

## Rebels win their first of year

By Jacob Lanning  
Contributing Sports Writer

Coming off an upsetting 25-24 loss to Air Force last week, the Rebels jumped back into action Saturday, beating the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors 25-15, despite three Rebel interceptions.

The win did not come without a loss, however. During the second quarter, senior running back Rodrick Johnson was hit hard on a 14-yard run. Johnson dislocated his right hip and had to be taken to Sunrise Hospital, where he underwent surgery to repair the damage.

Johnson's college career looks as if it may come to an end, unless the NCAA grants him a medical redshirt next season.

Behind 3-0, the loss of Johnson, a leader in the Rebel offense who just came off of a record setting year at Dixie (Utah) JC, the Rebels' future looked bleak. But backup running back Coury Hankins stepped up to fill Johnson's shoes.

With the win, the Rebels improved to 1-2 on the season and, in the process, proved that their defense is now a force to be reckoned with.

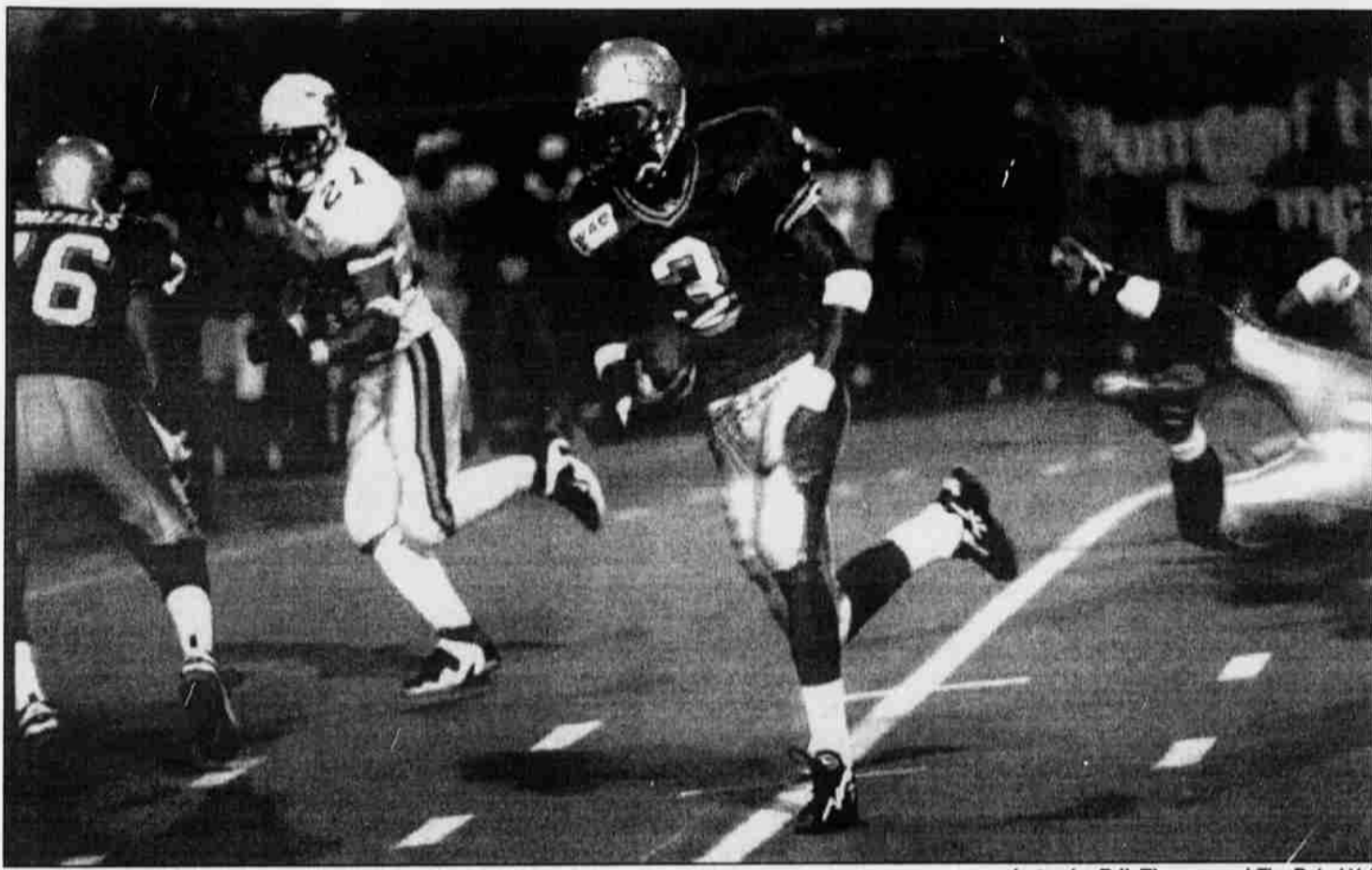
The game started out with yet another special teams mistake. After catching the opening kickoff, Hankins fumbled the ball and the resulting turnover put Hawaii on the Rebel 13-yard line.

