

SPORTS



UNLV FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS

Nineteen school records fell and another three were tied as the 1977 UNLV Rebel football team finished with another outstanding 9-2 record under coach Tony Knap.

Getting better each game, the Rebels ended their 1977 season with a convincing 27-12 road game in the ninth Annual BIG GAME over the University of Nevada, Reno.

With a 45-13 record over the last five years and an even more impressive 18-5 total in two seasons under Knap, UNLV virtually leaves the ranks of Division II football in 1978 as nine of 11 games are against major college foes. This past season, UNLV played three games against Division I opponents, losing to San Diego State by a deceiving 31-7 score, and defeating both Cal State, Fullerton (24-21) and the University of Idaho (35-21).

Senior quarterback Greg Van Ness finished his only season on the Rebel varsity by setting five of the eight individual offensive records UNLV compiled during the 1977 season.

Van Ness, the southpaw who played at four different schools in his career, set Rebel total offense records for most plays in a game (57 against Idaho) and most net yards gained (440 against Idaho). In single game passing, Van Ness also established new marks for passes attempted (43 against Boise State), most passes completed (27

against Idaho) most yards gained (473 against Idaho) and he tied the record for most touchdown passes thrown with four against Idaho.

For the year, Van Ness led UNLV in passing with 122 completions in 251 attempts with 12 interceptions for 1,736 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Two of the other three individual offensive records in 1977 were set by junior wide receiver Henry "Varoom" Vereen who set a mark for most yards gained receiving in a single game (181 against Idaho) and he increased his career kickoff return yardage record to 1,901 in three seasons.

The other individual offense mark was set by junior placekicker Jim Gaetano who scored the most points by kicking only in a single game (11 against Western Illinois) and he tied the school standard for field goals made in a single game (2 against both Weber State and U. Nevada, Reno). He also set a mark by making eight field goals in a single season.

On defense, cornerback Aaron Mitchell set a record with 12 pass break-ups in a single season and Dan Budak tied a record for interceptions in a game (two against Troy State). Gaetano also led the Rebels in scoring with 60 points on 36 of 37 PAT kicks and eight of 14 field goals for 60 points.

Senior Raymond Strong led the Rebels in rushing for the second straight year, despite being slowed by injuries which forced him to miss one game all together. The rugged runner carried the ball 143 times for 843

net yards for a 5.9 per carry average and six touchdowns, including his Rebel best of 80 yards against UNR. Strong was also the team's third leading receiver with 25 receptions for 416 yards for a 16.6 per catch average and three touchdowns. He ended his two-year Rebel career with 1,750 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns on the ground. In receiving he caught 42 passes for 698 yards and four touchdowns. Strong also returned nine kickoffs in the two seasons for 245 yards, giving him an amazing 2,693 yards in all-purpose yardage.

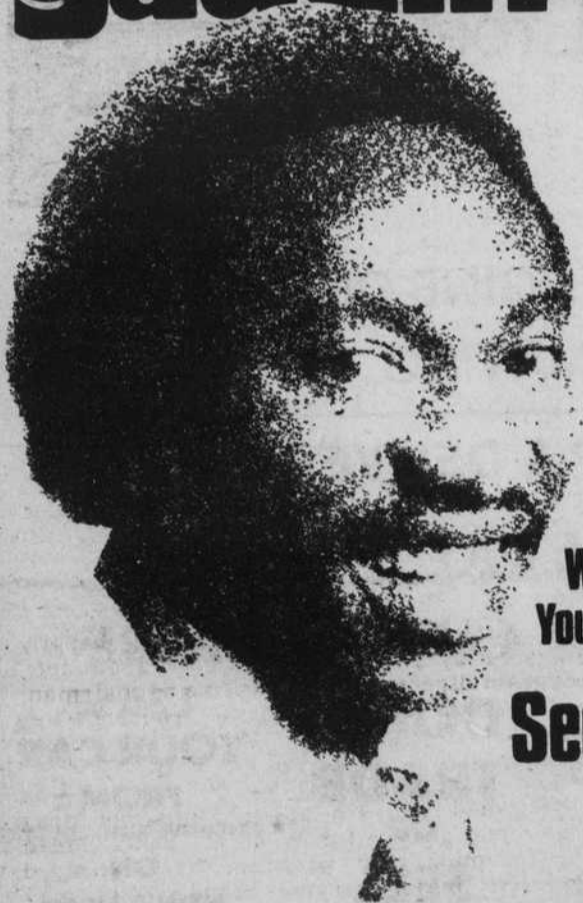
Junior Brian Harris led UNLV's talented receivers with 45 catches for 663 yards and six touchdowns. Vereen was second in pass catching with 31 catches for 629 yards and five touchdowns. Vereen also led the Rebels in kickoff returns with 22 for 449 yards and in punt returns with 82 yards on 12 carries.

Junior Steve Gortz turned his punting proficiency around in just one season as he upped his average to a near-record 42.0 yards per kick.

Preparing for a schedule in 1978 which includes most of the future Western Athletic Conference opponents, the 1977 Rebels averaged 13,590 fans per home game, a new UNLV record.

Overall, it has to be considered a very successful season for the Rebels, who are making their transition into Division I football.

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Rebels Basketball Season Starts

The Rebels played their first basketball game of the season last Saturday evening at the Convention Center.

Even though the game was not the best played, they won 85-80 over Northwestern Louisiana State University Demons.

Tarkanian said, "We didn't shoot, we didn't rebound, we didn't play defense. We just did a lousy job."

Reggie Theus led the Rebels with 28 points. Then on Tuesday the Rebels traveled to Malibu to go against Pepperdine and won 65-62.

From all reports the Rebels did not do any better playing on Tuesday than they did on Saturday. Let's hope they start doing

did on Saturday. Let's hope they start making a better showing on the floor - even though they have won both games.

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