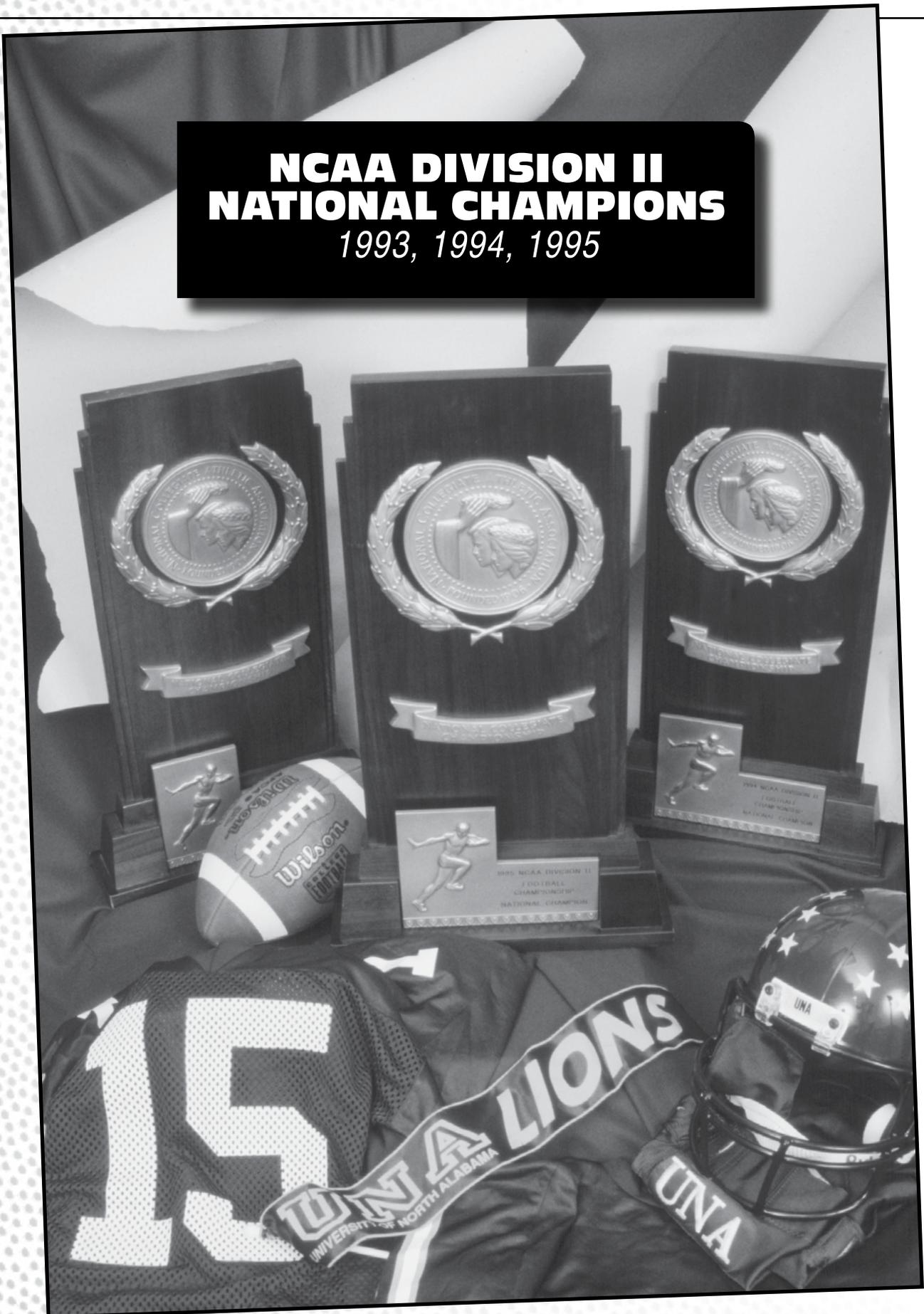


UNA'S CHAMPIONSHIP TRILOGY

**NCAA DIVISION II
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**
1993, 1994, 1995



UNA'S CHAMPIONSHIP TRILOGY • 1993-95



From 1993 to 1995 the University of North Alabama football program made history that is yet to be matched.

