

At the game as a fan!!!

How many yards was that play? Who caused that fumble? Who recovered it?

Shhh!!! I'm on deadline. Somebody grab that phone.

Sit in any press box at a football stadium, and these are just a sample of things that are being asked or demanded by working reporters that are scrambling to make their deadline.

This is why I'm thankful that I had a chance to attend last Sunday's San Diego-Kansas City game - as a fan. A friend and I decided that if there was any road trip to make, it would be to see Joe Montana and the Chiefs take on the front-running Chargers.

So sure enough, close to seven hours after witnessing a mind-blistering game between UNLV and Louisiana Tech in the press box, he and I headed down Interstate 15 for the big game.

Reeling from the last-minute victory UNLV pulled off, I couldn't wait to be able to yell, scream, laugh, cheer and well, quite frankly, have an ice cold one.

We arrived at Jack Murphy Stadium around 11:35 a.m., but didn't get close to parking the car until an hour later. The scene was absolutely wild. This was San Diego's best start since 1961 and Joe Montana was in town to

try and spoil everything.

Ticket scalpers were everywhere. "Entrepreneurs," if you will, could be found holding a pair of "Plaza Seats" in one hand and a "Tickets Needed" sign in the other. Scalpers were getting as high as \$300 per ticket for the game, which one season-ticket holder labeled, "the biggest game of the season."

The game started off slow, as both teams had their defensive schemes in full gear. San Diego took a 3-0 lead into the second quarter, just as the cold ones began to kick in.

K.C. tied the game early in the second quarter, but the Chargers responded with another field goal to regain their three-point lead.

At this point, which was with roughly 7:00 left in the first half, I found myself hollering from my seat for San Diego. The problem was, I was surrounded by a herd of Kansas City fans and we were sitting in the upper deck. The last thing I needed was to be hurled into the middle deck. But what the heck, I was at the game as a fan. It all just spurred me to yell even louder as the Chargers sliced through the Chiefs' defense. It was a 43-yard, 5-play drive that saw running-back Natrone Means get the call for

Sports Commentary by: Willie Ramirez

every play en route to a 9-yard touchdown. It was a nine-yard run that brought the majority of the 62,923 frenzied fans to their feet. *Whoomp, there it is! Whoomp, there it is!*

What a difference from hearing a voice in the press box describe the drive - i.e., "5 plays covering 43 yards. Time of possession 2:18 capped by a nine yard run by Means. The point-after is good by Carney." Nope, instead there was dancing in the aisles and fans yelling f— Joe Montana. Where's Junior Seau? Send him on to break Montana's elbow!!!

The Chargers held the Chiefs on their final drive of the half, maintaining their 13-3 lead.

The third quarter saw alot more defensive highlights as the score remained the same. In the fourth quarter though, the natives became restless and there was a sense that the crowd was going to help push the Chargers down the field. Although there wasn't anymore room in Jack Murphy Stadium, it felt and sounded as if another 30 or 40,000 were on hand for the Chargers' opening drive of the final quarter.

Once again, it was Means that would plow through Kansas City, as the Chargers extended their lead to 20-6. Means had runs of 25 and 23 yards on the 77-yard drive that put the game away. The march was capped when Stan Humphries' hit Mark Seay on a 5-yard TD strike. *Whoomp, there it is! Whoomp, there it is!*

At this point, it was apparent that the Chargers' fans in attendance were going to show no mercy on the Chiefs or their followers. Kansas City's ensuing drive made its way to the San Diego 24-yard line, but when Montana threw an incomplete pass to J.J. Birden on fourth-

and-ten, it was evident that a enormous party had erupted inside Jack Murphy. And who was invited? Close to 60-some odd thousand screaming fans.

All I could think about at this point was, "Those poor soles in the press box. With all this fun going on, they must remain professional. No signs of jubila-

tion. No signs of exuberance. Just a bunch of poker faces with their noses in their lap-top computers."

But then another thought crossed my mind. These 63,000 fans don't get a chance to go and talk to Montana or Means or Seau. They don't have the luxury from behind-the-scenes. Wow, maybe I could've gotten a press pass and played the role. That could've been me getting the one-on-one scoop. Me and Joe hanging in the locker room, getting all the disappointing

quotes. How about the winning locker room? Means must of been a great interview after the big win.

