

## Cougars take a bite out of UNLV defense

*Rebels commit five turnovers in loss to BYU*

By Jeremy Martin  
Sports Editor

One for the record books. The Rebels lost their school-record ninth straight game, dating back to last year, in a 63-28 rout at the hands of the No. 19-ranked Brigham Young University Cougars Saturday in front of 64,872 at Cougar Stadium in Provo.

The game began with UNLV scoring its first touchdown in the first quarter all season long. Taking a 7-0 lead, The Rebels were driving to go up 14-0 until running back Omar Love fumbled on first-and-goal, ending UNLV's momentum and initiating the Cougar onslaught.

"(The fumble) hurt a lot," Horton said. "It was early in the game and we had (BYU) on their heels. We were about to go up 14-0 and anything could happen in that situation. We will never know what would have happened. It was crucial at that point in time"

The Rebels had five turnovers in all. Four came on fumbles and UNLV quarterback Jon Denton

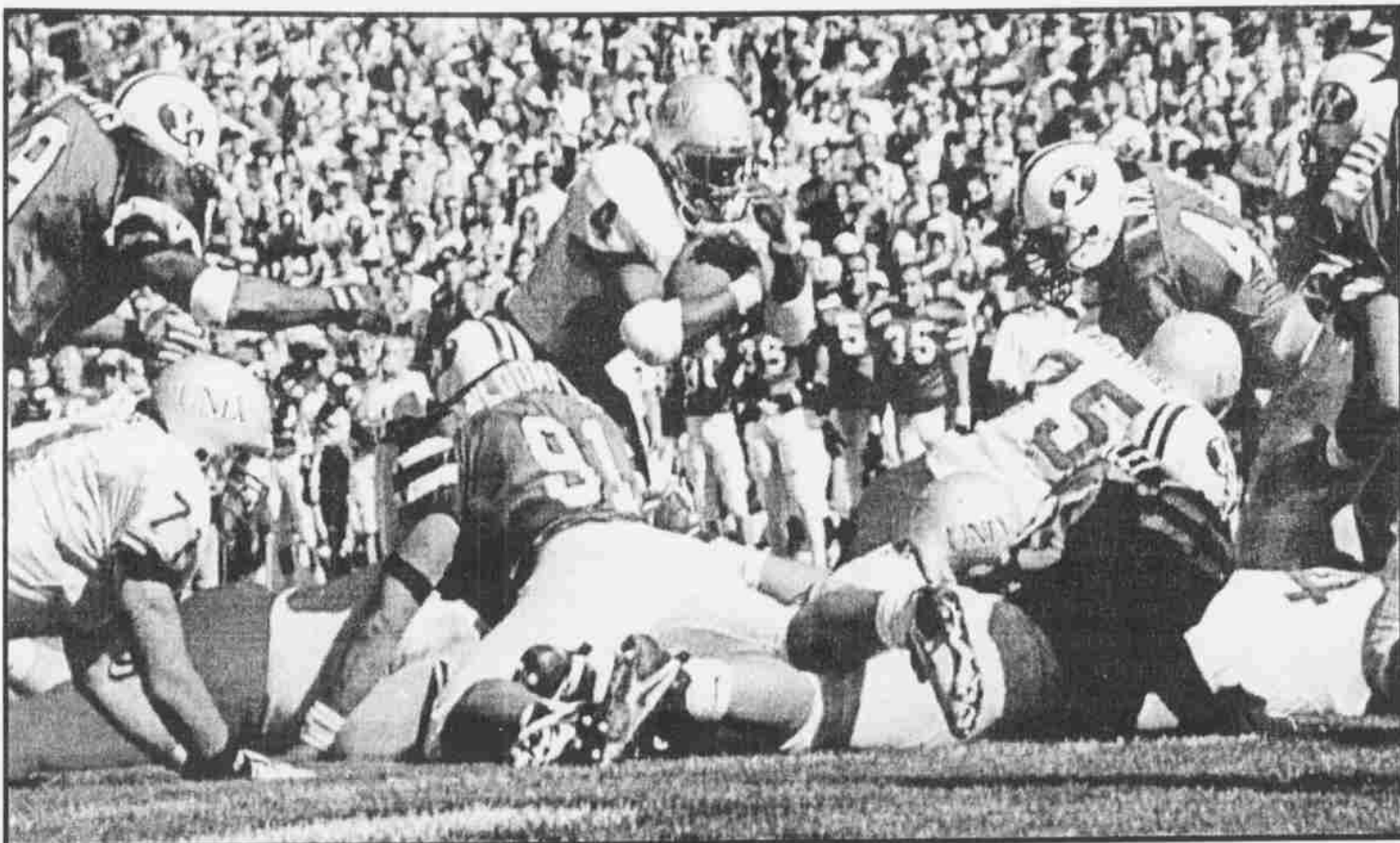


Photo: Gregg Benson/Rebel Yell

If senior running back Omar Love didn't fumble on this play, the Rebels probably would have scored and taken a 14-0 lead over BYU.

threw an interception. BYU turned every one of the Rebels' mistakes into seven points.

Heisman Trophy candidate and BYU quarterback Steve Sarkisian picked apart the Rebel

secondary all day long, completing 22 of 35 passes for 400 yards and four touchdowns with no interceptions.