- Over that three year span the Lions posted a 41-1 record to become the first collegiate football program to win 40 or more games in just three years.
- UNA became the first team in the history of NCAA scholarship football (FBS, FCS or Division II) to win three consecutive national championships.
- As the official NCAA host institution for the championship, UNA became the first Division II football team to win the National Championship on its own home field.
- Following the unprecedented third straight national title, UNA's players and coaches were invited to the White House to meet members of Congress, Vice President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton - becoming the first Division II team invited to the White House.

THREE IN A ROW . . . *the 1993 Championship*

UNA's Perfect Season Earns 1993 National Championship

Cody Gross stood on the sideline, apparently done for the day. His helmet was under his arm as back-up quarterback Cale Manley began hurriedly loosening up.

The University of North Alabama offense that had dominated opponents all season had lost all momentum in the second half and the Lions trailed in the 1993 NCAA Division II Championship Game 24-14 in the fourth quarter.

But suddenly a blocked punt by Israel Raybon gave UNA new life and some 11 minutes later, Gross would be lying face down in the end zone after capping a 27-point fourth quarter rally that netted the Lions a 41-34 win and the Division II National Championship.

With Raybon giving the Lions a spark, Gross was again given the chance to bring the Lions back, and did he ever.

First he fired a 24-yard touchdown pass to Demetrea Shelton to make it 24-20, then directed a 66-yard drive that ended with a seven-yard Satterfield TD run that gave UNA a 27-24 lead.

Another 78-yard touchdown drive put UNA up by 10 points but Indiana-Pennsylvania rallied to tie the game at 34-34 with just 45 seconds left.

But Gross again met the challenge, taking UNA 69 yards in six plays.

First he carried on an option run to put UNA into IUP territory, then he passed to Shelton to the Indians one-yard-line.

A one-yard dive by Gross with just 10 seconds left gave UNA the win and its first football national crown.

It was the perfect end to the first perfect season in school and Gulf South Conference history.

In all UNA would break or tie 85 school and Gulf South Conference records.

The Lion players would receive 54 individual awards, including four players who were selected first-team All-American.

It was an amazing season that saw UNA score on its first play from scrimmage, and its last.

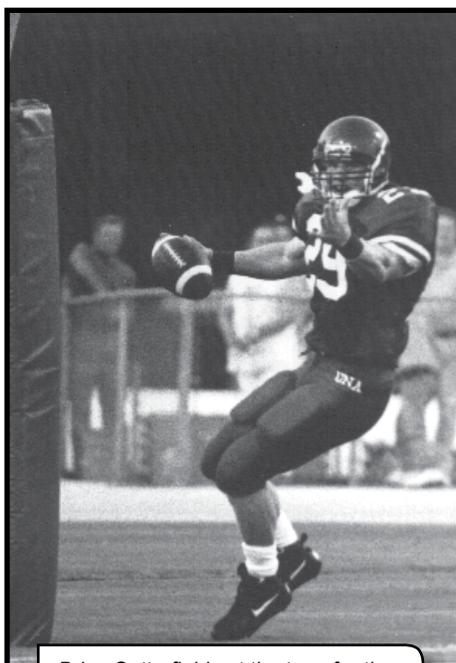
It was a season of unprecedented accomplishments for the Lions that followed a solid run at the national championship that fell short in 1992.

UNA left little doubts about its intentions in 1993 when fullback Brian Satterfield

raced 48-yards on the teams first play from scrimmage of the season and scored against Fort Valley State.

The floodgates opened and UNA romped the Wildcats 36-14 behind Satterfield's 243 yards that included a school-record 97-yard TD run.

UNA broke or tied 85 school and Gulf South Conference records in 1993



Brian Satterfield set the tone for the 1993 season, scoring on UNA's first play from scrimmage.

The next week at Alabama A&M, the UNA offense again set the tone, scoring seven touchdowns in a 49-7 rout of the Bulldogs.

And with more than 1,000 total yards in the team's first two games of the season, the UNA offense was just getting warmed up as it churned out 646 yards in week three in a 58-17 mauling of the Delta State Statesmen.

All-American tailback Tyrone Rush, who would finish as the runner-up for the Harlon Hill Trophy as the Division II Player of the Year, surpassed Satterfield's two-week-old record with 248 yards and scored three touchdowns.

