

# Rebels split two over weekend

By Eric Gruzen  
Staff Sports Writer

The UNLV soccer team had a good weekend, when they took one out of two games in the UNLV Snickers/Fila Rebel Classic. They opened the tournament on Friday with a loss to Kentucky, 2-1, but then came back strong with a victory against Michigan State University on Sunday afternoon.

Sunday's game was an important one for UNLV in many ways. They needed to prove to themselves that they are good enough to compete in Division I play and are able to show themselves and their fans that they can win at home. And most importantly, they needed to prove that they can score goals.

They did those things with a great deal of success on Sunday with a big 4-2 victory over Michigan State. The Rebels' four goals were the more than they scored in any one game last season.

The scoring began on a UNLV penalty kick just 20:54 into the match. The kick was converted by Kiko Medina for his first goal of the year.

However, Michigan State countered with a goal with just 35 seconds left in the first half, to take the wind out of the Rebels' sails, and tie the game at one going into halftime.

The second half is where the UNLV offense exploded. The scoring began with a spectacular unassisted goal from Medina, his second of the game.

The Rebels were not done, scoring again at 71:55 on a goal from Gergely Kokavec, his first, off a pass from Michael Griego, to give the Rebels a two-goal lead.

Just three minutes later, UNLV was on the board again with a goal from Robbie Adams, and an assist from Geoff Barto. MSU countered with a late goal, but that was not enough, as the Rebels broke a five-game home losing streak.

"We found a way to win," Head Coach Barry Barto said after the victory. "The players



photo by Erik Thompson / The Rebel Yell

Sophomore midfielder Geoff Barto dribbles around a Michigan State player as Rob Delgado looks on. The Rebels won Sunday's game 4-2 over the Spartans. (Below) Barto searches for open space during the same game.

have to do it, not the coaches. We need to build confidence that we can score goals. Otherwise the team thinks that we will never score. A lot of it is psychological."

On Friday night, the Rebels lost 2-1 to the University of Kentucky. UNLV had a lead after a quick goal by Griego, but gave up two penalty kick goals to the Wildcats and lost the game in overtime.

The Rebels will be in action this Thursday as they take on California State San Bernardino at Peter Johann Memorial Field at 7:00 PM.



COME & PARTY AT THE HIPPO!

EVERY THURSDAY IS OUR UNLV NIGHT

FULL OF SPECIAL DEALS

\$1 Beer Specials/\$1 Shots Of The Day  
& The Most Entertaining Bands In Las Vegas.....

10pm-2am  
\$5.00 Cover Charge

And if You Hurry Up You May Have A Free Shot At The Door!!!!

\*Located Harmon & Paradise across from the Hard Rock

