

The Rebel Yell

September 17, 1996

Crunch Time**Jeremy Martin**

A full house.

When the cards were laid out on the table this is what became of Sam Boyd Stadium in the Rebel's 52-17 loss to the Wisconsin Badgers.

Approximately 35,000 Badger fans made the trek to Las Vegas in what has been called the largest-attended sporting event in the history of Nevada.

The final attendance total was 40,091, easily beating the Rebel's previous high mark of 32,207, set in UNLV's 1986 win against the Badgers.

Saturday's crowd brought some real emotion to SBS. It was the first time since the Rebel's 1994 win against UNR that a true football atmosphere eclipsed the Las Vegas horizon.

Badger fans are not shy. Draped in cheese hats, red and white removable tattoos and Wisconsin tee's, they cheered and sang, waving flags with huge W's.

Before the game the "Badger Blast," a Wisconsin tailgate party, drew a crowd of approximately 10,000. More than 22,500 bratwursts and 72,000 cans of beer were served along with 1,000 pounds of cheese.

After the game, Badger fans remained at SBS for an additional 45 minutes, swilling beer and singing for what they call the "Fifth Quarter," complete with the 260-man Wisconsin marching band.

Despite the number of beer sales, relatively few incidents of violence occurred.

"There wasn't anything out of the ordinary," Stallworth said. "There were more scuffles in the Air Force game (Sep. 7)."

One problem the crew at SBS faced was handling the uncharacteristic crowd. Restrooms were a major problem, Stallworth said. Some of the men's restrooms had to be converted to women's restrooms to accommodate the crowd.

Traffic was also a concern but Stallworth said it flowed smoothly with the help of the Highway Patrol and Metro Police department.

The onslaught of ticket requests began pouring in from Wisconsin as early as April 1995. The number of requests became so overwhelming that an additional phone line had to be installed specifically to field incoming calls. UNLV Ticket Manager Kathy Zumbro handled about 70,000 ticket requests.

Eight thousand extra seats were added to the north end zone at SBS to accommodate the large number of requests for Saturday's game and for the Dec. 7 Western Athletic Conference championship football game. The seats cost UNLV's Athletic Department approximately \$90,000 and will be removed after the season.

The cost of the temporary seats seems well worth the investment, as the game reaped in at least \$480,000 in ticket sales. After staff and gate receipts are split, UNLV looks to make a pretty penny.

SEE CRUNCH, PAGE 13

Horton's Hurricane**Rebels fall apart in second half in loss to Badgers**By **Jeremy Martin**
Sports Editor

After playing an impressive first half on both sides of the ball Saturday at Sam Boyd Stadium, the Rebels came unglued late in the second half en-route to their third-consecutive blowout, 52-17, at the hands of the Wisconsin Badgers.

The game, which featured a record crowd of 40,091 fans, saw UNLV come as close as 21-7 at halftime until the Badger's running game wore down the Rebels' young defense.

By halftime Head Coach Jeff Horton was scratching his head out of astonishment after the Rebels blew two chances to score inside the Badgers 20-yard line. The two misses could have sent UNLV into the locker room tied at 21.

The first botched play came after wide receiver Carlos Baker returned a Badger's punt 61 yards to the Wisconsin 25-yard line. Three plays later the Rebels had the ball first-and-ten on the Badgers 15-yard line when the pocket collapsed on quarterback Jon Denton. The freshman threw the ball to Badger cornerback Jason Suttle with not a Rebel in sight.

With a 14-0 Wisconsin lead, UNLV drove the ball 77 yards to the Badger three-yard line. On third-and-goal on the three-yard line Denton was yet again picked off by Suttle in the end zone, at which time the Rebels began to lose their momentum.

"Anytime you turn the ball over, that is big," Horton said. "It is not all (Denton's) fault. He will learn in time that when it is not there just to throw it away. He tries to make plays and he does make plays. That is what I like

