

Rebels

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Ault and UNLV strong safety Quincy Sanders exchanged words on the field and both men had to be restrained. When Sanders threw his helmet at Ault, a melee broke out.

"(The last touchdown) really bothered us," Head Coach Jeff Horton, who coached at UNR during the 1993 season, said. "The game was over but obviously (Ault) didn't think so. I guess you have to do what you have to do. What comes around goes around."

Ault has reportedly said the last drive was in retaliation for the pre-game fight but ru-

mors had been floating around the week before the game about UNR driving up the score as high as they could.

"Two wrongs don't make a right," Horton said. "You have to be more mature than that."

Despite the violence, the Rebels gave their best performance of the season.

With 7:52 left in the second quarter, Maxwell completed his third touchdown pass of the afternoon, a 46-yard strike to Steve McHenry, to go up 21-0. The game looked to be a replay of the many Rebel blow-outs this season.

Then the Rebels did something they had not done much this season—they came back.

UNLV running back Tony Burton had touchdown runs

of 20 and 60 yards to bring the Rebels back. A missed extra point and a failed conversion resulted in a 21-12 Wolf Pack lead.

After a 55-yard kickoff return by UNR's Alex Van Dyke, running back Oscar Galloway scored on a one-yard touchdown run to make the score 28-12 at half time.

True freshman defensive back Bobby Coffman intercepted a Maxwell pass early in the third quarter that led to a one-yard run by quarterback Jared Brown. The Rebels closed the gap to 28-18.

With 11:33 left in the quarter, the Rebels capitalized on a Jabbar Thomas fumble recovery, and Jared Brown hushed the Reno crowd with a

53-yard touchdown run. UNLV had come within a field goal to make the score 28-25.

The Wolf Pack passing offense, which is rated first in the country, could not be denied. Maxwell threw four more touchdown passes, including the last one which was intended to humiliate the Rebels.

Maxwell finished the game with 41 completions on 52 attempts for 552 yards and seven touchdowns. He threw three interceptions.

Van Dyke caught 18 balls for 230 yards and McHenry caught nine for 181 yards.

Despite the phenomenal numbers the UNR offense put up, the Rebels surprised critics who predicted UNLV would fall by 60 or more points.

"I thought the team's performance was excellent," Horton said. "We came out and competed. We made a statement and that was important to the kids. Our offense moved the ball well and we took advantage of turnovers. I am proud of our effort."

Horton, who left the UNR program on bad terms, asked for extra security the Sunday before the game, and it was needed.

Coming onto the field, Horton and the team were spit on and doused with beer by the UNR fans.

"You can only be provoked so much," Horton said. "The fans used every slur in the book. I would hate to see what would happen if there was normal security—there probably would have been a riot. After the game there was about a thousand people on the field. People that didn't even play in the game were getting involved."

Several other fights broke out in the stands and on the sidelines and security earned their pay.

Brown completed 17 of 42 passes for 230 yards. He ran for three touchdowns.

Burton finished the game with 137 yards on 15 attempts. The Rebels fall to 1-7 on the season and are 1-3 in Big West Conference play. UNR improved its mark to 6-2 with a 3-0 BWC record.

Saturday's game was the last time the teams will play as conference opponents. UNLV departs to the Western Athletic Conference next season but the rivalry will continue despite the league change.

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they were cursed at and doused with beer by many of the Reno fans.

"It was a very emotional game," Horton explained. "Once we finally got through the thrown bottles, the beer and being spit on, it was like a pressure cooker down there, and you can only hold yourself back for so long."

The Rebels were assessed a 15-yard penalty before the game started for unsportsmanlike conduct, the second time this season they have started a game with an infraction. The only difference between the two penalties was that the most recent one was not Elvis related.

The Rebels are having a frustrating season, which was evident in the melee that ensued after the game. Rebel freshman strong safety, Quincy Sanders exchanged some heated words with Ault. Then, while being restrained, he threw his helmet at the coach.

On one of the sidelines, Rebel players were seen pounding on a solitary Reno player. Along with that, many other minor brawls were seen all over the field.

Is this misdirected frustration?

I will say that Reno was probably as much to blame for some of the fights as UNLV was, but that does not give the Rebels permission to pummel opponents severely about the head and shoulders, does it?

Some restraint needed to be shown by UNLV in this instance, to let Reno know that we are better than that. The Rebels don't have to resort to physical violence to intimidate other teams, they should let their on-field exploits do that.

Well, maybe in the case of this season, that wouldn't work.

It can be understood that a player can only take so much abuse from beer-chugging, beer-throwing fans, but when the fights create more media attention than the actual game, it just brings into focus the already scuffed image of

UNLV. An image UNLV has desperately been trying to fix.

The pre-game brawl could be a result of the Rebels being abused on their way out to the field, but the post-game fight was nothing of the sort, that was just a lack of control on the part of the Rebels.

But by scoring a touchdown, when the game was already won five minutes ago, Reno brought some of the brawl on themselves. However, the BWC folks don't see it the same way and suspended Quincy Sanders and Jermaine Webster for their instigating tactics.

One last note: the Rebels were 30 point underdogs against Reno, and it was nice to see them play some of their best ball all season for this game. They played inspired and aggressive, proving that there is more to this team than critics are giving them. They may have lost the game, but they won the fight.

—Michael Melissa is the Sports Editor at The Rebel Yell.

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