

SPORTS COMMENTARY

By W.G. Ramirez
Sports Editor

GETTING THE JOB DONE

What seems to be the problem here folks? When things were going wrong, oh let's say, about eight or nine months ago, everybody had something to say about UNLV. If it wasn't the Jerry Tarkanian saga, it was whether or not Jim Weaver was going to be able to adjust fitting into an athletic department plagued with never-ending controversy, or it was that the NCAA was coming down on the university too hard at times, or if Bob Maxson was against "ol' sad eyes," or if the Board of Regents were the bad guys. But wait - Let me take a breath.

Here we are, September 24, 1992. Sir Tarkanian is now down at the Alamo coaching in the pros, Mr. Weaver seems to have completely turned things around for the Athletic Department and President Maxson and the Regents are still doing their job, helping the state's largest institution stand proud. Yes, there are still investigations being threatened, but it just doesn't seem to be the topic of conversation anymore.

Come to think of it - there is no conversation at all. Why?

How come no one is recognizing the accomplishments of Jim Weaver? That's Mr. Weaver to you. This man has come to UNLV, knowing what it would take to produce a successful athletic department - Academically and Athletically.

He has probably one of the hardest working Sports Information Offices in the nation. Yes this team has also had to struggle with all of the ridiculing that was being delivered. And by who? You and everyone else in this town. When all else fails, point the finger. Unfortunately that is where things were heading.

Sports Information Director Joe Hawk, and his assistants Jim Gemma, Chris Johnson and Tommy Sheppard all work extremely hard in keeping things in order at the university.

Let us not forget Mr. Weaver's Senior Assistant Athletic Director Keith Tribble. He has stuck by and kept things "business as usual," as Mr. Sheppard puts it, to help who - UNLV.

Are you reading carefully? Everyone is here to help the university, not hurt it.

Mr. Weaver promised you he would deliver a coach with the caliber it would take to continue UNLV's winning tradition in basketball, as well as accomplish an academically talented team. Our

proud A.D. introduced Rollie Massimino, someone who had taken an unheralded Villanova squad to the top in 1985, and also someone who has an outstanding reputation for watching his seniors graduate, as UNLV's new head basketball coach on April 1, April Fool's Day. The only fools on this day were those who doubted Mr. Weaver's promises.

Coach Massimino was so excited to come to UNLV - and how do people react? What do they say? "Now we should be called the Walkin' Rebels." Real nice support, people.

That's alright though. Coach Rollie has insured there will not be a letdown; we will remain the Runnin' Rebels. He also signed two highly touted recruits for a school that boasts the winningest collegiate basketball team over the last five seasons at 152-22 (.874) and the last ten seasons at 307-42 (.880).

Yeah its beginning to sound like an ambush to me folks. What terrible people.

The efforts of Mr. Weaver and all of his assistants seems endless though.

UNLV football began a couple of weeks back with a new look. Well, actually the sidelines had a new look. Mr. Weaver had recruited "Rouser." A gray horse trimmed in scarlet and rode by "Rebel" was now part of the UNLV team "to create a sense of dominance and strength, both keys to a winning tradition," according to Mr. Weaver. "Rebel" and "Rouser" lead the team onto the field before each home game and perform during pre-game ceremonies. The horse is on loan to the UNLV Athletic Department by Rocky Stone, the man inside the mascot costume.

This is entertainment folks. What do you do on Saturday afternoons? Sit at home and see these big colleges play an intense game of football. Shoulder pads are snapping, helmets are popping, grunts and groans - Touchdown!!!

The camera pans through the crowd then back to the field; The mascot sends the fans into such a frenzy, it has you yelling and screaming with your friends. Popcorn is flyin', you've most likely just inaugurated the second twelve pack - You're having a great time!!!

Even the UNLV Rebels seem to have a different attitude on and off the field. Just read the article on pages 18 & 19. Notice the 2-0 record. Where do you
See Commentary, Page 24

★ ★ ★ SPORTS BRIEFS ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★
FOOTBALL SKILLS WORKSHOP

The City of L.V. Johnson Community, 7701 Ducharme Avenue, sponsors a football skills workshop, October 13-16. The seminar, designed for ages 8-12, takes place 4-5 p.m., daily. Registration takes place Octo-

ber 6-9 at a cost of \$10. Call 229-6175.

★ ★ ★
MEN'S THREE-ON-THREE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Two men's three-on-three basketball leagues are now being organized by the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street. Registration contin-

ues through September 25 at a cost of \$20 per team. The leagues are designed for adults 18 and older. The morning league begins play Monday, September 28 at 10 a.m., and the evening league begins Tuesday, September 29 at 6 p.m. The leagues are sponsored by the City of L.V.. Call 229-6374.

BE A REBEL ROUSER!

OFFICIAL RUNNING REBELS POSTER
MOUNTED ON HEAVY HARDBOARD
IN BLAZING COLORS



\$19⁹⁹
REG. \$49.99

ACTUAL SIZE 36"X24"X1/2"
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!



SHOP DAILY 10 A.M. - 9 P.M. SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. SUNDAY 11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

LAS VEGAS
91 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.
(S.W. corner of Hwy 95 & Hwy 15)
Phone: (702) 366-9097

UNLV

(Continued from Page 18)

Bailey, who has taken over the "utility" position, vacated last season by Hunkie Cooper, has collected 301 all-purpose yards in UNLV's two outings. He is currently leading the team with seven receptions for 128 yards and two touchdowns; scoring (12 points); punt returns (8 yds. per return); and kick-off returns (25.0 yds. per return). Bailey leads the Big West in punt returns and is second in kickoff returns. Bailey is also a coverage man on punt and kickoff teams; Coincidentally, Bailey is the UNLV player that blocked the punt in which Porter returned for a TD.

Against NAU, sophomore RB Shannon McLean carried the ball 21 times for 122 yards and a touchdown. McLean is third in the nation in rushing with an outstanding average of 154.5 ypg.

He trails Heisman candidate Marshall Faulk of San Diego St. (259.5) and Mario Bates of Arizona St. (161.5). After two games Shannon has tallied 309 yards on 51 carries with one TD.



WR Demond Thompkins hauls in a reception during last Saturday's contest. Photo By Savoy LVS-Voice

McLean's 154.5 average leads the Big West in the rushing department.

Also co-starring in UNLV's victory was RB Robert Gi, who scored 2 TD's while accumulating 42 yards on 7 carries.

Coach Strong realizes the test he'll be facing when he and the Rebels arrive in Eugene for Saturday's contest.

"(Oregon) had a great win over Texas Tech," stated Strong. "They've got a lot of talent and we have our work cut out for us. Player for player, the Ducks are

big, strong and quick."

Last Saturday, Oregon broke the nation's longest Division I losing streak when they beat Tech 16-13.

The Ducks had lost eight straight games.

What could prove to be UNLV's toughest test, Oregon comes out of the extremely tough Pac-10 Conference, which boasts four Top 25 teams and two more on the heels of number 25.

Washington (#2), UCLA (#11), Stanford (#19) and USC (#22) are all regulars that Oregon has to prepare for every season; UNLV has yet to reach the status of these four powerhouses.

Washington St. and California are the other two teams from the Pac-10 that often receive votes.

Rich Brooks, who is in his 16th season at head coach of the Ducks, holds a 1-0 record against UNLV, defeating the Rebels 32-9 on October 25, 1980 in Eugene.

See UNLV, Page 24