"He's good," Horton said of the Heisman hopeful. "He is as good (of

a passer) as (Peyton) Manning (of Tennessee) with more mobility. He knows where to go with the ball. He's cool under pressure."

Denton had an impressive day himself. The redshirt freshman

served up 314 yards on 24 of 36 passing including three touchdown passes. The probable Freshman All-American also ran for a score.

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## Bulls and Sonics rematch at T & M

*Wacky Rodman ejected after fourth-quarter tirade*

By Jeremy Martin  
Sports Editor

Despite the world's most famous athletic superstar being introduced as "Michael Jackson" and scoreboards that didn't work until the second half, the World Champion Chicago Bulls and the Seattle SuperSonics thrilled the capacity crowd at the Thomas & Mack Center with an exiting game Saturday, a 96-90 SuperSonics victory.

The game, a rematch of last season's NBA Finals, was highlighted by forward Dennis Rodman's ejection late in the fourth quarter.

Rodman, sporting his new fuchsia hairdo, was called for travelling with 2:56 left in the fourth quarter. The NBA's bad boy took offense to the call and kicked a "News 3" sign, earning his first technical foul.

But his antics didn't stop there. He then incited a roar from the crowd by walking

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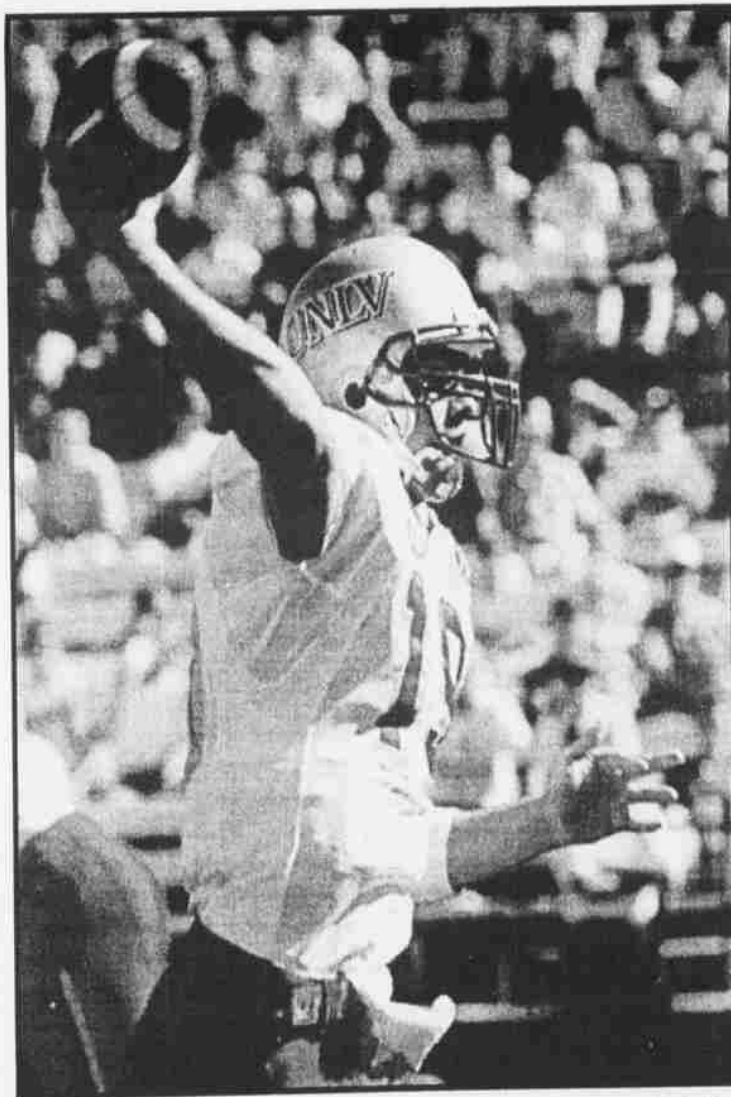


