

Brewer's Clubhouse

Rebels are better off without Denton

Kevin Crook has some big shoes to fill.

But, by being a team player he is already halfway there.

In the middle of summer, record setting quarterback Jon Denton was officially released from his scholarship with the Rebels football team.

This leaves the fifth-year senior Crook, who Denton beat out for the starter's role in 1996, as the Rebels' go to guy.

Sure, Denton, who transferred to Division I-AA Eastern Kentucky, will be hard to replace on the field. He set broke record after record (10 NCAA freshman passing marks) as a freshman and was without a doubt the key to UNLV's rise out of the college football basement.

However, the down-side to Denton was his attitude.

The Rebels, who had consecutive 10 loss seasons entering last year, started the '97 campaign on better ground. They were 3-4 overall—losing to Air Force 25-24 and San Diego State 20-17 in overtime—before Denton was suspended for what the university called "violating an unspecified team rule."

After the suspension, the Rebels, under the guidance of Crook, went downhill, losing the remainder of their games in blowout fashion.

Then, just before spring camp began, Denton was hit

with his second suspension for similar reasons. The Rebels said Denton was not attending class and had missed personal training sessions.

Also, there were published reports that his suspension could have resulted from a failed drug test.

Either way, the man in charge of running the team, who the future of the program was built around, has failed everyone.

Yes, Denton for the second time in two years had let his teammates and the community down.

So, while Denton has found greener pastures in the Bluegrass state, the Rebels are also headed in a positive direction.

And Crook is the perfect man to lead them into the spotlight.

Sure, his athletic abilities aren't as developed as Denton's was, but the signal caller already has one thing that is much more important than anything Denton ever had.

That is respect.

Plain and simple, his teammates have not grudges against him and are willing to follow his command on the field.

Crook is consistent in his game. He is a simple three or five step quarterback who understands the offense and what his role is to make it successful.

Denton, on the other hand, was a big question mark. No one, not even the coaching staff or his teammates, knew his next step.

It's safe to say that Denton's freshman success went right to his head.

Remember in all team sports, it is little me and big team.

Denton thought his role was bigger than the uniform he put on.

With Crook, it is a different story.

This guy is the man who can lead the Rebels into the winning record they are striving for.

Wins are something UNLV must have. The cry around the community is no more losing and plenty of winning.

UNLV coach Jeff Horton is in the fifth-year of his contract, and even though his has signed a one-year extension, a fourth straight losing season won't be good for his future.

Horton has faith in his quarterback. This faith is something that Horton couldn't have had in Denton after all of the disappointment last year.

Horton hopes this faith can translate into some bright results.

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Ray Brewer is the Sports Editor for *The Rebel Yell*. He can be reached at brewerr@nevada.edu.

Intramural Roundup

This year's Intramural Oozeball tournament is just around the corner.

This is the Eighth annual mud volleyball tournament put on by UNLV Campus Recreational Services. Sign-ups begin today and will be accepted until Sept. 11.

This is a double elimination, co-ed tournament so at least three females must be in the mud pit at all times. Teams are made up of six players each, but you can have substitutes in case somebody gets slimed and needs a break to clean the mud out of their ears, nose or other body parts.

Oozeball '98 will also feature music by radio station Extreme 107.5 F.M. There will also be food and beverages to purchase, but you may bring your own refreshments.

For more information contact the Campus Recreational Services office in Room 308 McDermott Complex or call 895-3582.

A chance for swinging and pulling, IM tennis and flag football are close at hand.

The 1998 Intramural season is close at hand as sign-ups for both tennis and flag football are coming up. The IM tennis tournament is a single elimination tournament with all participants placed into divisions depending upon their skill level. The entry fee is \$5 per participant. The sign-up dates are Sept. 8 - 14 with the tournament beginning on Sept. 21. So, all you Agassi's and weekend hackers come out and have a good time as well as get a chance to meet other players who are interested in tennis.

The Nike Flag Football season is about to begin.

The league is sponsored by Nike and Cinaburst gum. All participants will receive samples of Cinaburst gum and the champions in each division will receive paid bids to play in the Nike western flag football regional in Phoenix, Ariz. The winner of the regional gets an all expense paid trip to play in the Nike flag football championships in New Orleans during the Sugar Bowl.

The flag football league sign-ups will run Sept. 14 - Sept. 21 with the season beginning on Sept. 28. There will also be a pre-season tournament that will run the weekend of Sept. 25 - Sept. 27. The entry fee for the league is \$30 a team and \$15 a team for the pre-season tournament. There will be divisions for men, women and co-ed teams.

Along with a trip to Phoenix, Ariz., all champions receive UNLV Intramural Champion t-shirts. This is also the second year there will be a UNLV IM Flag Football Heisman Trophy winner. Last year's Heisman winner, Ricky Edwards, is back to defend his trophy.

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Mike McIntire is the head of the intramural department and not on the staff of *The Rebel Yell*.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

UNLV Campus Recreational Services is looking for students who are interested in sporting activities.

They are hiring intramural officials and Outdoor Adventures attendants. All you need is a good personality, a willingness to learn and a love of sports. Applications are available in room 308 of the McDermott Complex.

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