

Sports Schedule

A listing of events featuring Rebel sports teams and UNLV facilities

Friday
Rebels @ UNR, 1:05 p.m.
Rebel Cross Country @ Big West Conference Championship, at Irvine, Calif.

Saturday
Kickin' Rebels @ New Mexico, 6 p.m.
NBA Exhibition: Atlanta Hawks vs. Denver Nuggets, 7:30 p.m., at Thomas & Mack Center

November 3
Las Vegas Thunder vs. Minnesota, 7 p.m. at Thomas & Mack Center

November 4
Rebels vs. Northern Texas, 1 p.m. at Sam Boyd Stadium
Las Vegas Thunder vs. Utah, 7 p.m., at Thomas & Mack Center

November 7
Las Vegas Thunder vs. Atlanta, 7 p.m., at Thomas & Mack Center

November 10
Kickin' Rebels @ MPSF Tournament, site TBA
Las Vegas Thunder vs. Utah, 7 p.m., at Thomas & Mack Center

November 11
Rebels vs. Utah State, 1 p.m. at Sam Boyd Stadium
Rebel Cross Country @ NCAA Region 8 Championship, at Portland, Ore.

November 12
Kickin' Rebels @ MPSF Tournament, site TBA
Rebel Golf @ Golfworld Invitational

November 17
Las Vegas Thunder vs. Kansas City, 7 p.m., at Thomas & Mack Center

November 18
Rebels vs. New Mexico State, 1 p.m., at Sam Boyd Stadium
Las Vegas Thunder vs. Houston, 7 p.m., at Thomas & Mack Center

Mile

from pg. 9

down like a weed in a flower bed. I was a deer caught in the headlights when the QB yelled "Hike." He handed me the ball, but that did not matter because there were three refrigerators with legs running at me.

I took what they gave me and was thankful it wasn't more.

I climbed out of the hole I was slammed into by the three senior Rebels and did the drill again, and again. Then we were moved to another drill where, once again, I was pummeled and pounded with merciless precision.

Then I was allowed to have some water.

Next up was a drill in which graduate assistant, Dan Byers Jr. tossed a rather large ball that I, as the defensive player, had to stop. After the initial shock of the ball weighing more than me, I tried a couple of times to stop the ball's momentum. I was knocked back a few yards but the ball was stopped.

Then came the tackling dummy, sled, or whatever they call it. I geared up, dug my cleats into the dirt like a bull ready to charge a matador. I made my run at the dummy and tried to bury my shoulder into it.

I think it moved a couple of feet, I'm not sure, I was busy nursing my shoulder and upper body from the impact it made on me. I think that was when I realized Coach Jeff Horton had no plans in signing me up for the squad.

After a ten-minute break at the water tank, I was ready for more pain ... I mean fun. This is about the time I realized just how good shape these guys were in. Five days a week they are out there, pounding each other, getting the plays right, conditioning themselves against the hits and staying in top physical shape.

"The better shape you are in out here the more they work you," said Nick Jeppi, a senior on the practice squad. "They know you can do it so they make it double as hard on you."

Next up was one-on-one drills with Horton and a linebacker who was to cover me. Horton tells me to run flat to the left. I did so, and at about

eight yards up-field I cut quickly across mid-field, leaving the defender back about five yards. Now if I wasn't so weighted down with pads, maybe I would have been able to catch the ball that sailed over my head. Instead I leapt a whole six inches and watched the ball land 15 yards up field. I was still hit by the linebacker after the play.

Stick that one in the highlight reel.

I then was led over to the scout drills where this time I was going to be handed the ball with an offensive line in front of me. Byers held up a play list and said, "You're the black dot Melissa, just hit the hole."

No problem there, if its one thing I can find it's the hole. So they handed me the ball and I ran... until I saw three BIG guys running at me. I thought, for a second, it was a flashback, so I ran backwards. My run lost the offense about 20 yards and brought on another fit of laughter from the players and coaches littering the practice field.

"You have to run that way," Horton said to me, pointing up-field.

I did the run again, same pattern, but with a different result. Instead of losing 20 yards it was only a 10-yard loss, and I almost hit the hole made by the offensive linemen.

On the third run I made my move and got to where I was supposed to be, even though it was a few yards short of a positive gain.

My career rushing statistics: three carries for 33 and two fumbles.

The final drill of the day was

called "Protect the Quarterback," and I was the center, one-on-one with defensive lineman Damien Howard. The first play, I stepped to the side and let Mr. Howard have his way with the tackling dummy that was the quarterback. Many of the coaches did not see the humor in the spectacle, so they made me do it again, and again.

Howard ran over me like a piece of road kill, and I took the punishment, again.

It was scrimmage time, late in the day, and let me tell you, I was thankful. They gave me one play to prove my true worth to the team and the university. The position I lined up at: noseguard.

So I look across the line at a house with legs and smiled. He growled and then the ball was hiked. For a second I thought I was on offense since the center pushed me up the field 30 yards.

It was safe to say that I was not going to be making a tackle on this play.

Walking back to the locker room I told some players that my perspective on the team, and how hard they work, had changed. My respect for the players rose in a matter of two hours.

"I respect you a lot," defensive end Dominic Andrews said to me as we made our way back to the locker rooms. "You got balls of steel to come out here."

Hearing that from a couple of the players made it all worthwhile.

Bench

from pg. 9

To remind the readers, however, last season the Rebels were floundering (not as severe as this season), but came up with the biggest win in school history when they beat the Wolfpack 32-28 at Sam Boyd Stadium...

Will it happen this season? Probably not, but I am pulling for them to do it. They are due for a win after five straight blow-outs. Something has to give...

Hopefully the rivalry won't lose its pop next season when the Rebels are in the WAC and Reno is not.

Rebel fans who are heading up to the frozen north, how about chanting WAC every now and then to rub it in the 'Pack's face...

Coach Jeff Horton will need some sort of escort around him when he heads

up to Reno. I guess they are still a little upset that he took off for "Sin City" last year to coach the Rebels. Not to mention the fact that a few other coaches came down with him. For some reason Reno feels a little slighted by the whole ordeal...

Last time Horton was in Reno, he won...

He beat the Rebels... The "Bench's" top three college football teams: Florida State, Ohio State and Tennessee...

The most exciting team to watch this season (besides the Rebels of course) is Northwestern...

A headline I wish I would have seen after the Indians beat Randy Johnson and the Mariners in six games last week: "Cleveland Indians beat the Big Unit..."

—Michael Melissa is the Sports Editor at The Rebel Yell

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Part Time Job

Description: Sports Information
Schedule: M-F—1-4:30 PM
Sat-Sun—7-11 AM
Location: Charleston & Main

Last Week's Payroll:

Mike—\$605	Robert—\$310
Randy—\$400	Tracy—\$280
Paul—\$350	Charles—\$220
Doug—\$350	You—???

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