

BYU

FROM PAGE 9

"I thought he did a great job," Horton said of Denton. "He was under pressure all game. (BYU) got a couple of sacks but (Denton) still made some plays. He has got to be the best freshman quarterback in the country."

UNLV started off the game with high hopes of an upset. On the first possession of the game, Denton orchestrated an 80-yard drive. On second-and-9, from the Cougar 23-yard line, Denton scrambled out of

pressure en route to a 23-yard touchdown run.

After the Cougars got the ball back, the inspired Rebel defense forced them to punt.

Driving all the way to the BYU eight-yard line, Love's fumble ended a chance for the Rebels to have their first 14-point lead of the season. BYU took advantage of the opportunity, driving 92 yards on just four plays to tie the game, 7-7. The touchdown came on a 14-yard pass from Sarkisian to running back Aaron Cupp.

In the second quarter Sarkisian threw three more touchdown

passes and Denton threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Len Ware to bring the score to 28-14.

"It was only 28-14 at half time and they had never really stopped us," Horton said. "We had stopped ourselves with turnovers. We thought that if we eliminated the turnovers (in the second half) we would be right in it..."

Horton's half-time hopes were dashed as BYU scored on its first two possessions of the second half; a three-yard run by running back Brian McKenzie and an 18-yard run by Sarkisian.

With the game at 42-14, the Rebels scored when Denton completed a pass to wide receiver Carlos Baker in the end zone. The pass capped off a drive that spanned 80 yards in eight plays.

The Cougar's second team took the field in the fourth quarter and punched in three more touchdowns. The Rebels scored again late in the fourth on a 27-yarder from Denton to Ware. UNLV's 28 points was the highest total to date and Love's 102 yards was the highest total of any Rebel running back all season.

In all, the Rebels had 192 gross

rushing yards, which netted 107 because of seven BYU sacks that totaled 78 yards.

"We only had three or four run (plays), as opposed to eight or nine, and we worked really hard on them (in practice)," Horton said. "The O-line did a good job and we moved the ball well (on the ground)."

The Rebels will be on the road again Saturday, travelling overseas to take on the Western Athletic Conference's University of Hawai'i. The Rainbow Warriors are also a struggling team, compiling a 1-6 record on the year. **R**

DENTON

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starts.

In week five against Wyoming, a 33-21 Rebel loss, Denton broke several national and school passing records. His 32 completions and 486 yards against the Cowboys were both school records. He also set NCAA Div. 1-A records for passing by a freshman (486 yards), and freshman total offense (491 yards).

The previous record for total offense by a freshman quarterback was set 53 years ago by Bob Hoernschemeyer of Indiana on

Oct. 9, 1943.

Denton was named UNLV's first-ever WAC Offensive Player of the Week for the Pacific Division.

On Saturday against Brigham Young University, Denton had another impressive day, going 24 of 36 for 314 yards and three touchdowns with only one interception.

Denton is currently fifth in the nation in passing yards and eighth nationally in total offense, averaging 275 yards per game.

Thus far, the potential Freshman All-American has accumulated 1861 yards through the air. In his first three games he had seven interceptions with only two touchdown passes. Since then he

has settled down, throwing eight touchdown passes and only four interceptions in his last four games.

Denton has a shot at the NCAA record for passing yards for a season, 3,020 set by Todd Ellis of South Carolina in 1986. He is also on track to beat the total offense mark by a freshman, 2,975, also held by Ellis.

Denton is already 12th on UNLV's all-time passing list, a mere 11 yards away from taking the 11th spot. By the end of his freshman season, Denton could be as high as seventh on the Rebel list.

Despite the success, winning still dominates Denton's thoughts.

"I'd rather go 0-30 with seven interceptions and have the team win than rack up good statistics," Denton said. "That's just the way I am."

Although consumed with overcoming the football team's downward spiral, Denton has not lost sight of the individual contributions he must make for the team to succeed.

"I've got to keep working on the little things," Denton said. "That's the difference between a good quarterback and a great quarterback." One of my goals is to be one of the greatest that's played here and maybe one of the greatest of all-time when I'm finished," he continued.

Lofty expectations for someone recently out of high school.

But Denton has never been short of self-assurance, claiming he's "always been confident in his abilities."

So Denton has come full circle. Initially intimidated by the prospects of leading a Div. 1-A team, he is now even more confident about his ability and optimistic about his team's future. He's more than the Rebels' starting quarterback. He's a Rebel with a cause—to bring the UNLV football team into national prominence with fearless play, a glimmer in his eye and loads of confidence. **R**

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