

# SPORTS

## But No. 1 Is Rebel Recognition

# SAM GREENE HAS GOALS

By Joe Cross

Sam Greene is a young man with a lot of goals in life.

His first, quite naturally, is to help the

UNLV football team gain national recognition this fall — and, he sincerely hopes, its first post-season bowl game as a Division I power.

Naturally, like many other athletes, the Rebel flanker All-American candidate also hopes another super season on his part as one of the

finest wide receivers in the nation, he'll get a shot at playing professional football.

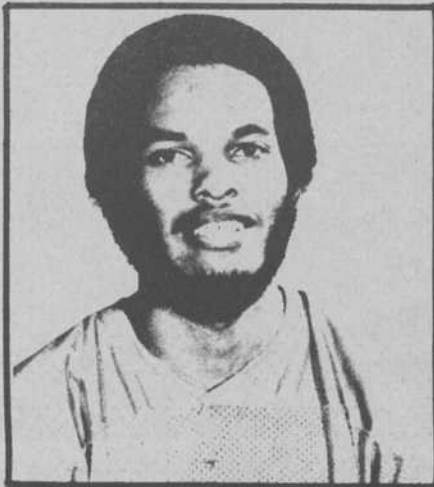
Greene's goal don't stop there, though. In

fact, a successful senior year and a shot at the pros would serve to only help him reach what he feels are the really important things in life —



GREENE

## Sam King, UNLV All-America Quarterback 6-3, 195, SR, Los Angeles, California



You know a guy has got to be good if he can play in 11 of 12 games during the season, splitting the time in all but one of the games in which he played and in two more of the games he was in just one series in each and in another only one quarter and still receive honorable mention All-America recognition.

But, such is the case with UNLV senior quarterback Sam King, who was so honored who will be a senior this season also, King helped lead the Rebels to a superlative 9-1-2 season, and, most of the time it was the hard-way as UNLV battled from behind 14 times in six games to win.

It took awhile for King, a junior college transfer last season from Los Angeles Southwest JC, to learn the Rebel system on offense, but after he did he was sensational and along with Gentry gave UNLV a daily double which was truly one of the most productive in all of college football in 1979.

King's totals for 1979 reflect 103 completions in 188 attempts for a .548 percentage with 10 interceptions, 12 touchdowns for 1,594 yards. He also was credited with 54 rushes for 64 net yards and five more touchdowns.

His proficiency rating of 136.4 points was the eighth best in the nation last season.

To keep things in their proper perspective, it must be pointed out again that no matter how impressive King's statistics are, they are even more spectacular in light of the fact that he split playing time with Larry Gentry, a fact which appears evident for 1980 as well. Together, they have become a superb winning combination. King, the long-armed passer from the classic drop-back pattern, and Gentry, the runner-passer who is liable to do just about anything with the ball.

Gentry certain he had the edge on experience last season as he began his third as a Rebel and King was the rookie, although he was a junior in eligibility.

Gentry played the entire opening game against Fullerton and against UNR, King came in for one appearance and completed four of five passes for 49 net yards. Against UTEP, with the

Rebels trailing, 17-0 with 12 minutes left in the game, King came off the bench and completed seven of 11 passes for 107 net yards and ran for one touchdown, but it still wasn't enough as the Rebels lost, 17-15.

King then made the most of his first start, over at the University of Hawaii. He ended the 48-31 Rebel victory with 11 of 25 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns and on the ground he carried the ball eight times for 13 net yards and two more touchdowns.

Back home again, he split playing time with Gentry against Northern Colorado and came back in the game with 1:31 left and marched the Rebels all the way down and threw the game-winning touchdown pass with just 24 seconds left on the clock.

Against New Mexico, largely because of a third-quarter explosion which rocked the Las Vegas Silver Bowl, the King became royalty he completed 17 of 32 passes for 289 net yards and two touchdowns. He also ran with the ball 10 times for 35 net yards and one more touchdown.

Against Utah, alternating with Gentry, he completed 10 of 18 passes for 154 net yards and one touchdown. He led UNLV into Ute territory after taking possession with just 39 seconds left on the Rebel 20 yard line, setting up Todd Peterson's 49-yard game-winning field goal.

