

# SPORTS

## UTAH ST. AND UNLV SHOULD SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN '92

**Sentinel-Voice**

Third-year Head Coach Jim Strong is optimistic that his UNLV Rebels, after consecutive 4-7 seasons, will show improvement this season.

Former Arkansas offensive coordinator Charlie Weatherbie inherits a program that has gone 10-3-1 in Big West play over the past two years. Although most of the skill positions have been lost, from last season's team, the Utah St. Aggies have a slight possibility of contending for the Big West title.

This week we conclude our Big West Conference Football preview.

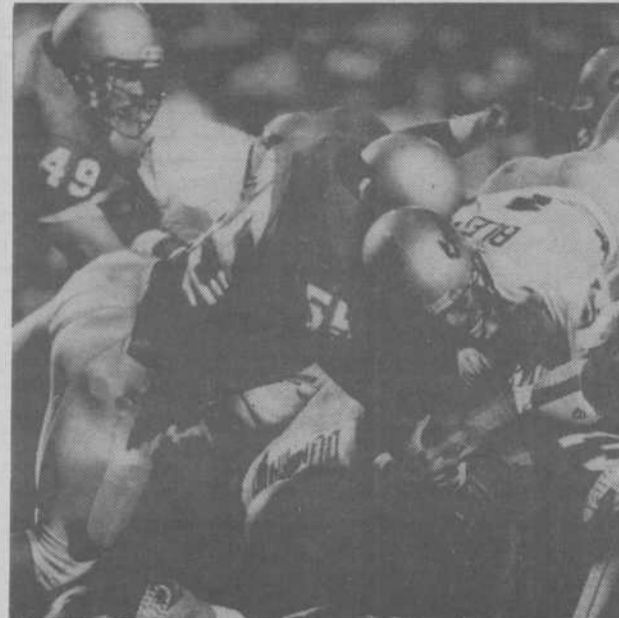
**Utah St.** - The Aggies offensive could rely on newcomer Greg Angelovil. The Huntington Beach native was a Redshirt QB in 1991, but won the starting assignment during spring drills. RB Abu Wilson, another Redshirt, will also fall into the Aggie lineup this season. Angelovil and Wilson will have plenty of protection while working behind



**UTAH STATE'S DEVASTATING OFFENSIVE LINE**

possibly the best offensive line in the Big West. Center Warren Bowers, guard Joe Moore and tackles Jaceson Maughan and Brian Funk are all returning starters from last season's 5-6 squad. Bowers was a first team All-Big

West pick last year. Defensively, the Aggie coaches will need to fill the starting inside unbacking spot vacated by Del Lyles. The bright spot with the defensive outlook is that backups return at virtually



**RUMONE HILTON WILL HELP LEAD UNLV'S DEFENSIVE ATTACK THIS SEASON**

every spot where senior starters have been lost. Senior tackles Joe Jacob, a second team All-League selection in '91, and free safety Damon Smith will guide the Defensive unit.

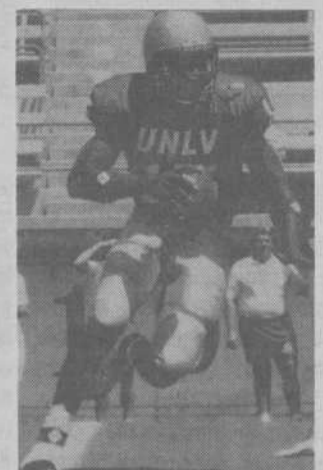
**UNLV** - Like the Michigan Wolverines of Basketball, the Rebels started a variety of freshman in 1991. The Rebels return 36 letterman, including 13 starters, from last season's squad while welcoming outstanding talent from the prep and Junior College ranks. Coach Strong may have solved the Rebels' QB puzzle with JUCO transfer Bob Stockham. The mid semester transfer possesses the team's strongest arm, but still has to adjust to UNLV's offense. Stockham will play behind junior John Ma'ae, who moves over to QB from WR, where he finished

second on the squad in receiving the past two seasons. Sophomore Henry Bailey and high school All-American Omar Love will attempt to strengthen UNLV's offensive attack.

Headlining the defensive unit will be seniors Mike Smalls and Tom Riley, junior Ramone Hilton and sophomore Keith Washington. Smalls is a 1992 Sporting News pre-season All-Big West Conference first team selection at middle linebacker.

Hilton is a pre-season second-team All-Big West selection and one of the most physical players in the conference.

Riley and Washington should relay their Quickness, from their defensive end positions, into the oppositions backfield. QB sacks could come in handfuls with these two rushing in.



**UNLV QUARTERBACK JOHN MA'AE**

**New Mexico State** - In Jim Hess' first two seasons at Las Cruces, the Aggies have managed only three conference wins. But, considering New Mexico State notched only two Big West victories in the previous six years, it is fair to say the Ags have gained ground during Hess' short tenure. The Aggies are again expected to show improvement this season, having added considerable speed to the squad and depth to both the offensive and defensive backfields. A pair of All-Big West first teamers return to the New Mexico State offense in tight end Todd Cutler and kickoff return specialist Fred Montgomery. The Aggies return two quarterbacks with experience, senior Charles Puleri and sophomore Cody Ledbetter. They'll have last year's top four receivers - Montgomery, Ezell Brown, Atlas Reagor and Cutler - to throw to. The Aggie secondary is talented and deep and

(See Preview, Page 15)

### BULLS SIGN NUMBER ONE PICK HOUSTON

Two time defending champion Chicago Bulls have signed Byron Houston, the club's first pick of the 1992 NBA Draft, to a multi-year contract. No other terms of the deal were disclosed.

Houston, the 27th pick overall in the draft, played at Oklahoma State where he was the

Cowboy's all-time leader in scoring (2,379), rebounding (1,190), blocks (223), minutes (4,113), field goals made and attempted (828-1501) and free throws made and attempted (698-957).

Jerry Krause, Bulls' Vice President of Basketball Opera-

tions, said, "We feel Byron Houston will be a good addition to the team. He is tough and strong at 6-6, 252 lbs. and a 7-1 wingspan."

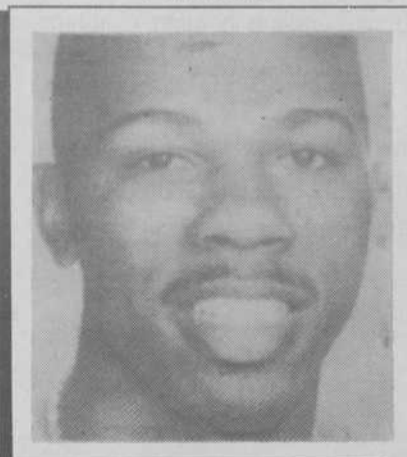
"He comes from an outstanding college coaching background where he played the last three years under Eddie Sutton," Krause said. "His representatives, Tony Dutt, James Bryant and Elister Duberry, along with Byron, worked with me to make sure he is the earliest first round signing in recent years. Byron will be in Chicago the rest of the summer working with our coaching staff." Houston was a member of the All-Big Eight First Team the last three years. He was MVP of both the Big Apple NIT and the Big Eight Conference tournament.

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