TODAY'S GAME

beautiful dream, a new stadium,
and a new era

November 14, 1968, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas played the first football game in the history at Cashman Field in downtown Las Vegas. The Rebels beat St. Mary's 27-20 behind the Casey to begin what has already been an exciting football history.

Three seasons and 32 battles later, the Rebels play a game which is THE most exciting event since and put their first team on the field back in 1968. Today's game in the new Las Vegas Stadium is a dream which existed even in the Rebels humble beginning, and it is the start of a new era in UNLV football. The new stadium is a tribute to the UNLV athletic department, the Rebel Club, and the large number of Las Vegas residents who have backed the University's proposal in a manner which puts UNLV in select company. Today's game also has to be a very special occasion for the Rebel coaches and players who were also a part of the historic first game against St. Mary's. This group includes Ireland and assistants Roger Barnson, Doug Carder, and Bill Daniel. There are also nine players remaining who were in uniform on September 14, 1968. These Rebels are Larry Troisi, Charles Cooper, Mike Gutowski, David Neff, Bruce Gray, Jim Vallone, Marty Macy, Tommy Rowland, and Nathaniel Hawkins (to find out what they think about the new stadium, see the "Rebelgrams" on page 18).

In this first game in the new facility UNLV is meeting one of the finest teams the Rebels have ever challenged. Weber State comes into today's game with an undefeated record (4-0-1), a national ranking, and the best rushing attack in the country for College Division teams. The Wildcats switched to the "Whisbone-T" for the 1971 season, and the result has been a crushing ground attack which has accounted for 380 yards per game. In last week's NCAA statistics this was 90 yards better than the second best College Division rushing offense.

Weber State's present success has come as something of a surprise, because this was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the Wildcats. Last year they went 5-5-1 and graduated all but six of their regulars. With the installation of a new offense and defense, and over 50 new players on the squad, everyone close to Weber's program figured it would take at least a year to put everything together.

However, the newcomers have proved to be exceptional, as the season record indicates. The four leading ground gainers in the punishing offense are junior college transfers (Jim Nichols, Rick Bojak, Terry Bulych, and Al Butler), and since the second half of the second game of the year the vital quarterbacking job in the Wishbone attack has been the responsibility of another JC transfer (John Edwards).

One standout who is not a newcomer is defensive back Randle Anderson, whose skill at returning punts has given Weber State a second mark which leads the NCAA College Division statistics. Anderson was the national leader last week with an average return of 26.4 yards, and he had run back two punts for touchdowns, including one for 94 yards.

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