



SPORTS

Conference's Top Two Rushers Go Head-To-Head

UNLV OPENS BIG WEST CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AGAINST PACIFIC

By W.G. Ramirez

The UNLV Rebels, (2-1), coming off their second-worst defeat in school history after being rocked 59-6 in Oregon last Saturday, will open conference play this Saturday in Stockton, California, against one of the most dangerous offensive units in the nation.

Labeled as the "Air Tigers," Pacific, (1-3, 0-1 in the Big West), arguably has the best QB/WR combination in Troy Kopp and Aaron Turner. When this dynamic duo is not in effect, RB Ryan Benjamin is blasting through the line averaging 5.8 yds. per carry. The Tigers are currently averaging 419 yards per game, 276.5 of them through the air. What will make this game so intriguing, is UNLV's passing defense is #1 in the conference allowing a mere 95.2 yds. per game. The Rebels also have intercepted their three opponents five times, returning three of them for touchdowns.

UNLV, which leads their series with the Tigers 7-4, may receive a handicap sooner than kickoff if Pacific's Kopp remains out of commission. Kopp sprained his right ankle in a non-football related accident last week, and missed the SW Mis-

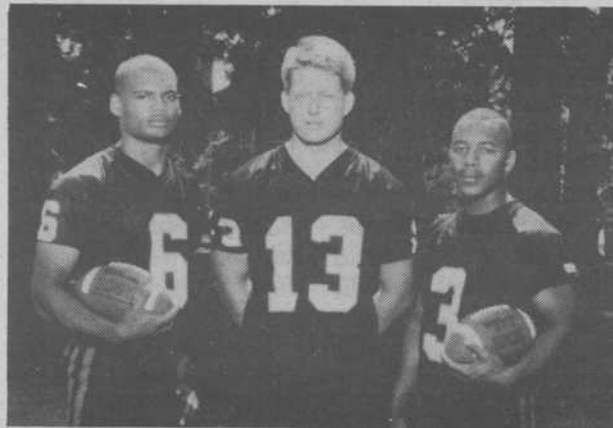
souri game. He remains questionable for Saturday's contest.

Should Kopp miss Saturday's contest, the Rebs could be spared the misery Kopp served up last season. He neared an NCAA record for accuracy when he completed 25 of 30 passes against UNLV. He completed 83.3% of his attempts for 357 yards and six touchdowns en route to a 44-23 victory.

All-American candidate Turner entered the season owning a pair of NCAA records, broke another last Saturday, and has five more waiting in the balance. He caught 10 passes for 169 yards against SW Missouri St. to record his 19th 100-yard game snapping the old NCAA mark of 18 by Florida State's Ron Sellers (1966-'68).

Benjamin, who is a candidate for the coveted Doak Walker National Running Back Award, ranks first in the Big West and 13th in the nation with his 120.8 ypg. avg.

Pacific's high-powered runner will not be the only prominent running back featured in Saturday's game, as UNLV tailback Shannon McLean also is ranked among national leaders. McLean entered the Oregon game as the third-leading rusher



Pacific's "All-America Trio," Aaron Turner (6), Troy Kopp (13), and Ryan Benjamin (3)

in the nation but the Duck defense held him to just 39 yards on 15 carries. In fact until Benjamin's 209-yard outburst against SW Missouri, it was McLean leading Benjamin as the

top backs in the Big West.

Oregon will prove to have been UNLV's toughest opponent, but Pacific will be the Rebs first Big West test to prove their legitimate contenders for this



UNLV's Shannon McLean breaks away from defenders against No. Arizona.

Photo By Savoy/LVS-Voice

year's Big West crown. The Tigers know they are legitimate contenders but they can't afford another Big West defeat after dropping their opener at Nevada (Reno) two weeks ago.

The game will be carried live over KDWN-AM (720) with Ken Korach and Tony Cordasco calling the action. The broadcast will begin with "Rebel Warm-up" at 1:30p.m. Kickoff is at 2:05p.m.

BATTLE OF UNBEATENS ON SLATE FOR WEEK FIVE OF NFL SEASON

By W.G. Ramirez

Here we are four weeks deep into the '92 football season. there are four teams with unblemished loss columns, and coincidentally, they will meet each other this Sunday and Monday.

The Eastern Division of both the AFC and NFC will see their top dogs clash when Miami (3-0) travels to Buffalo (4-0) Sunday morning and Dallas (3-0) head to Philly (3-0) for the Monday night contest.

Many experts feel that the winner of the Dallas/Philadelphia game is a sure bet to represent the NFC in this season's Super Bowl.

Unfortunately these experts have prematurely counted out the defending champion Washington Redskins and the always tough San Francisco 49ers. The Cowboys, Eagles and 'Skins all had the day off last Sunday but the 'Niners met up with the Saints in New Orleans. 'Frisco proved that they still run the NFC West by stifling

the Saints 16-10.

Dallas is coming off of their first winning season during the Jimmy Johnson era and have opened their '92 campaign with three strong victories. Dallas began the season with a Monday night victory over Washington and followed that with victories over two other NFC East nemeses, New York and Phoenix.

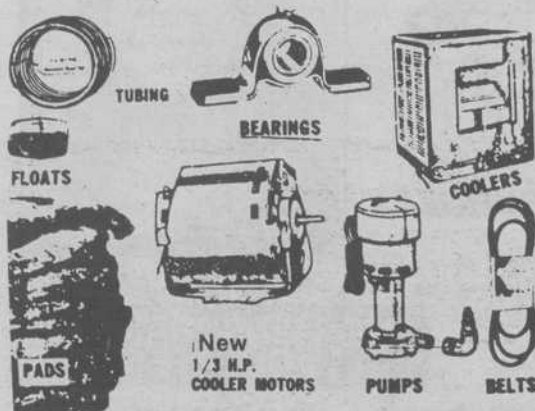
If any team is going to knock Dallas out of the unbeaten ranks, it'll be Philadelphia.

The Eagles' well-balanced squad just may be the team to beat all season long. Besides Washington and Dallas, Philly shouldn't have any trouble with the rest of their schedule. A November 29th meeting with the 49ers should be their only other threat.

Randall Cunningham and Herschel Walker are playing well off of each other and it is baffling defenses left and right. Their counterparts, Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith aren't having the same effect, yet the Dallas Duo can be dangerous.

After going buck-wild against the Giants, Dallas almost blew a (See Unbeatens, Page 15)

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N.Y. Giants +3 over L.A. RAIDERS
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Current Record (17-6) including preseason

Other Sunday Games

MINNESOTA -4 v.s. Chicago
TAMPA BAY -9 v.s. Indianapolis
DENVER -1 v.s. Kansas City
SAN FRANCISCO -15 v.s. L.A. Rams
SAN DIEGO -3-1/2 v.s. Seattle
N.Y. JETS -9 v.s. New England

Monday Night

PHILADELPHIA -4 v.s. Dallas