That set up the first major test of the

season as the Lions traveled to Portland, Ore., for a national headliner with the Portland State Vikings.

UNA entered the game ranked No. 2 nationally behind North Dakota State, while Portland State was tied for third with New Haven.

The Bison of NDSU lost to Mankato State and by kickoff time on the west coast, everyone realized the Lion-Viking match-up was for the nation's number one ranking.

Portland State struck quickly behind star quarterback Bill Matos, racing to a 14-0 lead. The Lions managed a 10-play, 67-yard drive to make it 14-7, but PSU scored again to go ahead 20-7.

Another PSU score early in the third quarter made it 26-14 and the Lions chances appeared slim. But the defense began to stiffen and Kenyatta Jones, playing in place of an injured Satterfield, began to take charge of the offense.

After UNA rallied for 10 points in the third quarter to make it 26-24, a three-yard TD run by Rush gave the Lions their first lead at 30-26 with 26 seconds left in the third quarter.

A pair of touchdowns by Jones on runs of 55 and 17 yards made it 44-26 before UNA allowed a late score and settled for a 44-32 win.

The following Monday UNA claimed the nation's top ranking for the first time in the history of the program and would hold that spot for the remainder of the season.

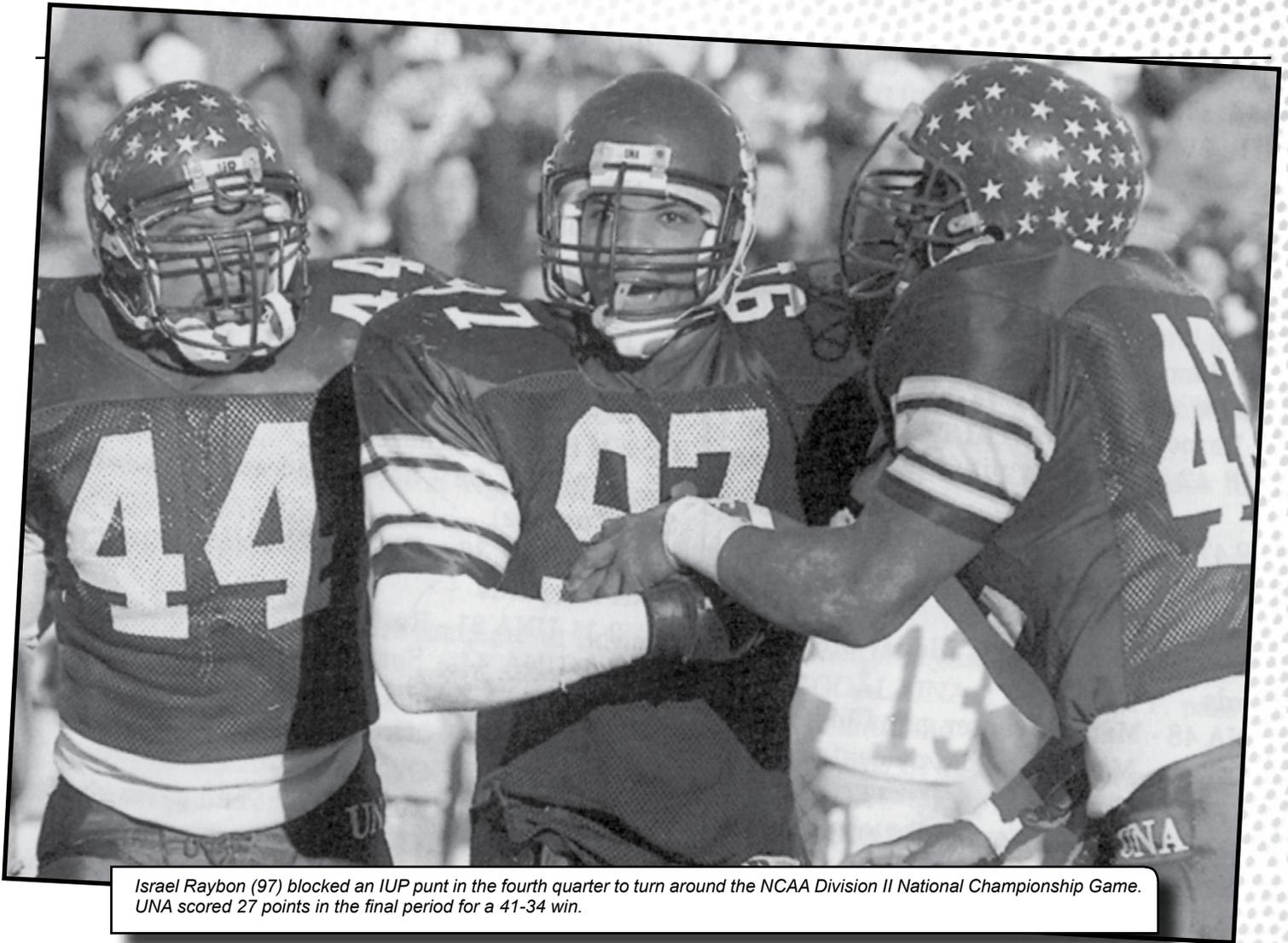
Mississippi College was the first to challenge UNA's No. 1 ranking and the Choctaws battled to take a 28-27 lead over UNA with 12:20 left in the game in Clinton, Miss.