Playing with the poise of an NFL veteran, King backed up Gentry at Wyoming and completed 10 of 15 passes for 113 yards and one touchdown, setting up the game which earned King his All-America certificate.

The Rebels played their last road game of the 1979 season up at Fresno State a school which had recruited King heavily. It was the only game all season that he went the distance, and, what a monument he built for himself. Despite intermittent to heavy rain throughout the game, he completed 17 of 29 passes for 325 yards and three touchdowns. He also carried the ball in the slush eight times for 25 yards and one more score.

Switching with Gentry the last three games, he had 103 yards against Tennessee State, 149 and two touchdowns against Colorado State and ended the season with 19 yards against Lamar in limited action.

But the end result was a superlative junior season and the first-ever All-America recognition for a UNLV player since the Rebels became a major college for the 1978 season.

Despite the prospects for a superb 1980 season, King remains a question mark as he continues to rehabilitate from a serious thumb injury incurred in the spring game this year. It is even possible that the King might have to resdhirt. Only time and testing will tell.

Sam King has been through a lot of tragedies in his young life, with the untimely death of his younger brother always haunting his thoughts.

But Sam King has a deep commitment to Jesus Christ and he has learned his Bible studies well. He has learned to accept things that happen in his life because of the promise of Romans 8:28 which says that "all things work together for good for those who love the lord and are called according to his purpose."

Don't worry about Sam King. Like most All-Americans, he'll be just fine.



Game-by-Game with Sam King in 1979

| PASSING |          |     |    | RUSHING |     |    |  |
|---------|----------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|--|
| OPP     | PC-PA-PI | YDS | TD | TCB     | YDS | TD |  |
| CSF     | DNP      |     |    |         | DNP |    |  |
| UNR     | 4-5-0    | 49  | 0  | 0       | 0   | 0  |  |
| UTEP    | 7-11-0   | 107 | 0  | 4       | -5  | 1  |  |
| UH      | 11-25-1  | 196 | 2  | 8       | 13  | 2  |  |
| UNC     | 7-13-1   | 91  | 1  | 5       | -7  | 0  |  |
| UNM     | 17-32-3  | 289 | 2  | 10      | 35  | 1  |  |
| Utah    | 10-18-1  | 154 | 1  | 8       | -6  | 0  |  |
| WYO     | 10-15-1  | 113 | 1  | 5       | -2  | 0  |  |
| FSU     | 17-29-0  | 325 | 3  | 8       | 25  | 1  |  |
| TSU     | 7-15-0   | 103 | 0  | 3       | 10  | 0  |  |
| CSU     | 12-21-2  | 159 | 2  | 3       | -5  | 0  |  |
| Lamar   | 2-4-0    | 19  | 0  | 1       | -5  | 0  |  |

King's Totals in 1979

| PASSING | PA  | PC  | PI | PCT  | YDS  | TD | RUSHING | TCB | NYG | AVE | TD |
|---------|-----|-----|----|------|------|----|---------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1979    | 188 | 103 | 10 | .548 | 1594 | 12 | 1979    | 54  | 64  | 1.2 | 5  |

namely working with young black youth to help them find their own way in life. And not necessarily in athletics, either.

"I want to work with juveniles," said the Santa Barbara, Calif., sociology major. "I want to be able to tell them about the positive things in life. I want to go somewhere where I can be useful."

Greene, you see, has some pretty specific ideas about what it takes to help the youth of today find themselves and become not only successful adults — but to show them that they, in turn, must "remember where they came from."

That latter remark tells in a few words Greene's major concern about today's world — especially concerning the growing black middle class in the nation.

Fewer and fewer people "want to get involved," Greene feels and "most minorities who get money are caught in the middle. They don't know which class they want to relate to. Well, I think you've got to relate to both. You cant' just stay in the middle; you've got to get involved if we want to bring about more and better changes for people."

Greene also believes help from the "outside" is very important today because even though "academics are getting

(See Sam Greene, p19)