

# ADD FOUR NEW TEAMS TO THE BIG WEST SCRAMBLE

# SPORTS

**Sentinel-Voice**

It happened last season, and now four other schools - Northern Illinois, Louisiana Tech, SW Louisiana and Arkansas State - hope that they will be able to conquer the Big West crown after their inaugural season in the league.

Not only capturing the crown last year, but also, the Nevada Wolfpack became the first school in NCAA history to jump from Division I-AA to Division I-A, and ultimately win a conference crown and, appear in a bowl game. The Wolfpack will try to become the sixth school in Big West history to repeat as champion.

The four new schools, mentioned above, competed as Division I-A independents last season in order to be eligible for the conference title this year and a berth into the Las Vegas Bowl II.

The following is the first part of a brief look at the Big West schools, (NEXT WEEK: New Mexico State, Pacific, SW Louisiana, Arkansas State, and UNLV on Defense):

**Utah State:** Head Coach Charlie Weatherbie and his Utah State Aggies will head into this season with nothing less than December 17 on their minds. On that date will be the Las Vegas Bowl II and the Aggies are already making reservations.

USU returns to 37 players from last year's 5-6 squad, which includes 15 starters. Leading the way for the Aggies this season will be 6'0"-250lb. ILB Jermaine Younger, a Butkus Award candidate. The anchor of the defense, Younger had brilliant numbers last season - 121 tackles, 6 sacks and 3 interceptions - to easily capture the Big West Defensive Player Of The Year honor. QB Anthony Calvillo will call the signals on offense, hoping to continue the success he found last season. Calvillo came off the bench to post the second-best numbers in the league (201-for-360, 2,494 yards, 16 TDs). If Calvillo isn't dishing the ball to speedster Abu Wilson in the backfield, he'll be aiming for two outstanding targets - TE Aubrey Thompson and WR Jim Ray.

**Nevada:** As mentioned before, the Wolfpack will be striving for their second consecutive Big West championship, and will also be looking to win their fourth straight conference title. Coupled with their Big Sky title's in 1990 and '91, last year's crown made it three in a row.

The 'Pack returns 31 players from last season's 7-5 team, including 14 starters. Nevada will enjoy 9 of those players back on offense, especially the QB-WR duo of Chris Vargas and Bryan Reeves.

On the receiving end is Reeves, an All-Big West first team pick and Wolf Pack Player of the Year, set single-season school records last year for re-

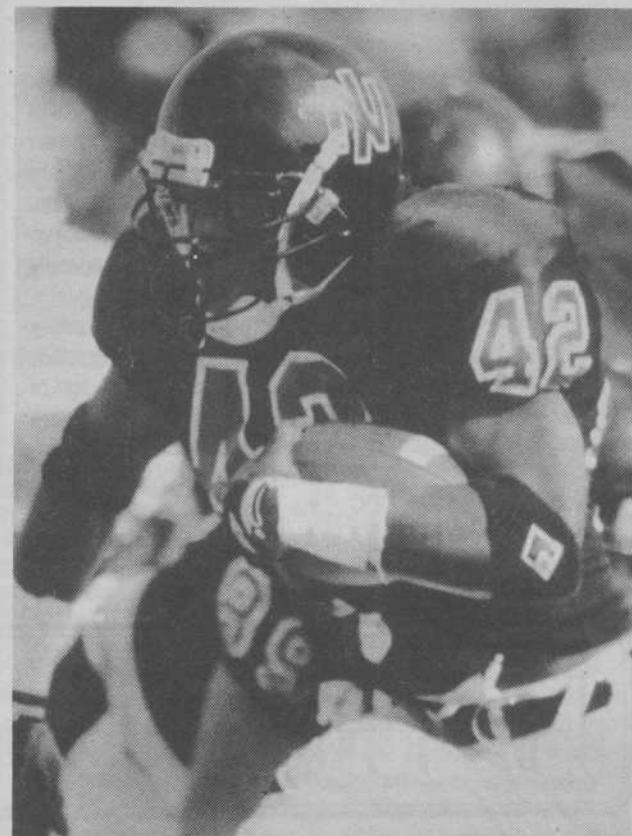


**BRYAN REEVES**

ceptions (81 - 2nd in the nation) and receiving yards (1,114).

Vargas, who arguably is the NCAA's equal to John Elway of the Denver Broncos, seems insurmountable when his 'Pack is down. He engineered an amazing comeback against USU to lead his team from 19 points down with seven minutes remaining for a 48-47 victory, and eventually the BWC crown. He was named the MVP of the Las Vegas Bowl I bringing UN back from a 28-3 deficit. Bowling Green overcame the 'Pack's 38-24 lead, but it was Vargas that gained the attention.

**San Jose State:** The Spartans head into their 1993 campaign under the leadership of College Football Hall of Fame coach John Ralston. Ralston, a popular Bay Area sports personality, guided the Stanford Cardinal from 1968-1971, capturing the Rose Bowl trophy in 1970 and '71. Ralston will be



**LESHON JOHNSON**

happy to return 37 letterman, which includes nine starters from their 1992 7-4 squad. Ralston should also be pleased to know that the Spartans' offense is arguably the most balanced in the BWC. All-Big West first-team QB Jeff Garcia returns for his final season at SJSU with hopes of carrying his team to the Big West crown and a post-season appearance. Bursting out of the backfield will be 5'10" tailback Nathan DuPree, who finished the 1992 season ranked 11th nationally in rushing with 1239 yards and 11 touchdowns. Joining DuPree will be Shon

Ellerbe, who averaged 6.3 yards as a junior in 1991, averaging 6.3 yards a carry and was second on the team with 391 yards and 4 TDs. The defense, which is changing their defensive alignment this season from 3-4 to a 4-3 front, returns three starters including second-team All Big West middle linebacker Jim Singleton. Free Safety Troy Jensen will key the secondary, along with Cornerback Troy Jensen.

**Northern Illinois:** "The best running back in the nation!!!" That's what they're saying about (See Preview Page 19)

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