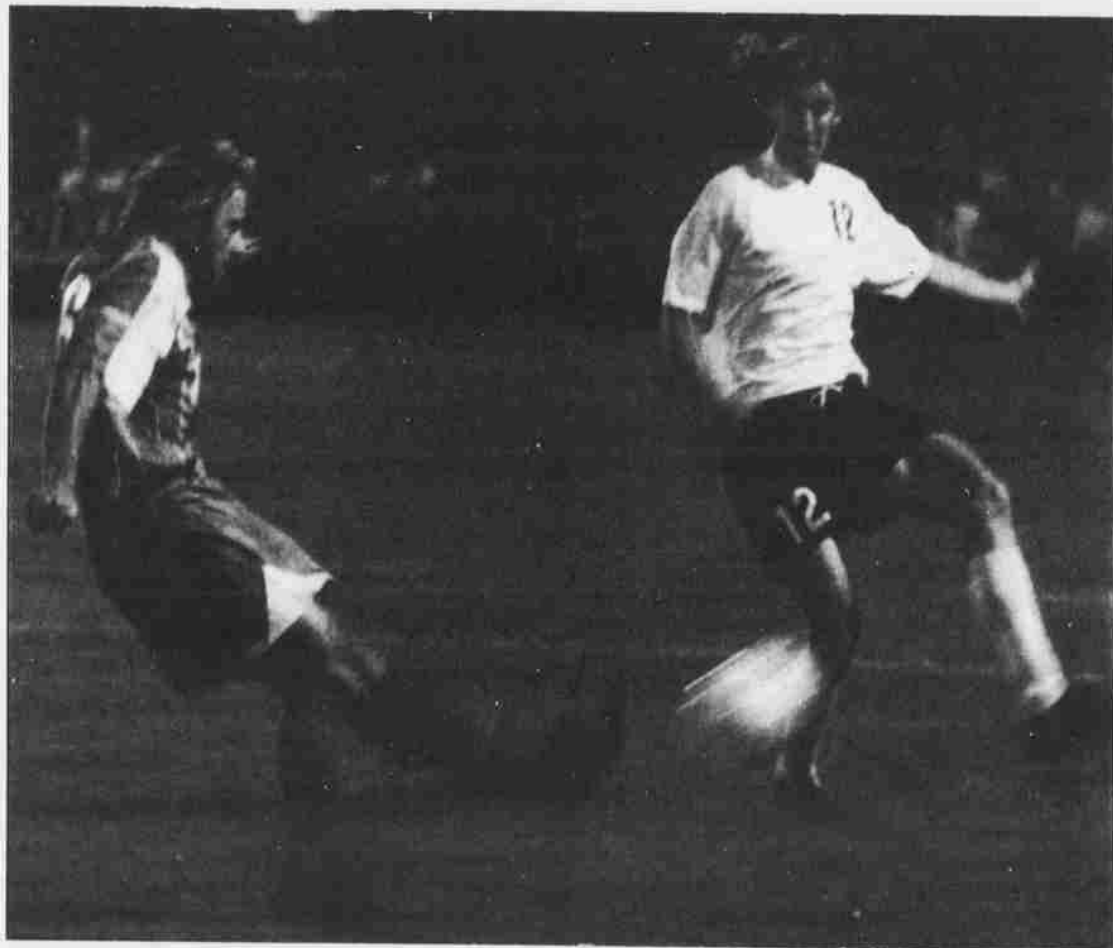


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Midfielder P.J. Roberts clears the ball from the Rebel zone in Friday night's overtime win.

game had heavy weight on who went to the conference tournament.

In the overtime, the Rebels caught a break when Jeff Johnson picked up his second yellow card by fouling a Rebel in the box. Johnson was escorted off the field, and Wilson netted the penalty kick to place the Rebels on top of the scoreboard.

The Rebels held off the threatening Gauchos for the rest of the match to earn a conference victory.

With the win, the Rebels moved to 3-1-1 in the Pacific division of the MPSF conference. The victory also increased the team's chances of receiving the conference's last tournament berth.

UNLV, which hasn't tasted the post-season since 1988, traveled to Cal State Northridge for a Sunday evening battle.

After a scoreless first-half, the Kickin' Rebels scored the game's first goal when James Mitchell scored in the 56th

minute. This goal gave the Rebels a 1-0 lead.

However, Matador superstar Keith West scored twice to put Cal State Northridge ahead. Juan Sastoque scored another Matador goal to secure the Northridge victory.

This loss hurts UNLV's play-off chances, but doesn't kill them.

With one week left in the regular season, it looks as if the Rebels will have to perform in crunch time.

