

Commentary

War in Reno hurts UNLV

All that was missing from Saturday's game was the PA announcer saying, "Let's get ready to rumble!"

The rivalry between UNLV and UNR took a violent turn this past

weekend when the two schools battled it out before the game, during the game and after the game.

But not only did the two teams brawl on the field, fans in the stands became involved in many altercations, and even the Wolfpack mascot threw some punches at members of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity who were guarding the Fremont Cannon.

I was halfway expecting Hulk Hogan to be on the undercard, squaring off against Rick Flair.

Will next season's game be shown only on pay-per-view as part of Halloween Havoc?

Will there be obnoxious promoters with high, squeaky voices talking trash about the other team? Will Jeff Horton pull out a folding chair from some hidden corner and hit UNR coach Chris Ault over the head with it?

After watching this game, you could almost bet on it.

This incident went way past playing with high emotion. To go up there and play aggressive, emotional football was Horton's main focus in practice prior to the Reno game.

And the Rebels did just that.

About 45 minutes before game time, when both teams were on the field for pre-game warm-ups, words were exchanged between some Rebel and Reno players. The result was senior linebacker Rossie Johnson crossing over the 50-yard line to start the first brawl of the game. It almost seemed like the Rebels were trying to fire themselves up, which Horton denied, saying it was just the way things started.

But even before that, when UNLV was making its way through fans,

See Bench, pg. 12

Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

Two UNLV players suspended

Rebels will sit out a game for inciting brawls in Reno

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

Big West Conference commissioner Dennis Farrell suspended two UNLV football players Wednesday for the altercations that took place Saturday at the UNLV-UNR football game.

"While many were shown on videotape to be involved in the altercations, a total of four players, two from UNLV and two from (UNR), will be suspended for one game each for their role as the apparent instigators," Farrell said in a press release.

Rebel players named as the instigators were freshman strong safety Quincy Sanders and junior cornerback Jermaine Webster. The Wolfpack players were redshirt freshman Avery Cummings and Juan Givens, who is the cousin of Rebel quarterback Jared Brown.

Since Cummings is a redshirt this season, his suspension will be for the first game in which he is eligible to play in for the 1996 season.

Webster was a chief instigator in the pregame brawl, appearing to taunt the UNR players into the first act of violence, as seen on the video tape. Sanders initiated the postgame fight when he hurled his helmet at UNR Head Coach Chris Ault, and another altercation ensued.

Givens was shown on video as being directly involved with the violence that broke out in the pregame warmups, along with participating in the postgame fight as well.

"It was a tough decision (for Dennis Farrell) with UNLV leaving the Big West and in UNR staying," UNLV Athletic Director Charles Cavagnaro said in a press conference at Rebel Park. "I think Farrell took all things into consideration. I haven't reviewed the tapes yet, but I will review them totally, and also review the basketball games."

The conference office also expressed concerns over UNLV coaches having a lack of control over the pregame altercation.

"The conference office has concluded that the pregame altercation showed a serious lack of control of their players by the UNLV coaching staff to allow the players to cross over the 50-yard line and into the (UNR) practice area," Farrell said.

UNLV head coach Jeff Horton and his coaching staff were reprimanded for allowing the players to leave the assigned warmup area in the pregame incident which was accepted by the BWC.

"Furthermore, both institutions are being instructed to conduct an in-depth review of their football game-day management procedures," Farrell continued.

It was also discussed by both university presidents and Farrell that both teams should attend a campus-sponsored sportsmanship and anti-violence seminar. The BWC is asking for the two teams to conduct the seminars before the end of the season or by next year's spring practice.

"We are already taking steps to comply with the recommendations," Cavagnaro said in a prepared statement. "We intend to prevent this type of violence in any of our sports."

The Rebels are 1-7 on the season and are last among NCAA division I-A schools in



Jermaine Webster



Quincy Sanders

"I was appalled and dismayed by the actions of members of both teams at Saturday's football game. I do not condone violence of any kind at a sporting event, and I will not tolerate it in intercollegiate athletics."

—UNLV President Carol Harter

defense. It has been a frustrating season for both the coaches and players, but Horton denies that the altercations between the two teams were not borne of frustration.

Horton explained that the Reno fans were hostile because of his first return to UNR in a few years, but the Rebel coaches could have done a better job controlling the players.

"It was emotion-filled up there," Horton added. "You can only take so many bottles being thrown at you, or being spit on before it gets old. In no

way do I condone violence, though."

"It is healthy to have two schools in a state," Cavagnaro said. "It gives teams a reason to play harder."

UNLV President Carol Harter fully supported the commissioner's findings. "I was appalled and dismayed by the actions of members of both teams at Saturday's football game," Harter said in prepared statement. "I do not condone violence of any kind at a sporting event, and I will not tolerate it in intercollegiate athletics."

Homecoming square-off against North Texas

BY JEREMY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Rebels will try to build off of an emotional loss to the UNR Wolf Pack when they host the North Texas Eagles Saturday at 1:07 p.m. at Sam Boyd Stadium in UNLV's 28th Homecoming game.

The Rebels, who are 1-7, will face an Eagles team who has an identical record and a brutal schedule.

The North Texas schedule has included the likes of Kansas, Oregon State, Oklahoma, UNR, Louisiana State, and Alabama.

"They have played some tough people," Coach Jeff Horton said. "They will not be intimidated coming in here."

Jared Brown, who ran for three touchdowns against UNR, will get the start and hopes to take over where he left off in Saturday's game.

The Rebels are looking to snap a six-game losing streak where they have given up more than 50 points in each loss.

UNLV showed promise in its 55-32 loss to the Wolf Pack. UNR was the strongest team

Three more years for Horton

Coach Horton gets contract extension before UNR battle

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

UNLV football coach Jeff Horton has received the vote of confidence he has been looking for all season.

Horton has been given a contract extension that would keep him on the Rebel sidelines for three more years, through the 1998 season.

they have played all season and the Rebels were within 10 points in the fourth quarter. Horton thinks the team's performance is something to build on.

"The guys set a standard of the level they have to play at Saturday," Horton said. "We have to play at or above that level this Saturday. We need to play with the same emotion

and fire and play hard for 60 minutes."

UNLV is averaging 396.5 yards of total offense per game and its rushing attack is fourth in the Big West Conference with 177.1 yards per game.

The Rebels have not scored in the first quarter all season.

The Eagles, who are coming off of a 38-19 loss to Alabama, are a building team much like

the Rebels.

"They throw the ball well and are pretty good up front," Horton said. "They are a growing team like us. They have got some young kids."

UNLV is 17-10 lifetime in homecoming games but last year's 24-20 win against Louisiana Tech was the first homecoming win in five years.

See Horton, pg. 13