Instead, there we were afterwards. Stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic for another 45 minutes. We found ourselves rattling about the game. Reminiscing big plays that we'd later see on the local news or George Michael's Sports Machine.

And what would be my response? "Yeah, we were there! At the game ...

... as a fan!!!!

Rebels

(Continued From Page 21) game," says Gatewood.

Horton hasn't exactly had a hard time dealing with all the controversy concerning UNLV Head Basketball Coach Rollie Massimino, and is just glad that there is positive feedback reflecting on his team.

"It feels good that people are feeling good about coming out to practice and watching us. I kind of like it over here, staying out of the lime-light."

While the Rebel Basketball offices are located inside

the Thomas and Mack Center, Horton and his crew are located in the middle of the campus, along with Rebel Park.

Tulsa and the Rebels have met once before, at Sam Boyd Stadium in 1988. The Golden Hurricane trounced UNLV 33-7 behind eventual Los Angeles Ram QB T.J. Rubley's 230 yards passing.

Tulsa is led at quarterback this year by John Fitzgerald, who is averaging 169 ypg., and has thrown for only two touchdowns.

UNLV appears to outclass the Golden Hurricane on paper,

but what happens on the field remains to be seen.

Kickoff is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. (PDT) and the game will be carried live over KDWN-AM (720), with Ken Korach calling the action and Tony Cordasco providing analysis. The broadcast is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. (PDT) with Rebel Warm-Up.

• Don't forget to tune in weekly with Horton and television personality Colin Cowherd for "UNLV Football with Jeff Horton" every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. on KVBC (Ch. 3 NBC).

Cooper

(Continued From Page 21)

utes. His 5'7"-185 lb. frame may mislead coaches as to what his potential is, yet according to Cooper, size isn't everything.

"I'm a small guy but I have a big heart. I think I'm the kind of guy that is the type of player that makes things happen when it's needed most."

Due to the fact that Cooper has had to "settle for something less," he believes it's benefited him more than anything.

"I matured alot. I had my goals set on the NFL and I had to settle for something less and that made me mature more financially and as a person. It made me do some sole searching. Was I really cut out to be in the NFL or was it a game of politics?"

And what about Las Vegas' Arena team - the

Sting? Cooper says he loves Vegas, but his loyalty remains with all of his Rattlers fans.

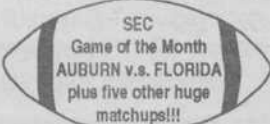
"I have alot of loyalty and alot of fans in Arizona. We have a group of loyal fans that come out to watch us week after week. It's alot of things in the community that we did and right now my heart is in Phoenix. Right now I think Arizona is the place for me. To come out to Vegas would be more of a money situation, and when you start playing for money and not for the enjoyment of the game it becomes a problem."

As of now though, his heart is with the Rebels and their new found fame under Horton. And where will Cooper be found on November 19, when the Rebs face intra-state rival Nevada-Reno? "I'll be next to the Fremont Cannon... ..with a can of red spray paint." Loyalty!

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Thursday October 13, 1994
Cleveland -2 (37) HOUSTON

Sunday October 16, 1994
San Francisco -5 (46) ATLANTA
BUFFALO -9' (38) Indianapolis
MIAMI -3' (46) L.A. Raiders
N.Y. JETS -1' (41') New England
PITTSBURGH -13' (39) Cincinnati
Arizona -1 (35') WASHINGTON
DALLAS -8' (43) Philadelphia
N.Y. Giants -1' (36) L.A. Rams
San Diego -3 (40) NEW ORLEANS

Monday October 17, 1994
DENVER -1' (43) Kansas City

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L.A. RAIDERS +3'
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Season Totals

MAULDIN	15-14-01 -- .517
RAMIREZ	17-13-00 -- .567

Last Week's Picks

MAULDIN (3-2): S.F. 49ers -4', Indianapolis +5', L.A. Raiders +3, Kansas City +1', Denver +3'
RAMIREZ (3-2): Atlanta -7', S.F. 49ers -4', Indianapolis +5', Seattle -3', Washington +13