

Back in action



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After a 10-year lay off, the UNLV volleyball team returned to competition this fall. Coach Detire Collins led the Rebels to a 5-22 record, 3-13 in the WAC.

FOOTBALL,

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time this season.

Leading the way for UNLV was redshirt freshman quarterback Jon Denton. The 19-year old from Green Valley High School set several school and NCAA passing records, throwing for a school-record 503 yards on 27 of 53 attempts with four touchdowns.

"I would rather have a couple of wins than all these records," Denton said. "I just want more wins, that's all. There will be more (wins) in the next couple of years."

Denton also set the NCAA freshman single-season records for passing yards (3,159), total offense (3,208) and most plays (527), in addition to NCAA single-game records for passing yards and total offense (513).

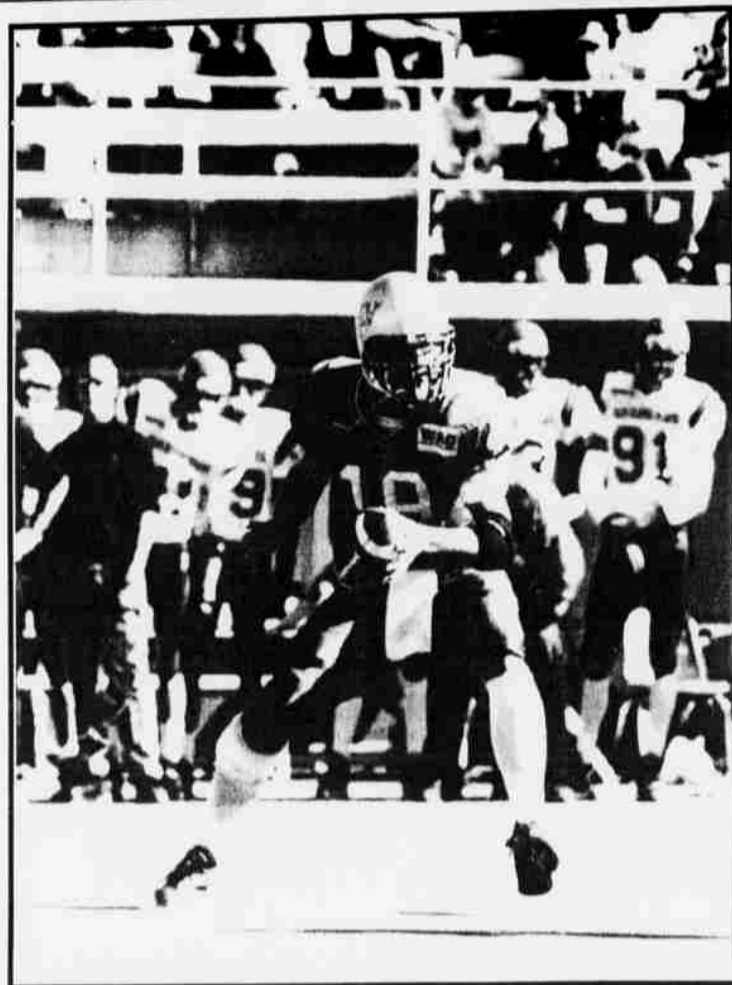
In all, both teams combined for 1,297 yards in total offense but UNLV was able to come up with the big plays, on both sides of the ball, when they needed it.

Horton said he believes his team got a few breaks.

"Some of the little plays that have gone against us in other games went in our favor," Horton explained.

Perhaps the most important series of events came late in the third quarter. With UNLV up 41-29, Aztec running back George Jones got the handoff from quarterback Billy Blanton. Jones burst down the right side of the field in what looked to be a 72-yard touchdown run and momentum-shifter until Rebel linebacker Scott Patton came out of nowhere to stop Jones on the 3-yard line. Two plays later, Blanton fumbled the snap and linebacker Greg Gales recovered to thwart the Aztec drive.

But the Aztecs' post-season hopes all came down to Holt's kick. Prior to the kick, Holt had connected on 13 of 14 attempts, with his one miss coming on a block against Wyoming. When the



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Freshman quarterback Jon Denton drops back to pass in a home game this season. Denton shattered 10 NCAA passing records as he threw for 3,591 yards and 25 touchdowns.

kick sailed left the Rebels breathed a sigh of relief and enjoyed some celebration.

UNLV students were pleasantly surprised by the Rebels' victory.

"I was getting pretty tired of making excuses for our team's losses," said Ben Johnson, a junior. "I'm just glad they pulled it off, especially against a team like San Diego State."

"It's about time," senior Kim Arnold said of the victory. "The entire state had been waiting all season for this win and fortunately we got it just in time."

"It makes me proud to be a Rebel," Arnold continued.

Entering their last game of the season at San Jose state, Horton said he hopes his team will be inspired by their victory over the Aztecs.

"I want them to remember the feeling of victory," Horton said. "We have to remember how we got there--by never giving up. (San Jose State) will be emotionally charged because it is Senior Day and (Head Coach John) Ralston's last game."

Win or lose, the Rebels will look back at the inspired performance against the Aztecs as a springboard for next season and Horton knows that his philosophy is imbedded in his player's heads.

"All season I have talked about belief without evidence," Horton said. "It is hard to do without evidence but now we have some."

—This article, written by then-Sports Editor Jeremy Martin, appeared in the Nov. 19, 1996 issue of The Rebel Yell.

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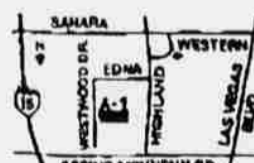
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