

Sports Briefs

Philippi receives certification

The UNLV Athletic Department announced yesterday Strength and Conditioning Coordinator Mark Philippi passed the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist examination.

He became coordinator of strength and conditioning in 1993, after being an assistant for two years.

"I don't know if it makes a difference here," Philippi said. "It's good to have it and it's good for the school to have someone certified. There may be some coaches who may not be certified but are very good; then again there are some coaches who are certified and are

not so good."

Philippi went to school at Montana Tech, where he received a degree in engineering.

The five-hour examination is designed to identify those individuals who have acquired in-depth knowledge in areas of strength and conditioning.

"The test was much tougher than I thought it would be," Philippi said. "It was a six-hour test, three in the morning and three in the afternoon."

Philippi's colleague, Jim Cotta, is also certified in strength and conditioning.

UNLV night at Thunderdome

The Las Vegas Thunder Hockey Club and CSUN will host another UNLV night at

the Thomas & Mack Center Friday.

The Thunder (9-3-3 on the year) will take on the Utah Grizzlies for the second time this season. They beat the Grizzlies Saturday at home, 7-5.

The Grizzlies, who are 8-3-1 on the season, is coached by former Thunder Butch Goring. Goring was the head man for the Thunder in their inaugural season, and led them to the first round of the playoffs.

Friday is also Thunder Mascot Boom Boom's birthday and there will be a celebration during the period breaks.

Tickets will be on sale through Thursday at a discount rate of \$3 for students, at the student government office.

Tickets on sale for Las Vegas Bowl

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

Tickets are on sale at the Thomas & Mack ticket office for Las Vegas Bowl IV at Sam Boyd stadium on Dec. 14.

The bowl game will feature the Big West Conference champion against the Mid-American Conference champion, and is the first bowl game in the college football postseason.

Last season UNLV took the BWC crown after a stunning upset over the UNR Wolf Pack, 32-27, giving the Rebels their first bowl appearance in 10 years. The Rebels last bowl appearance was when they beat Toledo, 30-13, in the 1984 California Bowl in Fresno, Calif. They went on to pound the Central Michigan Chipewas, 55-24, in last year's game.

The victory avenged a defeat earlier in the season, when the Rebels fell to the Chipewas, 35-23.

The Rebels have already been eliminated from the bowl picture this season. They are 2-7 overall and 1-3 in the BWC.

With two more games left in the season UNR is atop the Big West standings at 4-0, and 7-2 overall. The MAC leader is Toledo at 5-0-1 in conference and 8-0-1 overall.

Along with the game, there will be other bowl-related activities going on in the community, including a welcome reception for the two teams at the Fremont Street Experience, a pep rally and kick-off luncheon at the Riviera Hotel and the Las Vegas Bowl IV Tailgate party at Sam Boyd Stadium.

Tickets can be obtained through the T & M or by calling TicketMaster at 474-4000. Reserved seating is \$30 and general admission is \$10. There are no discounts for students.

Soccer looking to the future

BY RAY BREWER
STAFF WRITER

Youth, inexperience, and misfortune are all appropriate adjectives to describe the 1995 UNLV Soccer team.

This season was like a saw-saw, down, then up, and back down again.

"We really got it going for five games, but couldn't stay consistent," coach Barry Barto said on this season's play.

The Rebels had their third consecutive losing season, finishing with a record of 6-9-3. Dating back to last year, UNLV has lost 13 straight

games on the road.

"We're already in the process of getting better for next year," Barto said.

The Rebels showed their lack of experience at the end of several matches with defensive collapses that cost the team at least five games.

"A team that showed its lack of experience," is how Barto describes his 1995 squad.

However, there is hope for the future. The first being freshman striker Michael Griego who led the team with 11 goals and 23 points.

Toward the end of the season, the squad began to gel together, winning three conference games in crunch time.

The Kickin' Rebels got solid freshman play from these leaders of the future: T'Jon Akins, Kiko Medina, and Michael Griego.

Akins started every game at defender, and aggressively led the back line in defending the goal.

Medina used his excellent sense of passing to set up numerous goals for the Rebels. He'll be a mainstay in the midfield for the next three years.

Australian import P.J. Roberts will be back for next season. This season's captain and team enforcer, Roberts played a strong sweeper. His experience will be needed for next season if the Rebels have any hopes of making the play-offs.

The 1995 season could have all been different. The Rebels were an unlucky bounce or mental error away from a good season.

"We weren't fortunate to put chances away," said Barto.

With a young team, the future looks bright.

Bench

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I was half expecting the players to be suspended for the rest of the season. Maybe they should have in order to get the message across to the rest of the country. One game suspensions won't do that...

Quote of the week, by Coach Jeff Horton on finally scoring in the first half: "The San Diego Zoo is going to be looking for us for all the monkeys we got off our backs today..."

Quote of the week number two, by Horton once again: "It was nice to be ahead at the half for once and give a different kind of speech..."

The running game for the Rebels had all but disappeared during the road swing, but the last two weeks it has reared its fierce head to the tune of 506 yards in the last two games, most of those by Tony Burton...

When did the Rebels acquire Ronnie Lott? What? Oh, that was Marvin Robinson slamming into Eagle players on Saturday...

Hey didn't you used to be Tommy "The Duke" Morrison?

After some deep down, investigative journalism, I found out the reason why Riddick Bowe was having trouble getting his gloves on. No it was not to stall for time, it was because O.J. Simpson had given him a new pair, and for some reason they did not fit right...

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

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