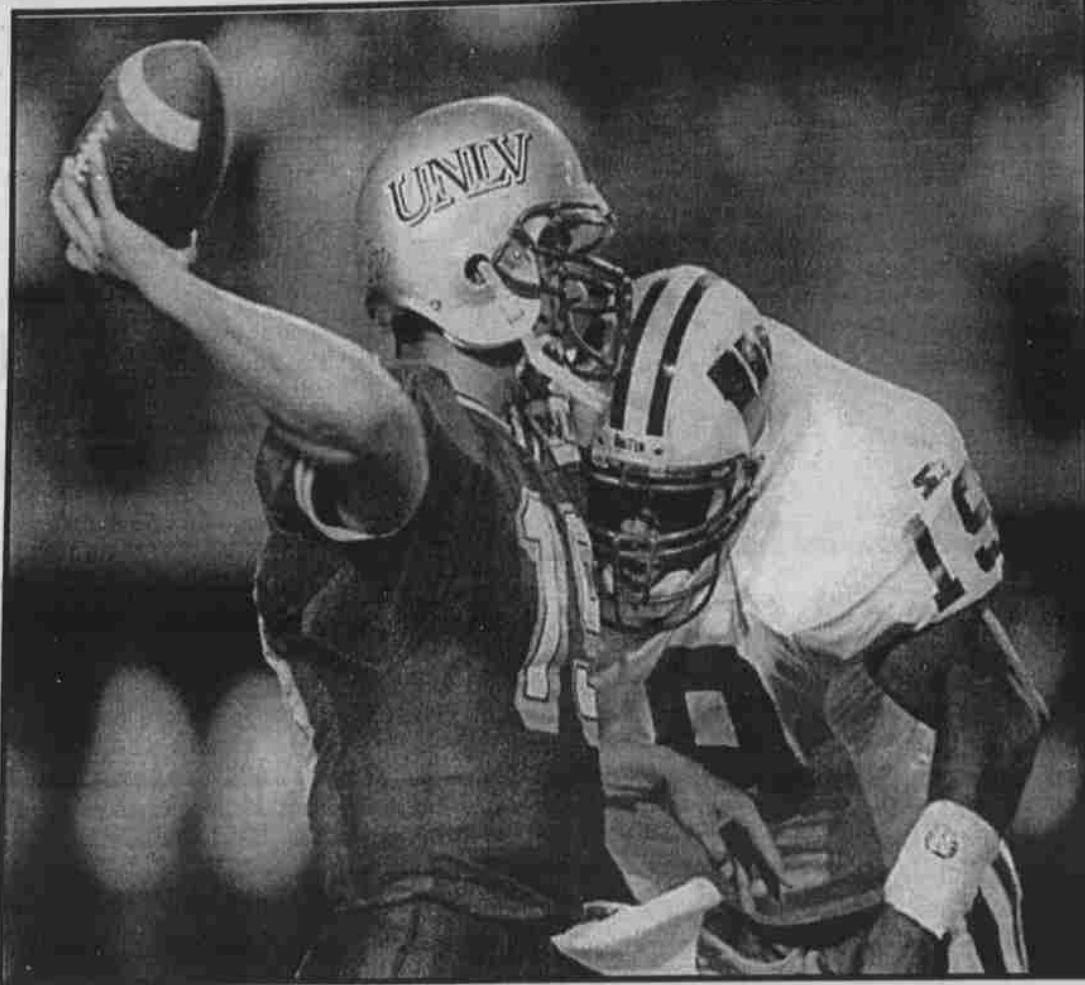


Photo: Courtesy of LV Sun

UNLV's J. Denton is hit by Wisconsin's Daryl Carter as he passes in the third quarter.

about him."

Denton saved face on the last play of the second half when he hit wide receiver Todd Floyd in the end zone on a 45-yard Hail Mary pass. Although the touchdown pulled the Rebels within 14 points of the Badgers, the catch was somewhat of a fluke, bouncing off the hands of two Wisconsin defensive backs before winding up in Floyd's hands.

"We moved the ball very well and had some big plays," Horton said.

But the second half was all Wisconsin.

In the first drive of the second half the Badgers drove the ball 65 yards down the field capping off the march with a four-yard touchdown run by running back Aaron Stecker.

The Rebels then managed to

score again on an 18-yard touchdown pass from Denton to Floyd, to make the score 28-14.

After a Badger field goal, Denton was picked off again, this time by Wisconsin outside linebacker Daryl Carter. Carter took Denton's pass and scampered 14 yards to make the game 38-14.

The Badgers then drove up the score with two fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Despite the score, Horton was pleased with the team's improvement.

"We are better than we were in weeks one and two," he said. "On offense we moved the ball better. We had over 400 yards of offense against a team with nine (defensive) starters back. On defense we made (Wisconsin) punt more than we have

made people punt this year.

"We have to eliminate the big play," Horton continued. "That was probably the biggest disappointment."

Stopping the run was once again a problem for the Rebels' defense. Wisconsin racked up 366 yards on 52 attempts.

The Rebels' running game was on track for the first time this season, with a net total of 110-ground yards. Tony Burton led all runners with 34 yards on eight attempts.

"(We) emphasized the running game much more in practice this week," Horton said. "The guys took it upon themselves to do better. The (offensive) line opened up some good holes."

UNLV will try to get back on track Saturday when they travel to Fort Collins, Co. to take on WAC foe Colorado State.

Kickin' Rebels split a pairBy **Eric Gruzen**
Staff Sports Writer

The Kickin' Rebels finished in second place to Ohio State at the Coors Light Soccer Classic this weekend at Peter Johann Memorial Field.

The weekend didn't begin the way the Rebels had planned. With an exhausting first-round game Friday against Ohio State, the Rebels were left angry and frustrated after a 1-0 loss to the Buckeyes before a crowd of about 700.

In what Head Coach Barry Barto called "an unorganized game," the Rebels ran into trouble 29 minutes into the contest when captain Andreas Roell was ejected for kicking in the face a Buckeye player who was lying on the ground. The kick appeared to be intentional.

With the Rebels playing one man short for the remainder of the game, Ohio State took quick advantage with the only goal of



Photo: Gregg Benson

UNLV junior forward Darek Rensing in action.

the match just three minutes after Roell's ejection, forcing the Rebels to play catch-up.

Ohio State seemed to dominate the midfield and the Rebel side of the field, outshooting UNLV 14-8.

"It was a frustrating loss...we just played unorganized soccer," Barto said.

"We seemed to clean it up in the

second half but they really tightened up their defense."

But the Rebels turned things around Sunday against Davidson, winning 2-0.

A first half goal by Phillip Detmer with an assist from Darek Rensing at 31:40, coupled with a second half goal by Michael Griego assisted by

Scott Graham, secured the tiebreaker for the Rebels in tournament competition.

"I am very pleased with this win," Barto said. "We certainly earned this result. We played much, much better than we did on Friday."

Pacing was a key for Barto in the win.

"After watching (Davidson) play on Friday night, we knew that we were going to have to control the pace of the game.

They have two quick guys up front so we needed to slow down the pace, control the ball more and limit their scoring chances which we definitely accomplished today."

The Kickin' Rebels raised their record to 2-1-1 after the victory over the now 5-1-1 Davidson University.

The Rebels play Friday at 7 p.m. against Oregon State University in the Coors Light Invitational and Sunday at noon against Evansville at PJMS.