A 55-yard TD run Jones and a 20-yard Jamie Stoddard field goal brought the Lions back and gave UNA a 38-28 win to go 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the GSC.

A 17-0 win over Henderson State and a 27-10 win on the road at Central Arkansas on the Bears' Homecoming gave UNA a 7-0 record entering its own Homecoming against Livingston.

That game would again shatter numerous school records as UNA rolled to a 65-15 win with 565 yards of offense.

The Lions clinched the GSC title for the first time since 1985 the following week at Valdosta State as the UNA defense picked off five Chris Hatcher passes and helped pave the way for 21 second half points as UNA won 31-21 on the Blazers home field.



Israel Raybon (97) blocked an IUP punt in the fourth quarter to turn around the NCAA Division II National Championship Game. UNA scored 27 points in the final period for a 41-34 win.

A 41-14 win at home over West Georgia closed the first perfect regular-season in school history and, by virtue of UNA's No. 1 ranking, guaranteed the Lions the home field for every Division II playoff game.

In the opening round, South Atlantic Conference champion Carson-Newman couldn't meet the challenge as UNA raced to a 21-0 lead and settled for a 38-28 win over the Eagles with 455 yards of offense.

In the quarterfinal round, unbeaten Hampton hoped to avenge a home playoff loss to UNA in 1992 by downing the Lions on their home field. But the Pirates, although hanging close in the first half, were no match for the Lions as UNA recorded a 45-20 win and moved on the semifinals.

The Lions gained 570 yards offensively and totally stifled Hampton in the final two periods.

Needing just one more win to reach the Division II Championship Game in had hosted since 1986, UNA faced a Texas A&M-Kingsville team that started the season 0-5 before winning seven

straight. The Javelinas continued to ride that momentum against UNA, blocking a punt for a touchdown just before halftime and adding three second half touchdowns to make it 27-25 with just 2:42 left in the game.

A successful two-point conversion would likely send the game to overtime, but Louis Fikes halfback pass fell incomplete in the end zone and UNA marched on to the title game.

The championship week in the Shoals area was a true extravaganza as the community turned out in full force to urge the Lions on.

An overflow crowd of almost 16,000 was in Braly Stadium for the title game and an additional national television audience watched on ESPN.

When it was all over, Doug Porter, the chairman of the Division II Football Committee said "Division II football will never be the same again. This day has taken NCAA Division II football to a level it has never seen before. What a great feeling it is to be a part of something like

this.

"This game had all the elements of a great championship," Porter added. "The stadium was sold out, the atmosphere and enthusiasm was great and the best two teams in the country put on a great show."

Numerous awards followed for the Lions, with head coach Bobby Wallace selected as NCAA Division II Coach of the Year by Kodak, Chevrolet and the Football Gazette.

Rush, linebacker Ronald McKinnon, offensive linemen Jeff Surbaugh and defensive end Jeff Redcross were all selected first-team All-American, with Redcross chosen as the GSC Defensive Player of the Year and Rush being named the league's Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.

THREE IN A ROW . . . the 1994 Championship

North Alabama Successfully DEFENDS its Division II National Championship

Offense won the University of North Alabama its first NCAA Division II football national championship in 1993, and so it was only appropriate that the Lions title defense should fall upon the Defense.

