

Commentary

Beat Reno

Beat Reno!

That's all you hear around Rebel practice.

Beat Reno!
That's all you see in the Rebel locker room.

Beat Reno!
That's all you hear around campus.

Beat Reno!

It's

an epidemic,

everyone has the fever.

They are wiping their brows and chomping at the bit to watch UNLV and UNR hook it up once again. The battle for Nevada flares for another season.

And this year it means even more for both teams.

Last year the Rebels stole the championship aspirations the Wolfpack had by beating them, 32-27, at Sam Boyd Stadium. In front of 20,000-plus fans, the Rebels marched the ball down the field in the final two minutes and scored the winning touchdown with less than a minute to play. DeJohn Branch took the hand-off from quarterback Jared Brown and ran in the Rebels championship and Las Vegas Bowl berth.

Then came the mayhem. Fans stormed the field in jubilation and the goal posts came crashing down. The Rebels had done the impossible.

This year the Rebels go into this game with nothing to lose, because they have already lost plenty this season. They have everything to gain.

The task of beating Reno this season seems to be monumental for the Throwin' Rebs, more so than last season. UNR ranks among the top in many offensive categories and have scored more than 40 points four times this season.

They are only behind Florida State in total offensive yards per game this season and are first in the nation in passing offense. Quarterback Mike Maxwell is a pure passer, plain and simple, and ranks among the top with some of the nation's best quarterbacks.

But as last season's game proved, Maxwell can be pressured into making mistakes and that is where the Rebels will need to pounce. They can win this game. No

Off the Bench

MICHAEL
MELISSA

Battle for Nevada rages on

Rebels face UNR in rivalry match-up

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again. The Rebels travel to Reno Saturday for the 21st meeting with their most heated Big West Conference rival, the UNR Wolf Pack. UNLV and UNR are the only college football teams in Nevada.

The lifetime series, which started in 1969, is deadlocked at 10 wins apiece and the coveted Fremont Cannon will be traditionally awarded to the victor.

Saturday's game will be the last time the teams play as conference opponents because the Rebels are defecting to the Western Athletic Conference next season.

Redshirt freshman Kevin Crook will get his second start in a row in what is surely the biggest game of his young career.

Last season, in perhaps the most important college football game in the state's history, the Rebels hosted the Wolf Pack at Sam Boyd Stadium with the conference title and a bowl bid on the line. UNLV beat their up-state rivals 32-27 and received a bid to the Las Vegas Bowl. The Rebels brought the cannon back to Vegas after five years in Reno.

The Fremont Cannon, which is one of the most valuable prizes in college football, has traditionally been awarded to the winner in the series since 1969.

The cannon is a replica of the howitzer used by John C. Fremont, an early American trailblazer, as he headed west into Nevada in 1843. The cannon, which is valued at more than \$10,000, is shot off after every score by the team who possesses it.

To add fuel to the fire of the already smoldering rivalry, Rebel Head Coach Jeff Horton and UNR Coach Chris Ault have a bitter history.

Ault, who has coached the Wolf Pack through 19 seasons and resigned before the 1993 season to become the school's athletic director. He hand-picked Assistant Coach Horton to be his successor and lead UNR into the promised land as head coach.

Horton had a different vision.

After one year at the helm in Reno, Horton packed his bags and traveled south to Vegas. He depleted the UNR coaching staff—bringing seven assistants with him.

When Horton left, the Reno community felt a sense of emptiness, and bitterness toward Horton.

"(The Reno crowd) will be hostile, but that is good. I am glad they will be upset to see me because that means I've done something to them," Horton said. "If they were happy to see me I'd know I had not done my job."

With a brand new team full of inexperienced youngsters, UNLV looks to have its hands full with the Wolf Pack Saturday.

The Rebels have the ninth-ranked defense in the Big West Conference and the worst rushing defense in the coun-

Rebels to face Trojans in '97

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels will travel to Los Angeles in 1997 to take on the University of Southern California Trojans for the first time.

The Oct. 4 game against the Trojans will take the place of the previously scheduled game against Kansas. The Kansas game has been rescheduled from the 1997-98 season to the 2002-03 season.

In addition, the UNR Wolf Pack game, originally scheduled for Oct. 4, has been moved to Sept. 6, 1997, to make way for the Trojans. UNR will be the sea-

son opener for the Rebels.

UNLV, who is 3-6 lifetime against Pac-10 teams, will play a Pac-10 opponent for the first time since a 1993 game against the Oregon Ducks.

"We want to play teams of USC's caliber because it shows us where we want to be as a football team," Coach Jeff Horton said. "It will be a good measuring stick to gauge our progress as we build to be a team in the top 25. Plus, with the way we recruit the Los Angeles area, this will help give us more of a presence with the kind of athletes we need to bring here."

try.

UNLV will face a Wolf Pack team that is among the top in the nation in several different categories:

- They are second in the nation in total offense with a 590.4 yards-per-game average, trailing only the Florida State Seminoles.

- They are first in the country in passing offense and quarterback Mike Maxwell is first in total offense, passing yards and completions.

- Wide receiver Alex Van Dyke leads the nation in receptions with 10.8 per game and reception yards with 148.9 per game. He is also second in all-purpose yards with 197.6 per game.

- Tight end Steve McHenry

and receiver Damond Wilkins are tied for 19th in the nation for receptions with 5.7 per game.

- Running back Kin Minor is the 22nd best rusher in the country with 114.5 yards per game.

- UNR is fourth in the nation in scoring and 19th in rushing defense.

The Rebels are 1-6 with a 1-2 BWC record and are out of the running for the conference championship or a bowl bid. UNR, on the other hand has a lot to lose. They hold a 5-2 record overall and are a perfect 2-0 in Big West play. The Rebels can be a thorn in the side of the team that is the

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Michael Griego: Head of his class

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

The 1995 UNLV soccer team is extremely young this season and has even started four freshmen on several occasions.

The cream of the crop for the Rebel freshmen is striker Michael Griego. Griego comes to the Kickin' Rebels from El Paso, Texas, where he played for one of the top club squads, the Dallas Texans.

In high school, Griego led the city in scoring three consecutive seasons, totaling 100 goals and 75 assists. As a senior, Griego scored 31 goals and 30 assists in just 11 games.

He was named all-district and league MVP as a senior, and earned El Paso All-Star and all-city team honors from his sophomore through senior seasons. Griego lettered in soccer three straight years and graduated with high honors.

This prolific goal scorer was a member of the under 18 United States National squad. Griego, along with freshmen defender T'Jon Akins, participated on the Puma Cup South team, capturing the championship in the tournament.

Griego earned the Puma Cup Top Scorer golden boots as he slotted four goals in only three games.



Michael Griego evades defenders on his way to leading the Rebels in scoring.

PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

"The Puma Cup was a good experience, all those guys went on to good colleges," Griego said of his Puma Cup experience.

Griego is already making a splash at UNLV. He is currently leading the team in goals with nine and has 19 points. His point totals were greater than any other Rebel's

last seasons totals half-way through the current season.

Last week, he was named Mountain Pacific Sports Federation-Pacific player of the week for his two game-winning goals against Cal State Fullerton and San Diego State University back on October 13th and 15th.

Griego is known for his hard

work ethic which pushes him over the top during games. "I set my mind to playing hard. I want to play my hardest, and leave what I have on the field," Griego said.

While the Rebels continue to strive for excellence, they'll have Michael Griego to lead the way in the future.

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