

S P O R T S

UNLV FOOTBALL

Rebels get their first win

*By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice*

Finally, something good has happened for the UNLV football program.

The Rebels, a 28 1/2 point underdog, snapped a 12-game losing streak last Saturday, en route to posting a 44-42 win over San Diego State University at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

Playing in their final home game of the season, the Rebels won their first game since Nov. 4, 1995.

"Saturday, the atmosphere out there was great," UNLV head football coach Jeff Horton said of the crowd support at the Silver Bowl. "People were going wild, running out on the field. It was like we had won a bowl game. But that's okay. At this point and time it's like a bowl game for us, and it was a great step in the right direction. I'm excited for all the students because I've got a great rapport with them and

they've supported us very well.

"The students and administration are behind us tremendously," Horton added. "We're trying to build it (UNLV's football program) the right way with young kids and we're going through some growing pains, but they've been behind us 100 percent."

Believe it or not, however, the game was even closer for the Rebels than the score would lead you to believe.

With only 13 seconds remaining in the game and under breezy conditions, San Diego place kicker Peter Holt misfired on a 35-yard field goal, preserving UNLV's first ever, Western Athletic Conference (WAC) victory. The win improved the Rebels to 1-10 overall and 1-6 in WAC play. The loss, knocked San Diego State (6-3 overall, 4-2 WAC) out of WAC championship contention. The WAC championship will be

played Dec. 7.

"I think it shows that if you keep working hard and you keep believing in the things you believe in and you know you're doing things right — that if you do that, eventually something good will happen to you," an elated Horton said. "It's obvious we've been tested for 10 weeks, but even during those 10 weeks, each week we got better. Obviously it was good to get a win and we're really excited for the program and the kids."

The win was especially sweet for UNLV's 11 seniors who were playing their final home game as Rebels. A UNLV loss would have left the group labeled as the only Rebel senior class to go through an entire season without a victory at home.

The Rebel victory was also special for two other reasons.

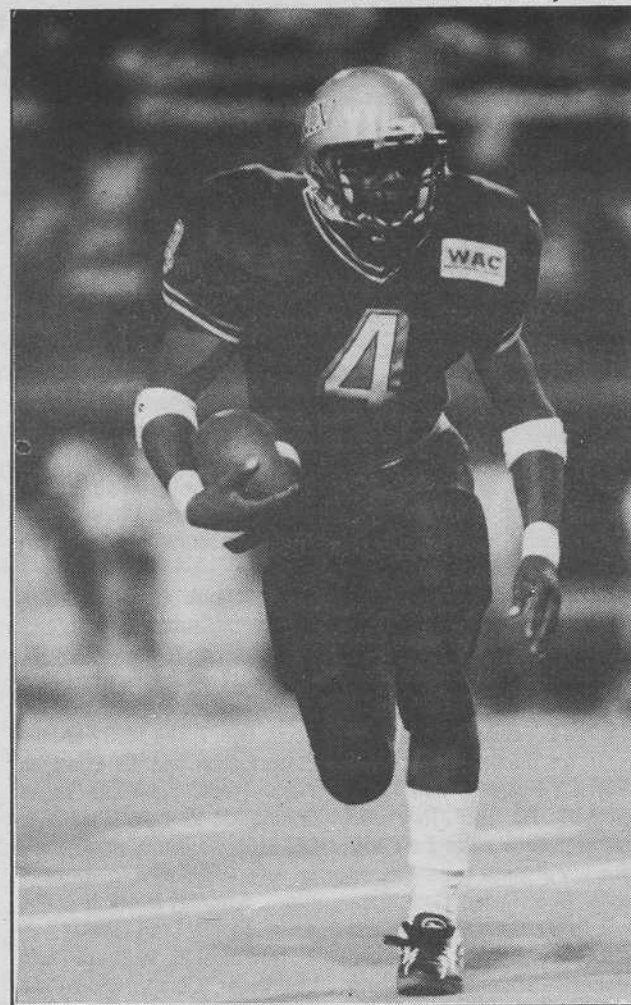
In addition to quarterback Jon Denton shattering the NCAA single-season freshman records

for most passing yards (3,159), most total offense (3,208) and most plays (527), as well as breaking his own single-game NCAA freshman marks for passing yards and total offense (513 yards), running back Omar Love's 36 yards on the ground moved him past Ickey Woods on the Rebels' all-time rushing list with 1,926 career yards.