In 1993, runningbacks Tyrone Rush and Brian Satterfield were featured on the cover of the team's media guide, proclaiming "Double Trouble" for the Lions opponents. The Lions then went 14-0 behind an offense that shattered virtually every school and conference rushing and scoring record.

And even in the Division II National Championship Game, it was a 27-point fourth quarter by the Lions offense, including a touchdown with just 10 seconds left against Indiana-Pennsylvania, that gave UNA its first football national championship.

In 1994, linebackers Ronald McKinnon and Keith Humphrey scowled on the cover of the Lions pre-season media guide as they DEFENDED the 1993 championship trophy, making it clear to any challengers that the Lions were intent on retaining the championship.

And defend they did.

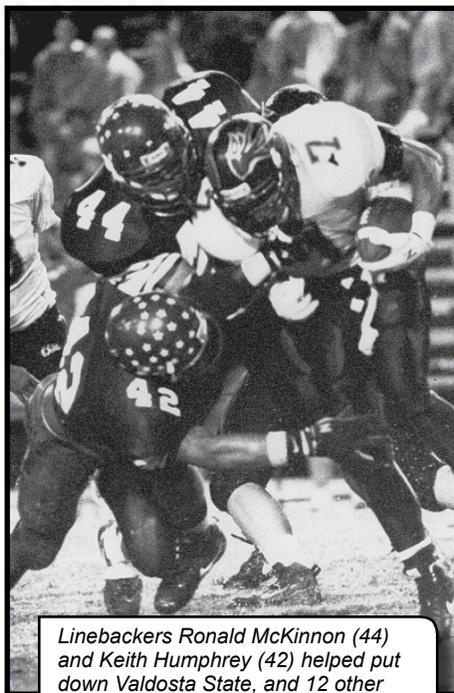
While UNA's triple-option offense rolled up record numbers through the first four games, the Lions Purple Swarm defense looked untouchable, posting three shutouts in the first four games.

By season's end, UNA was second in the nation in two defensive categories, fourth in two others, and ready to defend its championship in the Division II playoffs.

With narrow wins over Carson-Newman and Valdosta State in the first two rounds and a romp of North Dakota in the semifinals, only Texas A&M-Kingsville stood between the Lions and a share of Division II history.

The Lions found themselves in a similar situation as in 1993. Clinging to a 16-10 lead late in the fourth quarter over Texas A&M-Kingsville, the UNA defense had its back to the wall. The Javelinas were driving and chewing up the clock.

Then, almost as scripted, with just 2:22 left in the game, McKinnon stepped in front of a Wilson Scott pass at the UNA 18-yard line, tipped it twice, got it under control, and raced 27 yards in the other direction.



Linebackers Ronald McKinnon (44) and Keith Humphrey (42) helped put down Valdosta State, and 12 other Lion opponents.

Another interception by Paul Sanders in the final minute closed the door for good on the Javelinas and the Lions had their second straight championship.

Not only did North Alabama become just the third school in NCAA Division II history to win back-to-back national championships, joining Southwest Texas State (1981-82) and North Dakota State (1985-86), but also became the first school in the history of NCAA competition on any level to have won two national championships in both football and basketball. UNA claimed Division II basketball titles in 1979 and 1991.

The Lions finished 13-1 in 1994, with the only loss coming on the road to eventual I-AA national champion Youngstown State, 17-14.

UNA's record run pushed the school's winning streak against Division II opponents to 27 straight and the Lions ranked No. 1 nationally in the Division II poll for the entire season, running that streak to 17 consecutive polls in the top spot.

The Lions became just the third school to win back-to-back Gulf South Conference titles, and the team would produce an unprecedented 12 first-team All-GSC selections and seven All-Americans, with five players from the Purple Swarm named to All-America teams.

UNA opened the season with a 35-0 romp of Fort Valley State on the road, pounding the Wildcats with 618 total

yards and 494 yards rushing. Kenyatta Jones rushed for 161 yards and scored three touchdowns, while the Lion defense allowed just 41 yards rushing on 31 attempts and surrendered just 87 total yards.

