

Brewer's Clubhouse

Coach Bill Ireland: the unknown Rebel

By Ray Brewer
Sports Editor

Not many students, if any at all, have knowledge of who Bill Ireland is or what he has done to further UNLV athletics.

Ireland was the Rebel's first football coach, posting winning seasons in four of his five years at the helm of the UNLV (known back then as Nevada Southern) football program. He led the Rebel's to a 8-1 finish in 1968, the school's first year of collegiate football.

After guiding the Rebel's to a 26-23 lifetime record, Ireland stepped down to serve as Director of Athletics from 1973-1980. As athletic director, he was instrumental in shaping UNLV athletic programs into what they are today.

In 1987, Ireland was part of the first class to be inducted to the UNLV athletic Hall of Fame.

Hired on May 12, 1967, Ireland put together a team that defeated St. Mary's College 27-20 in the Rebels' first-ever football game in front of 8,000 fans at the old Cashman Field. He also led the Rebels over UNR 30-28 in the inaugural season.

Today, this pioneer in UNLV athletics serves as the executive director of the UNLV Hall of Fame and is an executive consultant for the Las Vegas Bowl.

A little about a lot.

The UNLV football actually looked impressive in its 25-24 loss at the Air Force this past Saturday.

This performance caught more than my eye.

For the UNLV's home opener against Hawaii this Saturday, the Rebels have opened as a three point favorite in over-sees sport books. That's the first time UNLV has been a favorite since 1995. How about another meaningless stat, the Rebel are 20-9 lifetime in home openers.

If there is a team UNLV can break its drought against it is Hawaii.

The Rainbow Warriors finished 2-9 last season and are coming off of a 35-6 crushing at the hands of Wyoming. Hawaii is, however, 2-1 on the season including an impressive opening win over the Big 10's Minnesota. Also, Hawaii is 8-0 versus UNLV dating back to 1980.

Well, sports fans, a win for the Rebels on Saturday is possible. In fact, it is more than likely. (I can't believe I just typed that).

For all of you that can't make it to the game, KUNV, 91.5 FM will be broadcasting the starting game at 7:05 p.m.

The UNLV soccer team won two road games this past weekend and didn't give up a goal in the process.

Senior goalie Dan Abdalla is showing great veteran leadership in directing the young Rebel defense. In Sunday's 1-0 victory over the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Abdalla and his brother Todd, a freshman, combined on the shutout.

In Saturday's, 2-0 win over University of Texas Pan-American midfielder Geoff Barto, son of Rebel head coach Barry Barto, scored a goal and had an assist on the other.

Talk about all in the family with the UNLV soccer program.

The boxing world took another hit, at least in my opinion, on Saturday night after Hector "Macho" Camacho put up no

fight in being defeated by an unanimous 12-round decision by Oscar De La Hoya.

If only Camacho could fight as good as he talks trash.

De La Hoya, under the new guidance of trainer Emanuel Steward looked to be a new fighter. Unlike his scare against Pernell Whitaker, De La Hoya was aggressive with his punches and focused on giving Camacho a beating.

The Las Vegas area might not get to see De La Hoya fight live for some time, as he has scheduled his next fight for December 6 against Wilfred Rivera in Atlantic City, N.J. De La Hoya's promoter Bob Arum scheduled this fight so the 'golden boy' could get some more east coast exposure.

After the Rivera fight, De La Hoya is rumored to fight in Japan.

Sunday night football and Monday night football this year in the NFL has been perfect.

Two Sunday nights ago, Kevin Butler banks in a field goal to lead the Arizona Cardinals over the Dallas Cowboys in overtime. The fans storm the

field and knock over the goal post.

Two Monday nights, the Kansas City Chiefs travel to Oakland and overcome a double digit deficit in the fourth quarter to steal a victory on the last play of the game. Andre Rison catches a desperation touchdown strike in double coverage with under 15 seconds remaining in the game after the Chiefs drove the length of the field in under a minute.

Last Sunday night, Bill Parcells travels back to New England with his new team the New York Jets. Remember, Parcells didn't even ride the team plan home with the players after their loss in the Super Bowl. An overtime win for the Patriots, after the Jets rallied to force overtime, was icing on the cake.

Last Monday night, Dallas pulls off a miracle win over the Philadelphia Eagles. (As Deion Sanders would say, "it was God's divine intervention") The Eagles fumble a snap on the winning field goal opportunity as the Cowboys escape with a comeback victory.

The football season should only get better.

IRELAND: He spearheaded fundraisers to earn money for facilities and equipment

making the whole of the Nevada school system much stronger than either just the North or South. In 1968, Bill Ireland left his job to come and build UNLV and the state of Nevada.

Denny Robinson, a player for Coach Ireland from 1969 to 1972 sums it up when he said, "Coach Ireland is a class act."

In 1967, when Coach Ireland first came to UNLV, it was still the Southern Division of the University of Nevada. The athletic program was very small and did not have adequate practice facilities, equipment or even lockers! Ireland spearheaded fund raising drives to obtain the necessary money to build some facilities and purchase equipment. He was an excellent fundraiser and helped this athletic program, especially football, take off and reach the high point

that it is at today.

"Bill Ireland is the kind of person you can call in the middle of the night for help," Robinson said. "He won't hesitate to come and lend a hand and do the best that he possibly can."

The world is running out of people who can be counted on, but "Coach Ireland will back you 100 percent," said Robinson. These are only a few of the reasons that Coach Ireland is going to be honored at the MGM tomorrow night. He has done so much for the athletic program, that he should be recognized properly. Coach Ireland is devoted to the athletics of UNLV and the many awards that he has won over the years proves that. On Saturday he will be recognized at the UNLV/Hawaii game, so we all will realize what he has done for the university.

The Rebel Yell Gridiron Picks

By Eric Gruzen
Staff Sports Writer

Now I am even starting to surprise myself.

For the second time in two weeks, I went a perfect 4-0, winning with Kansas City, Baltimore, Oakland and the New England Patriots in overtime over the Jets.

Unfortunately for the Rebel Yell, Editor Darryl Richardson didn't do so well, winning only with the heavy favorites Green Bay and Denver, but losing when the Cardinals lost and the Vikings collapsed.

What that means is that last week's contestant, Brad Tittrington won a prize because

he was 3-1, for a winning percentage equal to our combined percentage. It came down to the Monday night game, with Brad taking the heavily favored Cowboys and escaping with a win.

This week, Nicole Olarian, a senior communications major will be attempting to beat the combined talents of Darryl and me. Hopefully, this week, Darryl can win a few games.

Keeps sending your picks and all other information (name, major, etc.) to me at VegasEric@aol.com.

Week 4
Eric's Picks

Baltimore over Tennessee
New England over Chicago
Buffalo over Indianapolis
St. Louis over New York Giants
Last Week: 4-0 Overall: 10-2

Darryl's Picks

Seattle over San Diego
San Francisco over Atlanta
Detroit over New Orleans
Carolina over Kansas City
Last Week: 2-2 Overall: 6-6

Nicole's Picks

Kansas City over Carolina
Miami over Tampa Bay
Denver over Cincinnati
Green Bay over Minnesota

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