With the win, UNLV heads into their season finale Saturday at San Jose State (2-9 overall, 2-5 WAC) hoping to finish on a two-game winning streak, as opposed to finishing the season winless — a statistic that's not very good for morale or recruiting.

"I really think that's why this week's game is even more-so crucial," Horton said of Saturday's match up with the Spartans. "A couple of good things here at the end can erase

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UNLV running back Omar Love moved past Ickey Woods on the Rebel's all-time rushing list with 1,926 career yards during last weekend's win over San Diego State. Photo by UNLV

WESTERN ENDS VALLEY'S DREAM SEASON

Warriors take zone football championship

*By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice*

The Western Warriors ran all over the Valley Vikings 63-28 last Friday on the Vikings' home turf to capture the Class AAAA Southern Zone title. The win gives the Warriors (11-1) the right to represent the south in the state championship this Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, where they will take on northern Nevada's zone champions McQueen High School. McQueen defeated defending state champion Wooster 15-10 last week.

The difference in the game was the rushing attack of Western, who ran up 505 total yards against a strong Valley defense. Senior tail back Anthony Jones ran for 237 yards on just 27 carries in the win. The game's outcome was a total surprise to many for several reasons. First off, Valley had built a perfect 11-0 record up to that point and were favored to make it all the way to the state finals. Secondly, the Viking defense had played well all season, and, according to Valley head coach Greg Murphy, were responsible for many of those 11 wins. Lastly, Valley had one of the most potent offensive threats in the state in senior running back LaRontae Johnson. At only 5-foot-7 and 145 pounds, Johnson, the state's leading rusher this year, had run for 1,976 yards and 23 touchdowns for the Vikings who after a dismal 0-8 season a year

ago, had established the greatest single-season turnaround in state history.

Johnson, unfortunately for Valley, though, was not a factor in the zone finals, rushing for only 41 yards on 14 carries.

After a goal line stand against Valley in the first quarter, Western's Jones broke the game wide open with an 87 yard run to the Valley 3-yard line. It appeared to be all Western from that point on.

"I don't think our kids came out flat," Valley's third-year head coach Greg Murphy said of the

contest. "I think they were ready. I mean we didn't get some breaks — you know, we get the ball down to the one-yard-line and don't get it in — and it just turned the momentum a little bit and we didn't rebound."

Western, behind Jones' 177 first-half yards rushing, was able to jump out to a 36-0 lead midway through the second quarter before the Valley scored their first touchdown on a four-yard pass play. From there, the Warriors continued to rout the Vikings, who were making their

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**City of Las Vegas
basketball programs**

Basketball season is bouncing in at the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities.

The Doolittle Community Center, 1940 North "J" Street will offer a basketball clinic for ages 5-14, on Saturday, November 30. Training begins at 10 a.m. Registration continues through the day of the event. Admission is two canned food items for the Center's holiday food drive. Coaches from the Center's youth basketball league will be scouting for prospective players. Call 229-6374 for details.

The Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road, is organizing a 3-on-3 "Rec" Your Lunch Men's Basketball League. Play will take place Mondays and Wednesdays at noon. Registration is being accepted now at a cost of \$70 per team. The league is open to anyone 18 or older. Call 229-6563 for details.

The City's Municipal Sports Unit is also organizing their winter league for adults. Play begins January 6, and continues Monday-Thursday from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Games will be played at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, K.O. Knudson Middle School, 2400 Atlantic Avenue, and the Dula Gymnasium, 441 E. Bonanza Road. Registration takes place December 2-20, at a cost of \$375 per team. The league is for players 18 and older. Call 229-2256 for a complete schedule of play dates and locations.