

Bench

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attending classes, Kebu Stewart nowhere to be found and also accepting a pair of shoes along with Sunshine Smith.

Now there is nothing. Kind of a change for UNLV basketball, eh?

The football team has more things going on than the basketball team, which last time I checked, had never happened at this here university.

That must be some sort of record.

The only thing I could see the Rebels worrying about right now, is their lack of size in their front three. But that should be cured if two of the three recruits sign with UNLV today. Keon Clark is a 6'11" center and Issiah Epps is a 6'10" forward and hopefully will add some power to a team that is lacking it.

They are going to be running the ball up and down that court with this speedy crew, however. Much like the days of Johnson, Augmon, Greg Anthony and Anderson Hunt, this team will have opponents spinning their heads, saying "which way did he go, George? Which way did he go?"

So while the Rebels are flying down the hardwood of the T & M, us, here, at *The Rebel Yell*, will be patiently waiting with pad, pencil and tape recorder for something juicy to happen in the basketball program.

Then again maybe nothing will happen and we will be reporting on the Runnin' Rebels in the post season.

That wouldn't be so bad either.

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

Tourney

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Also, the Rebels will get a chance to move ahead of Oklahoma State in the polls, who will also be in South Carolina.

The squad posts a 19-2-0 record against teams in the top 20. In three tournaments this year, the Rebels have won one and finished in the top three as a team in the other competitions.

Individually, Chris Riley will look to steal the spotlight from Woods and improve on the third place finish he had in the Jerry Pate Invitational.

Aggies

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looking to close out the season with three straight home wins.

With a rejuvenated running game, a passing game with increased confidence and a young defense that has earned its stripes, The Rebels look to close out the season on a high note.

"It will mean a lot for us to win," Coach Jeff Horton

said. "We can send our seniors out feeling good about themselves and we can give our younger players confidence going into our off-season programs."

Jared Brown will get the start at quarterback. He has completed two straight games, a Rebel first this season.

The Rebels are banking on their running game, which is ranked third in the Big West Conference. Tony Burton is coming off two consecutive 100-yard games and the Bur-

ton-Shannon Wilson combo is the first tandem to gain 100 yards each in a game last week since 1990.

Burton also has a chance to be the first Rebel runner to have three consecutive 100-yard games since 1990.

USU has two of the Big West's most potent offensive weapons in runningback Abu Wilson and wide receiver Kevin Alexander. Wilson is 12th in the nation running the ball with a 124.7 yards per game average and Alexander

set a school record last week against UNR with 13 receptions for 216 yards.

Horton believes that defense is the key to a win.

"It starts up front with the front seven," he said. "They have shut down the run two weeks in a row. With Quincy (Sanders) and Jermaine (Webster) back from suspensions, we have six defensive backs we feel good with."

The Aggies lead the all-time series 9-5.

Rebel

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always trying to help each other out," Burton said.

Burton has started three games this season, against Rice, UNR and North Texas.

Burton transferred to UNLV from Palomar Junior College in San Marcos, Calif. At Palomar he was a two-year starter and ran for over 1,000 yards in each of his two seasons. He had a total of 37 touchdowns dur-

ing the span, and was voted the team's most valuable player in 1992 and the offensive MVP in 1993.

Burton led Palomar to a 21-1 two-year record and the team captured the Junior College National Championship in 1993 with a 27-25 victory over San Francisco City College.

"The championship was like a miniature Reno game," Burton said. "It had the same kind of hoopla, but not as many people. There were a lot of people booing us. It was the same kind of hype."

Making the transition from

a winning program to a struggling program has been tough for Burton.

"Last year I red-shirted and we won the conference. This year has been a big blow," Burton said. "We still need to mature, but we will be all right. We have been playing some good games but we need to come up with the victories. It should get better for our last two games and next year."

UNLV was his choice because of its proximity to his hometown of Fallbrook, Calif., and the Rebels entrance into the Western Athletic Con-

ference starting next season.

People who know Rebel Football know Burton is not into talking trash.

"He is a great person," Horton said. "He is very quiet. It took him a whole year just to crack a smile. I think this year he feels like a part of the team and his personality is starting to come out."

Burton has the chance to become the first Rebel runningback since 1990 to run for three consecutive 100-yard games.

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