

Point guard solution for Runnin' Rebels

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

It seemed like UNLV basketball coach Bill Bayno had to search the world over for that illusive point guard spot. Well, he almost had to.

UNLV is expected to sign New Zealander Mark Dickel to play basketball and fill the vacant hole at point guard. A spot which was a problem for the Rebels last season.

The 6-foot-1 Dickel has confirmed that he will sign his national letter of intent to play for the Rebels but still must

pass both his SAT and ACT entrance exam before being admitted into UNLV.

Due to NCAA regulations, Bayno is unable to comment on any recruit until after a letter of intent is received. However, Bayno is the only coach off the Rebel staff to have seen Dickel play.

Contacted by Brian Goorjian, who coaches the Melbourne Tigers, and seeing some tapes of Dickel play, Bayno decided to take a trip to Australia to watch him play. Goorjian is also the brother

of former Runnin' Rebel Greg Goorjian who played basketball for UNLV back in 1980-81. Their father, Ed Goorjian, was also an assistant coach at UNLV.

Also expected to sign with UNLV is Fred Williams, a 6-7 forward from Spartanburg Methodist Community College in South Carolina. Williams has the ability to play at either forward spot and is also rated within the top five junior college forwards in the country. Another top JC forward that is expected to sign

with UNLV is Tyrone Nesby from Vincennes University in Indiana.

Both players are expected to sign their national letter of intent by Wednesday.

The Rebels are also looking for Tyler (Texas) JC guard Corky Ausborne to make a commitment to UNLV for next season.

With the signing of Dickel and Williams, UNLV will have seven players signed for its 1996 recruiting class. During the early signing period in November, the Rebels signed 6-

11 Keon Clark, 6-9 Issiah Epps and 6-5 Donovan Stewart.

Bayno is still in on the hunt for one player, Shamel Jones from Paul Roberson High School in Brooklyn. However, Jones has also been contacted by Georgetown University, and is not expected to sign right away.

The signing period for JC and high school players runs from Wednesday through May 15.

The listing of players signed by UNLV was unavailable at press time.

Rise in athlete graduation rate

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

UNLV athletics announced Monday that graduation rates for athletes with scholarships has increased by 87 percent this year.

For the first time in two years, UNLV athletes posted a GPA of 2.0 or better for the Spring 1995 and Fall 1995 semesters. The combined GPA for all UNLV athletes for the Fall '95 semester was 2.68.

"The percentage of increase shows we are moving it in the right direction," UNLV athletic director Charles Cavagnaro said. "It tells you that our teams and the coaches are participating in this process. The academic advisors are creating the right framework in helping the kids graduate."

Graduation rates for the future should also be on the rise at UNLV when stricter academic standards will be en-

forced for incoming freshman and continuing eligibility for other players.

Comparing two classes whose rates were reported to the NCAA with this class, the 1988-89 class posted a graduation rate of 23 percent. The class of 1989-90 had a 43 percent rate.

UNLV athletics also honored Monday the top 30 scholar-athletes of UNLV at the 17th annual Scholar-Athlete Honors Convocation.

The members of the Academic Top 30 have posted the 30 best GPAs among the 300 athletes at UNLV.

All the scholar-athletes honored had GPAs of 3.60 or better for both the Spring and Fall semester.

