

Rebels fall short of Homecoming victory

Fresno State rallies at Sam Boyd in UNLV Homecoming loss

By Jeremy Martin
Sports Editor

UNLV Head Coach Jeff Horton's worst fears resurfaced Saturday at Sam Boyd Stadium.

After playing an impressive first half for the second straight week, the Rebels fell apart in the second half en route to a 34-23 Western Athletic Conference home loss to the Fresno State University Bulldogs.

Horton's team has been nagged by inconsistent play during winnable games.

"We thought we were as good as they were (coming into the game)," Horton said. "We made plays early but not down the stretch."

The game began with impressive Rebel play on both sides of the ball. UNLV's defense smothered

the Bulldogs on the first drive of the game and the offense came out strong, getting on the board with an Alan Di Leo 44-yard field goal on its first drive.

Four plays later FSU senior quarterback Jim Arellanes fumbled the ball on his own 40-yard line and the Rebels converted on a 20-yard pass from quarterback Jon Denton to wide receiver Carlos Baker to put UNLV up 10-0.

Late in the first quarter FSU closed the gap when running back Michael Pittman ran 24 yards for the Bulldogs' first score.

On the first play of the second quarter, Denton capped a 65-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown plunge, making the score 17-10 in favor of the Rebels.

The game continued to go back and forth through the rest of the second quarter and the Bulldogs led 24-20 at half time.

Characteristically, the Rebels let the game slip away.

After scoring a field goal in the first drive of the third quarter, the Rebels surrendered 10 unanswered points. The loss was UNLV's school-record 11th, which is also

the longest of any Division I-A team.

Although Horton has said he does not believe in moral victories, he says he has been happy his team has not given up during the skid.

"We came to play (Saturday)," Horton said. "A lot of people had written us off but our kids don't give up. We put ourselves in a position to win. People can't say we rolled over and died."

The Rebels gave up 399 yards of total offense to the Bulldogs while netting only one yard of offense in the second half themselves.

"We have to be able to sustain our energy for four full quarters," Horton said.

The Rebels did cut down on mistakes in the loss. After turning the ball over five times two weeks ago in Hawai'i, UNLV has committed only two turnovers in its past two games.

"It is awesome that we had zero turnovers," Horton said. "We just need to learn to finish things off. We took a step (on Saturday) in the right direction."

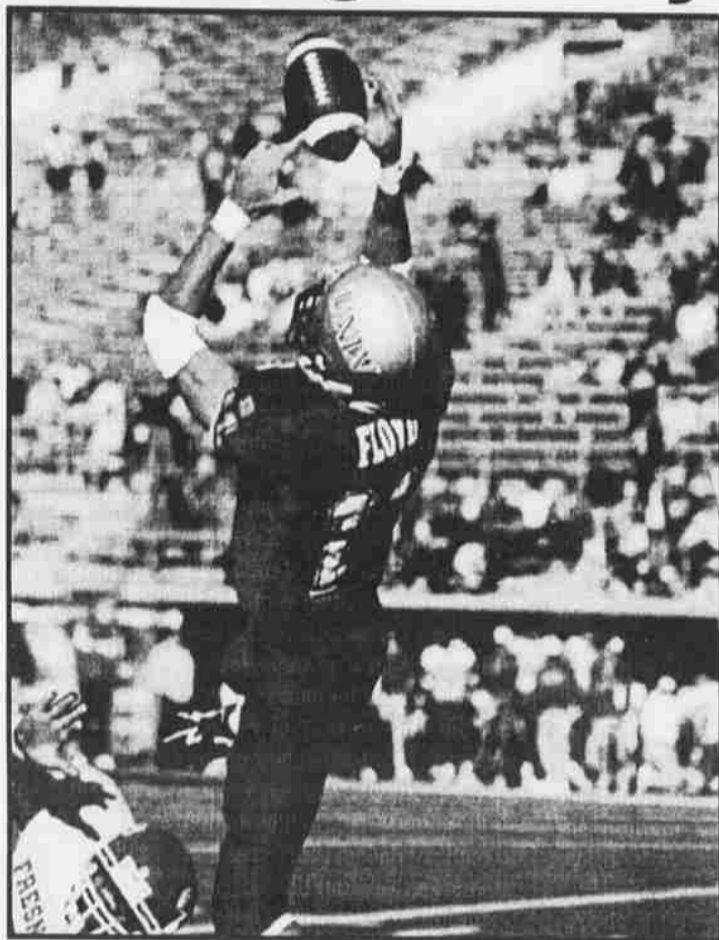


Photo: Gregg Benson/Rebel Yell
WR Todd Floyd leaps and comes up empty.



UNLV looks for win in Lone Star state TCU

Winless Rebels trying to snap record skid

By Jeremy Martin
Sports Editor

Saturday's first-ever meeting with Texas Christian University will be a game of firsts.