Walking a mile in Rebel shoes

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

Don't do the crime if you can't do the time.

My crime: writing a scathing column about the defensive state of UNLV football.

My time: practicing with the Rebels.

From the moment I was hit for the first time Wednesday, I knew this was not going to be a fantasy camp for 40-year-olds. They were out for blood, and mine in particular.

I knew this was going to be a long day when they stuck me in the first drill. It was a running back drill where the object was to get 10 yards in three carries. Now usually there is an offensive line to block the defensive line, however, they were absent when I was handed the ball.

I guess somebody forgot to tell them that it was time for the drill.

Paul Carrillo, Rossie Johnson and Marvin Robinson were the three defensive guys who mowed me

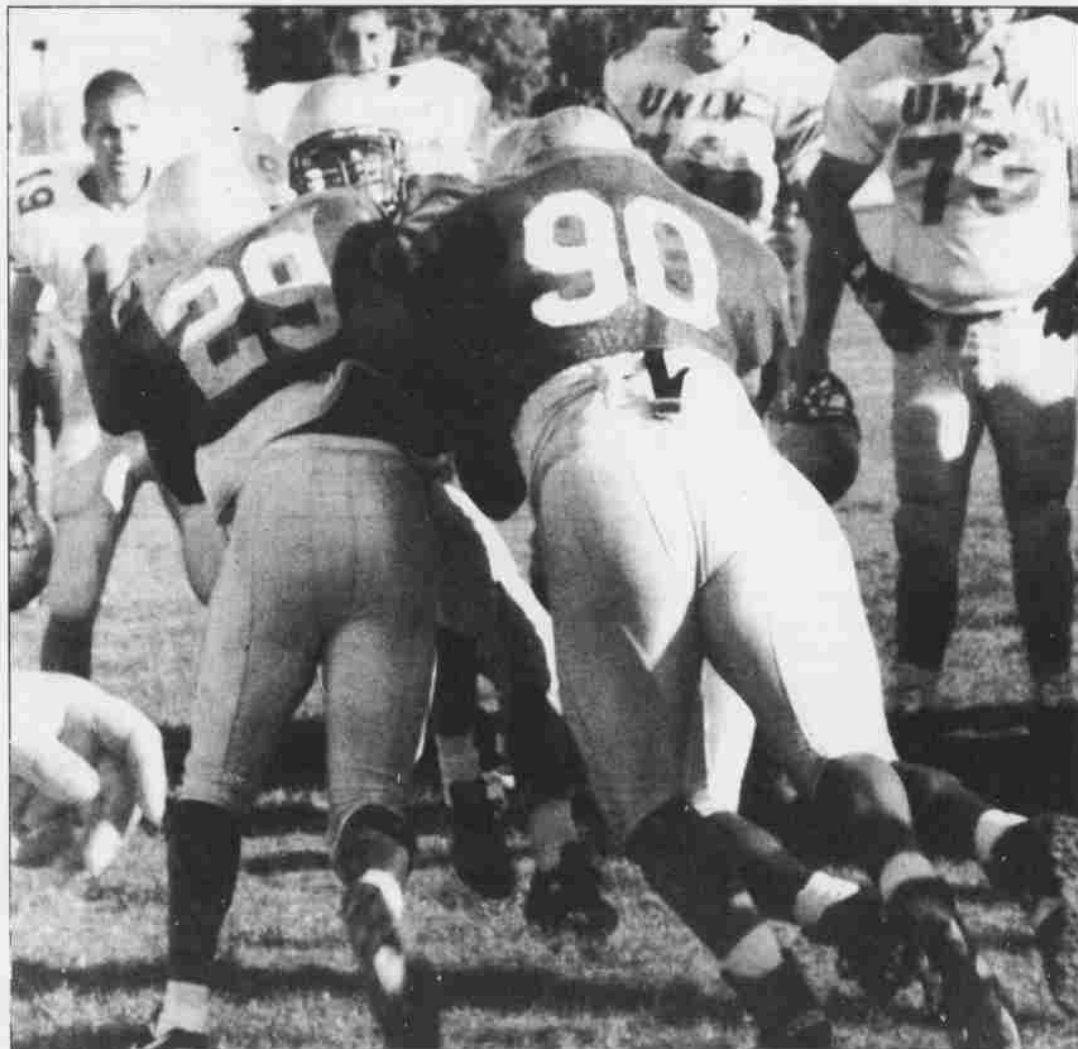


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY
Rebel Yell sports editor, Michael Melissa, gets hoisted and slammed by No. 29, Marvin Robinson, No. 90 Paul Carrillo and Rossie Johnson during Wednesday's practice at Rebel Park.

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