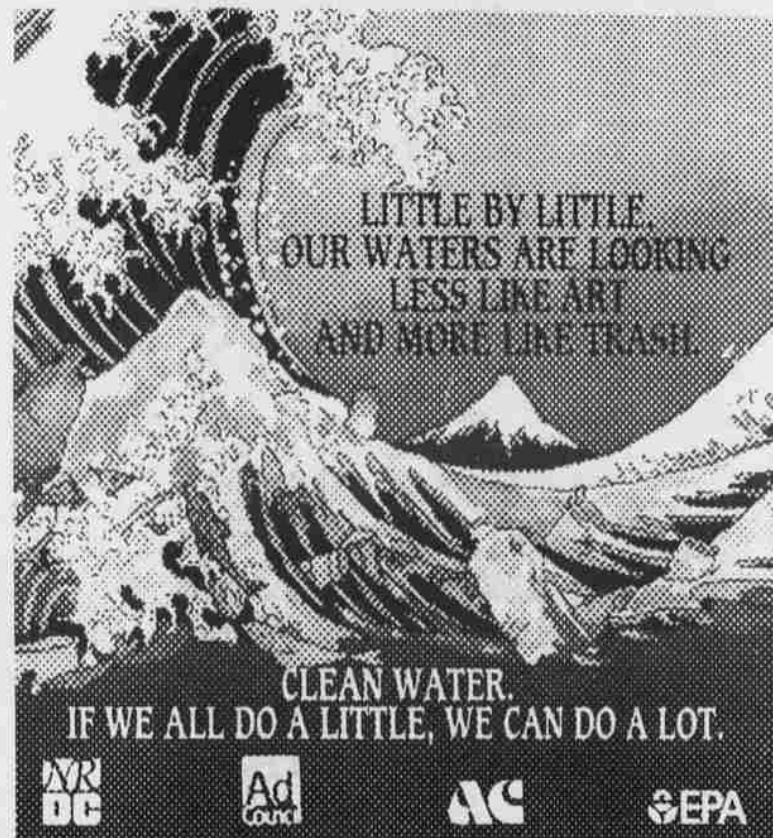
To be selected as a scholar-athlete, not only do the players have to be an active member of their team, both in practice and competition, they must also carry 12 or more units for

the semester and have a 3.0 GPA or better.

UNLV Big West Scholar Athletes were Roger Pettersson from men's tennis and Judy Fraser from track and field.

The UNLV Most Outstanding Scholar-Athletes were Ryan Utsman from soccer and Karen Webster from Lady Rebel basketball.

The top award winners from each sport were: Utsman and B.T. Nausler (baseball), Marianne Vallin (women's tennis), Pettersson, Fraser, Rob Bone (football), Kim Rondina (softball), Grant Rice (basketball), Webster, Peter Buss (swimming), Lea Hurlburt (women's swimming), Brandi Lehman and Clayton Nannini (rodeo), Daron Dorsey (golf), Jim Ave (student trainer), Matthew Muldoon (student manager), Heather Kennedy (cheerleaders) and Tina Kastner (Rebel Girls).



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men quarterback are all ready to help solidify a club that went 2-9 (1-5 in the Big West Conference) last year.

In charge of the offense will be Charlie Stubbs who has coached at Oregon State University and Brigham Young University. He brings experience from two big-time conferences. Stubbs replaces Steve Hagen, who left for a head coaching position at Wartburg College.

"(Stubbs') BYU background speaks for itself," Horton said. "We will change some things up on offense. We will use more two-back sets and motion. There will be more deception (in the offense)."

More big-league experience will come from new inside linebacker's coach Mike Bradeson who has four years of experience coaching the secondary at the University of California. He also spent four years with Horton at UNR.

"(Bradeson) brings valuable experience on the defensive side. He has experience in the Pac-10 and knows how to coach against them," Horton said.

Three junior college transfers that arrived on campus early will have a chance to compete for playing time.

"Scott Patton, Mac Smith and Ben Glidwell will all

have a chance to compete for a starting position," Horton said. "Everybody has a chance."

With the departure of seniors Jared Brown and Jason Davis, the quarterback situation is a question mark that will likely be answered during spring camp.

The three competitors are sophomore Kevin Crook, red-shirt freshman Jon Denton and true freshman Kevin McCarthy. Horton said there is no front runner.

"The (quarterback) race is wide open," Horton said. "Kevin (Crook) has game experience and he has done a fine job when he has been called upon. He has good arm strength. Denton is a hell of a competitor. He can make things happen."

Horton said his team has beefed up in the off season and hopes this season will be a turnaround from last year's disappointing season.

"Everything in the past is in the past," Horton said. "We are bigger and stronger now. We have a renewed enthusiasm and we have good competition at different positions."

Horton said that the most competitive positions on the club are the receivers, running backs and quarterbacks.

"We need to show improvement as a team, we need to be more competitive and we need to be accountable for our actions on and off the field," he said. "Those are the three things I have been stressing to the team."

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