

## Senior Greg Mattes Makes Opponents Feel His Presence

By Bob Rodgers

Greg Mattes, a Rebel senior, is playing in his second season as a starter for UNLV.

Mattes earned the honor of being named UNLV Offensive

Blocker of the Year.

Greg, an offensive guard, is one of the stronger players on the team. His quickness and good technique also make him one of the top linemen on the team.

A JVCO transfer from

Newbury Park, California, Mattes earned All-American Honorable Mention honors, and was named to the All-Conference teams his freshmen and sophomore years.

As a prepster, he earned

two letters in football and one in baseball and was named to the All-County and All-Valley teams.

A business major, Greg was a 4 year honor roll student at Newbury High School.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

**FOOTBALL: Week 6 College Football Rankings** - 1. Michigan, 2. Virginia, 3. Miami, 4. Oklahoma, 5. Tennessee, 6. Auburn, 7. Nebraska, 8. Notre Dame, 9. Florida, 10. Florida State.

Top College Football Game of the Week; Texas A&M vs. Houston, both 4-0.

Top NFL Game; NY Giants (4-0) vs. Washington (3-1).

**GOLF: PGA LEADERS**  
1. Greg Norman - \$907,977;  
2. Payne Stewart - \$829,743; Wayne Levi - \$772,394; 4. Hale Irwin - \$753,749; 5. Paul Azinger - \$746,681.

The Las Vegas Invitational Tournament is being held this week at the Desert Inn, Spanish Trails and Las Vegas Country Clubs. Mark O'Meara and Gary Hallberg are favorites to win the PGA tournament.

**BASKETBALL:** The Thomas and Mack is hosting an NBA exhibition game pitting the Philadelphia 76ers against the Utah Jazz on Tuesday, October 23 at 8 p.m.

The Runnin' Rebels will head toward defending their national championship when official practice begins Monday.



### Straight Pay for Rookies

One of the ideas you often hear being kicked around in football circles is "straight" pay for National Football League rookies. Many people see straight pay — a basic salary for players entering the league — as a way to bring the deals rookies are striking under control.

I think it sounds like a great idea, but I don't see how it could work. There is no question that the pay structure in the NFL is getting out of hand. Look at Jeff George who recently signed a \$15 million deal with the Indianapolis Colts — \$15 million for a player who had yet to take a snap in the NFL. He wasn't even what I'd call a great quarterback at the University of Illinois.

So who is to blame for the wild salaries? I think you start by blaming the owners, because they're the ones who give these outlandish contracts. The players and their agents are trying to strike the best deal possible. They are responding to market demands. I don't think there is any way Jeff George is worth \$15 million. But he was able to swing the deal, so somebody must think he's worth that much.

Almost everyone agrees, though, that something has to be done to control the salaries. The major issue is whether or not to put a ceiling on rookie salaries. As much as I'd like to see the craziness brought under control, I can't see how it could be done. Where would you begin? If you started today, you would have to develop a system that brought into account the average signing salary for rookies in the last draft. Separate salary averages would have to be established at every position, because no matter what anyone who supports straight rookie pay says, quarterbacks will end up getting more than running backs, running backs more than receivers and on down the line.

Could there be one salary that every rookie makes? Again, first-round draft picks would have to be given more than second-rounders, second-rounders more than third-rounders and so on. What would be the pay difference among the players and their agents?

One of the sad results of the million-dollar deals being struck is seeing these untested rookies making so much more than experienced veterans. A prime example is Brian Bosworth. "The Boz" rode into the league on a wave of hype and took the Seattle Seahawks for millions. It turned out to be all hype — he hardly played in his three years there and retired this year. That really hurts a guy like Chicago Bear All-Pro Mike Singletary, who has proven himself year-in and year-out and never had an outrageous contract.

Even with a complicated sliding scale to calculate pay, I don't think it could be made to work. It may not seem fair, but it seems nothing can be done about it. **ll**

Gale Sayers is considered one of the greatest running backs of all time. The former Chicago Bear is a member of the National Football League's Hall of Fame.

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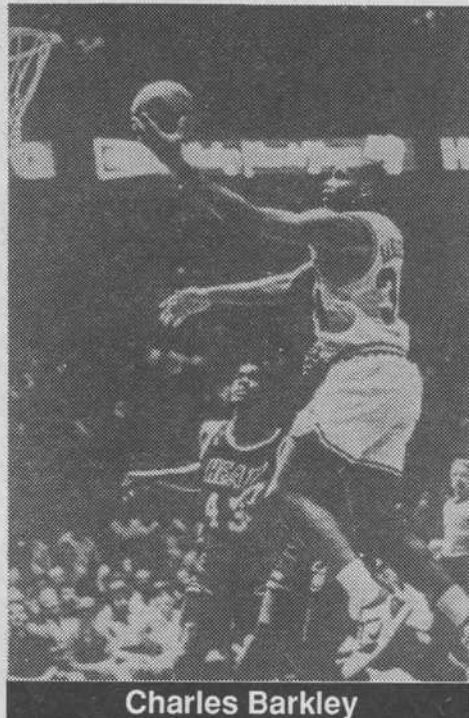
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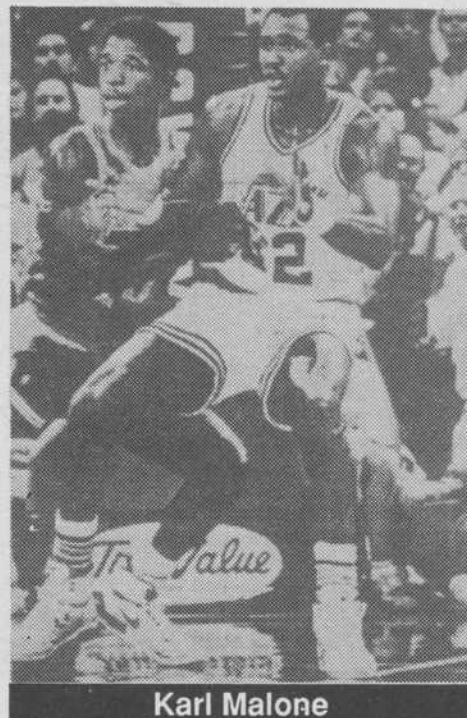


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