

UNLV BIO

National Championships - 0



Mountain West Championships: 0

Location: **Las Vegas, NV**

All-Time Record: **172-345-3**

2022 Results: **5-7**

Head Coach: **Barry Odom**
1st Year (0-0)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Allegiant Stadium (65,500)

Erasing Forgettable Past and Looking to Future

UNLV has had a difficult time finding success on the football field in the program's 46-year FBS history. The Rebels have twice as many losses as wins historically and recent seasons haven't been especially kind, either. UNLV is now essentially on round three of a rebuild after Tony Sanchez and Marcus Arroyo were both let go after eight combined seasons without a bowl appearance. Arroyo actually got quite close last season and UNLV had their best start (4-1) in a *long* time. Quarterback **Doug Brumfield** was injured and missed multiple games and the Rebels season began to spiral with six straight losses. They did finish the season on a high note with a win against rival Nevada but the Rebels had several opportunities to reach that all-important six-win threshold and lost three straight one-possession games against San Diego State, Fresno State, and Hawaii. The firing of Arroyo was still somewhat surprising considering his first season was in 2020 and spring practice was extremely limited and his teams got better in each of this three seasons.

Barry Odom now takes over the program. Luckily for the former Missouri head coach, Odom inherits a better situation than either of his two predecessors and breaking the now decade-long bowl drought is actually feasible this season. 13 starters return which is actually a relatively high number for a first year head coach in today's transfer portal era. Quarterback **Doug Brumfield** is one of those returners and is, in my mind, one of the most underrated quarterbacks in the conference. The difference was night and day when Brumfield was healthy last season but he did miss parts or all of four separate games. He's proven to be an accurate quarterback with the athleticism and capability to burn defenses with his legs. His favorite target, **Ricky White**, returns after making 51 receptions for 619 yards. **Jeff Weimer** added 26 catches for 276 yards and **Senika Mckie** grabbed 17 passes for 209 yards. The offense will look different under new offensive coordinator Brennan Marion but his experience as wide receiver coach should help this unit and the passing offense as a whole should be better. Brumfield has a cannon and the deep ball could be an even bigger threat in 2023.

Aidan Robbins topped 1,000 yards for the Rebels at running back but he has since transferred to BYU. Odom brought in his own running back from the transfer portal in **Vincent Davis Jr.** who rushed for nearly 2,000 yards over four seasons with Pittsburgh. He's a versatile back who also caught 64 passes for 413 yards and a touchdown in his Panthers career. **Courtney Reese** ran for 372 yards on just 52 carries for the Rebels last season. The combination of Davis and Reese could be quite strong and if Brumfield is healthier this season the Rebels will far surpass their rushing numbers from 2022. The offensive line is still a concern as **Tiger Shanks** and **Amani Trigg-Wright** are the only returning players, but Odom did bring in **Jalen St. John** from Arkansas and **Jack Hasz** was a starter for Buffalo last season.

The UNLV defense showed steady improvement the past two seasons and they'll have a chance to keep that trend going in 2023. The Rebels do lose their top two tackles (Austin Ajiake and his 132 tackles, four sacks, and two interceptions is one of those players) but they return the next seven! In addition to the returners there are several transfers who could make an immediate impact and provide more depth than the Rebels have had in quite some time. Safety **Jaxen Turner** played four seasons at Arizona and brings 159 career tackles from his time in Tucson including a career high 79 from last season. He also forced two fumbles and picked off two passes. **Johnathan Baldwin** made 56 tackles and nabbed a pick for the Rebels. Cornerback **Cameron Oliver** is also back so the pass defense could have it's best season since 2017 especially if lineman like **Darius Johnson** and **Jalen Dixon** can get consistent pressure up front. The linebacker trio features **Fred thompkins**, **Jackson Woodard**, and **Jerrae Williams**

The Bottom Line: Is a bowl game in the cards for the Rebels? I am predicting they are still a season away but there's more potential on this team than perhaps any team over the last decade. Brumfield offers high upside at quarterback and the Rebels could get off to another fast start with 5-2 as a best-case scenario heading into their road game against Fresno State. They do avoid both Boise State and San Diego State and there are winnable games spread throughout the schedule.

Projection: 5-7 (8th in Mountain West)

2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
26.3	137.1	215.0	+6
76th in FBS	87th in FBS	90th in FBS	T-22nd in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
28.5	157.5	225.8	
85th in FBS	77th in FBS	70th in FBS	

2023 UNLV Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 vs. Bryant
2	Sat, Sept 9	 @ Michigan
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. Vanderbilt
4	Sat, Sept 23	 @ UTEP
5	Sat, Sept 30	 vs. Hawaii
6	Bye Week	
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ Nevada
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. Colorado St.
9	Sat, Oct 28	 @ Fresno State
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ New Mexico
11	Fri, Nov 10	 vs. Wyoming
12	Sat, Nov 18	 @ Air Force
13	Sat, Nov 25	 vs. San Jose St.

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

Sat, Sept 23: @ UTEP - Both the Miners and the Rebels were on the precipice of a bowl game last season and both schools will be eying this matchup as a potential non-conference victory.

Sat, Oct 14: @ Nevada - The Fremont Cannon was painted scarlet following UNLV's 27-22 victory in last year's season finale. The win halted both a six-game UNLV losing streak in 2022 and a two-game losing streak in the series.

Sat, Nov 4: @ New Mexico - Arroyo won just two road games in his three year tenure but a 2021 game against New Mexico was one of those two games. The Rebels have won the last three games in Albuquerque.

KEY PLAYERS

Doug Brumfield - QB



When Brumfield was fully healthy and played in a full game, the Rebels went 4-4. When he wasn't, they were just 1-3. He really is a difference maker as both a passer and runner and he's developed into more of a vocal leader in what is now his fourth season with the program. He'll have to learn a new offense, but that new offense will be better catered to his skill set and he should have his best season as long as he can stay on the field.

Ricky White - WR

White returns as the top target after 51 catches, 619 yards, and four touchdowns last season. He made a splash in the Rebels' opening week win with 8 catches, 182 yards, and two touchdowns against Idaho State. He never reached that kind of production again against an FBS opponent but he was consistent nonetheless and had four or more receptions in all but two games.



2022 RESULTS (5-7)

Idaho State (W 52-21)
@ California (L 14-20)
North Texas (W 58-27)
@ Utah State (W 34-24)
New Mexico (W 31-20)
@ San Jose State (L 7-40)
 Air Force (L 7-42)
@ Notre Dame (L 21-44)
@ San Diego State (L 10-14)
 Fresno State (L 30-37)
@ Hawaii (L 25-31)
Nevada (W 27-22)



RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

135th

(Via 24/7 Sports)