The Warriors failed to convert, fumbling on the Rebel one. Junior Mark Hays recovered the ball and returned it to the Rebel 7-yard line.

The teams battled back and forth until, with 3:35 left in the first, Hawaii's place kicker, Eric Hannum, converted on a 19-yard field goal to put the Warriors ahead by three.

The Rebels came right back with a 32-yard TD pass to Len Ware in the second quarter, Jon Denton's first of the game. UNLV took the lead 6-3, after a failed extra point attempt.

An interception by Rebel Randy Black a few minutes later



photos by Erik Thompson / The Rebel Yell

Rebel wide receiver Len Ware breaks free during UNLV's 25-15 victory over Hawaii Saturday night at Sam Boyd Stadium. Hey Reb (below) says that the Rebels are No. 1.

put them on the Hawaii 11. Denton capped off the play with a one-yard sneak, putting the Rebels up 12-3. Denton was nearly knocked out on the play but continued on in the game after being checked out by the medical staff.

Near the end of the second quarter, the Rebels covered 47 yards in 2:32. Sophomore Tim O'Reilly put the Rebels up 15-3 on a 27-yard field goal.

The Rebel's scored again with 11 minutes left in the third quarter when O'Reilly converted a 29-yard field goal, putting the Rebels ahead 18-3.

Hawaii finally responded when senior quarterback Tim Carey and senior tight end Gary Ellison connected on a four-yard TD pass to bring the Warriors within nine of the Rebels.

The next score came late in the third quarter when Denton and junior H-back Damon Williams connected on a 22-yard TD pass, increasing the Rebel lead to 25-9. Denton was again

shaken up, but opted to stay in the game.

The fourth quarter stayed scoreless until Hawaii, at the end of the quarter, went 89 yards to end the game 25-15.

Aside from the final Hawaii drive, the Rebel defense succeeded by allowing the Warriors few opportunities to score and a total of 271 yards of offense.

"They (the Rebel defense) got pressure on the quarterback, forced turnovers, and didn't allow any long plays," said Rebel Head Coach Jeff Horton.

"That just goes to show you, in a way, we might not be hitting in all cylinders all the time on offense, but we played very good on defense and we got a chance to win a football game," he said.

The defense racked up a total of four sacks and four forced turnovers during the game, showing great improvement over last year's Rebel defense.

The Rebels look to improve their record to 2-2 next week against Illinois State (2-2).



## Clark's appeal denied by NCAA

By Ray Brewer  
Sports Editor

The NCAA Eligibility Appeals Committee ruled Friday that Runnin' Rebels senior center Keon Clark will serve his 11-game suspension for his involvement with teammate Kevin Simmons on an improper trip to Orlando, Fla. last March.

The trip was financed by David Rodriguez, a good friend of Simmons', who became a registered sports agent soon after the trip. When UNLV heard of the trip, they reported it to the NCAA on September 3. The NCAA then suspended Clark for 11 games and Simmons for 14 games.

UNLV appealed Clark's suspen-

sion, claiming he was deceived and did not know what was getting into. The university further contested that once Clark became aware that the trip was funded illegally, he left immediately.

Clark, a potential lottery pick selection in the 1998 NBA draft, decided to pass up turning professional after a stellar junior season, opting to finish his degree and improve on the court.

UNLV officials stand behind the basketball team on the issue.

"I am very disappointed with the decision," UNLV President Carol Harter said in a prepared release. "I felt we had a pretty strong case on behalf of a very fine young man."

Director of Athletics Charles

Cavagnaro agreed.

"If I didn't think we had grounds for an appeal, we wouldn't have proceeded with the appeal process," Cavagnaro said. "I have not changed my mind on this issue. Unfortunately, we are left with the fact that the only method to deal with the agent issue is to penalize the student-athlete. In this case, the student-athlete involvement was after the fact."

Clark, 6-foot-11, won't be back in Rebel uniform until early January.

Head coach Bill Bayno is disgusted on how the NCAA ruled on this matter.

"I'm disappointed. I don't think this is fair," Bayno told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. "The one thing

I want the fans to know is that I'm in control of this program. If I didn't know everything they were doing, we wouldn't have found out about this, we wouldn't have a chance to self-report it and we'd probably be a top-10 team right now."

Historically, of the 24 NCAA eligibility cases involving agents since August 1995, the eligibility appeals committee has modified its decision only two times.

Agents involved with collegiate athletes is all too common in the modern era of sports.

"Education alone is not enough to stop the actions of unscrupulous agents," Cavagnaro added. "We need to have federal legislation to assist with this problem."

### The games Keon Clark will miss

- Nov 15 vs Loyola Marymount
- Nov 19 vs Eastern Michigan-x
- Dec. 2 at USC
- Dec. 6 at Michigan
- Dec. 13 at Rhode Island
- Dec. 17 vs Chicago State
- Dec. 20 vs. Syracuse-y
- Dec. 23 us UC Irvine
- Dec. 27 vs UCLA
- Dec. 30 vs UNR

X-NIT Tournament  
Y-LV Shootout