UNLV will be looking for its first win of the season, its first Western Athletic Conference win and its first road win in two seasons.

And for the first time this season, the Rebels will look to play

four quarters of football.

"Consistency has been our biggest problem," Head Coach Jeff Horton said. "We have played better as a team but we can't stay consistent for four quarters. When we can do that we will be a good team. We will be much better in the near future."

UNLV, currently in the midst of a school-record 11-game losing streak and a 12-game road losing streak, lost a 34-23 home contest to the Fresno State Bulldogs on Saturday. After going up 10-0 early, UNLV netted only one yard in the fourth quarter.

Horton has been working with the team's consistency in practice.

"We will talk about making plays when we have to," Horton said.

With two close games in the past two weeks, Horton thinks the team is ready to respond with a win.

"We will be ready to go Saturday," he said. "We have answered the questions every week. Expect us to be better and rebound this week."

TCU is 2-5 (1-3 WAC) and is coming off of a 45-21 home loss to Brigham Young at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth. The Horned Frogs found themselves down 24-0 early in the second quarter before settling down for a somewhat even second half.

If the Rebels want to get a win

they will have to control a TCU offense that contains some considerable weapons.

Wide receivers Jason Tucker and John Washington played their first healthy game as a tandem last weekend. Both are expected to start on Saturday. The duo combined for eight catches for 150 yards against BYU.

The Rebels will also have to stop Basil Mitchell, the team's top running back. Mitchell leads the team in rushing with 462 yards on the season and is also the team's leading catcher with 25 grabs out of the backfield.

"(They play) physical ball," Horton said. "They run the ball

well and like to throw deep. (TCU) is a big and physical team with good athletes."

This weekend's trip to Fort Worth will be somewhat of a homecoming for Horton, who grew up in Arlington, which is located outside of Dallas.

"It is exciting going back there," Horton said of his return to the Lone Star state. "My family and the coaches who influenced me will get a chance to come out and see us play. I want to put on a good show. It is a special time for me. Winning would be the thing that would make it really special."

Fans get chance to see new Runnin' Rebels

UNLV basketball holds public scrimmage at Thomas & Mack

By Michael Melissa
Staff Sports Writer

Speculation.

That's what the UNLV basketball team is facing with the upcoming season. People are speculating on just how good this season's recruiting class is, and just how good the Rebels could be.

It's all just speculation.

Fans were treated Sunday to a glimpse of things to come for the new season, and were able to see one of the top-10 recruiting classes in the nation play together in a game situation.

The Rebel White team defeated the Rebel Red team, 67-57, in front

of approximately 1,000 people inside the Thomas & Mack Center.

Head coach Bill Bayno had the squad play through three 10-minute periods and played it as if it was a real game.

Warren Rosegreen led both sides with 14 points, including an impressive baseline dunk. Tony Lane and Eric Lee had 12 points and Chancellor Davis finished with 10.

"We still have a long, long way to go," Bayno said after the practice. "Our defense was awful. Guys are playing together, though. We have chemistry in terms of passing and pushing the ball. We are a decent transition team but we have a long, long way to go in terms of playing hard and playing defense."

Team chemistry was a big concern to Bayno when he first assembled this recruiting class, knowing he would again be look-



Head Coach Bill Bayno

ing at virtually a new squad.

Despite practicing only one week together, the newcomers meshed well with the veteran players. Tyrone Nesby, a junior college transfer from Vincennes University (Ind.) hit his first two at-

tempted shots for the White team and finished with six points.

Also with a big showing was late signee, Kevin Symmonds, who had 10 points, two of which were 3-pointers. Keon Clark played up to his advanced billing, scoring six points and was a definite presence in the paint where he halted a couple of Rebel White team drives inside.

What Bayno had been looking for during the offseason was a player to lead the team on the court, a point guard he can rely on game in and game out. Not wishing to go back to point guard by committee, it seems that Bayno is ready to go with Dickel at the point.

"He played hard (in the scrimmage) and has gotten himself in shape," Bayno said. "We have a lot of guards this year and we weren't able to substitute the big guys as much, so the guards

looked a little better."

Also looking to get time at the point is Donovan Stewart, who had 10 points in the scrimmage.

The game remained close through the first two periods with the White team clinging to a tight 39-37 lead. The Rebel White broke the game open midway through the third period going on a 16-6 run, sparked by a missed dunk by Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith and capped off by a Damian Smith 3-pointer.

The run gave the White team a 56-43 lead, however, the Rebel Red fired back and climbed within seven late in the period, 58-51. That would be as close as they would get for the rest of the game.

"It's early and we haven't even had a full two weeks of practice yet," Bayno said. "(Tonight) could've been worse. We have a chance to be pretty good this year, we just have to keep working."