Photo: Gregg Benson/Rebel Yell

Redshirt freshman Jon Denton is gunning for Freshman All-American honors.

## Quarterback ready to lead UNLV into new era

By Ron Gibson  
Contributing Sports Writer

When Jon Denton talks about being the Rebels' starting quarterback, there's a crooked smile, a glimmer in his eye and loads of confidence.

But what about seven games ago, when the young redshirt freshman from Green Valley High School in Henderson was picked to lead the Rebels into their inaugural season of the Western Athletic Conference?

"It was kind of scary," Denton acknowledged. "I don't mean that I was scared, but it was that unknown feeling when you're going into something you know nothing about...like a blind date."

A date with destiny, according to Rebel Head Coach Jeff Horton.

Denton got the nod to lead the Rebels into their incipient season after edging out sophomore Kevin Crook about a week before the season-opening Tennessee matchup.

Horton said mobility and a greater propensity to make big

plays served in Denton's favor. But it was the intangibles that really grabbed Horton's attention.

"He's a natural leader," Horton said of Denton. "I think he likes to play football and he's excited every time he takes the football field. He plays with a lot of emotion and that's the way I want my quarterbacks to be."

Apparently, what coach wants is what coach gets.

Denton has been spotted on more than one occasion laughing, smiling and, most importantly, motivating.

"I'm totally focused but I'm just trying to keep those guys loose," Denton explained. "If we're behind and I'm down on myself or the team, they're going to get down on themselves. As a leader, I need to keep everybody positive."

A difficult task when considering the Rebels 0-7 start.

Despite the poor record, Denton has been impressive in his seven

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## Another poor weekend for UNLV soccer

By Eric Gruzen  
Staff Sports Writer

UNLV Soccer continued its downward spiral after getting beaten by the New Mexico Lobos, 2-1, but then salvaging the weekend by tying the Air Force Academy's Falcons, 1-1.

The Rebels' record dropped to a season low, 3-6-3. The team

managed to snap their four-game losing streak but they still have not won a game in their last six matches. The two games marked the first Western Athletic Conference competition for UNLV. This weekend's action left the Rebels' record in conference play at 0-1-1.

The Rebels were glad to get back to Peter Johann Memorial Field after a rough road trip that saw the

team give up a total of eight goals to Rutgers and St. John's while not getting on the scoreboard themselves. The Rebels are now 0-14-1 in their last 15 on the road. However, it was time to put that in the past and concentrate on the Lobos from New Mexico.

Things started out well for the Rebels on Friday. The team was held scoreless for 350 consecutive

minutes until freshman forward B.J. McNicol scored his first goal of the season 24 minutes into the match. He was assisted by midfielder Josh Sweeney. The goal gave the Rebels their first lead in four games and UNLV took the 1-0 lead into the locker room at half-time.

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