Game two was a similar story. Playing at home at Braly Stadium for the first time since winning the 1993 championship, and in front of a sell-out crowd of more than 14,000, UNA raced to a 58-0 lead over Alabama A&M with 7:22 left in the third quarter. The Lion offense rushed for 333 yards and had 395 total yards, but the defense caused four turnovers and held the Bulldogs to a minus 19 yards rushing. A&M scored twice late in the game on the Lions reserves, but UNA was 2-0 with a 58-13 win.

The Lions opened the Gulf South Conference portion of their schedule the following week at home against Mississippi College and ripped the Choctaws 24-0 and gave up just 58 yards rushing.

The next week at Delta State UNA posted a 38-0 win to go 4-0, giving up just 51 yards rushing. Jones rushed for 106 yards and scored twice for the Lions.

An open date the following week gave the Lions time to prepare for the defending I-AA national champion Penguins of Youngstown State.

It didn't start well for the Lions, as Youngstown State took its opening possession and marched 72 yards in



The Lions played in front of record crowds in 1994, that included two sell-outs.

seven plays to score. But that would be it for the Penguins until the fourth quarter. The UNA defense, behind the play of McKinnon and tackle Marcus Keyes, closed the door on YSU, and UNA finally tied the game late in the third quarter on a one-yard run by quarterback Cody Gross.

The Penguins went on top again early in the final period, but Gross responded with a 62-yard scoring pass to Michael Edwards to make it 14-14 with 12:59 left. The outcome was finally decided when Paul Massaro booted a 30-yard field goal with 7:33 left to give Youngstown a 17-14 lead. UNA marched back to midfield but was stopped on a fourth down try, and the Lions 18-game winning streak had stopped.

With the impressive showing against a I-AA power, UNA held its spot atop the Division II poll, however, and the quest for the Division II title continued.

First UNA romped Henderson State 41-7 on the road, then the Lions turned their attention to a powerful Central Arkansas squad for Homecoming. Everything went UNA's way in the first half as the Lions rolled to a 28-0 lead behind 112 yards rushing and 135 yards passing from Gross. But the offense failed to gain a first down in the second half and the Bears rallied for 21 points before UNA's defense closed the door on a 28-21 win.

A 50-7 rout of Livingston set up the much anticipated matchup between the No. 1 ranked Lions and the No. 2 ranked Blazers of Valdosta State. UNA brought in the premier defense in Division II to meet the most explosive offense, led by eventual Harlon Hill Trophy winner Chris Hatcher. But this one was a mismatch as UNA crushed the Blazers on a soggy field, rolling to 31-7 and 38-13 leads before settling for a 38-21 win. Hatcher and the Blazers spent most of the night on the run from UNA's Purple Swarm, as the Lions intercepted four passes, recovered two fumbles, recorded three sacks and had five tackles for loss.

A 37-25 win over West Georgia closed the regular season at 9-1, and UNA turned its attention to the Division II playoffs.

Carson-Newman was the Lions opening round opponent for the second straight year, and the Eagles and Lions battled to a scoreless tie at halftime. UNA broke on top 10-0 in the second half on a Jamie Stoddard field goal and a Jarius Hayes end-around for a touchdown, but Carson-Newman struck for two quick touchdowns and held a 13-10 lead with 11:20 left in the game. The Lions drove down to the



Jamie Stoddard's 17-yard field goal against Valdosta State gave UNA a 27-24 double-overtime win.

Eagles 16-yard line, where they faced a fourth-and-six call. Stoddard booted a 33-yard field goal to tie the game, but the Eagles were offside, and UNA's Bobby Wallace decided to take the points off the scoreboard and go for a fourth-and-one at the 11. Senior Anthony Brooks, who missed the 1993 championship drive with a knee injury, burst through the left side and went 11 yards for a game-winning touchdown as UNA downed the Eagles 17-13. and advanced to the second round.

The Valdosta State Blazers were primed for their second chance at the Lions, but the game appeared headed in the same direction as UNA held a 17-3 lead in the fourth quarter. VSU rallied for two scores and suddenly the two GSC rivals were looking at the first overtime game in either's football history. Both scored touchdowns on their opening possessions in the extra period to make it 24-24, but Keyes blocked a Blazer field goal attempt in the second overtime, setting the stage for a game-winning 17-yard field goal by Stoddard for a 27-24 Lion win.

North Central Conference champion North Dakota was no match for UNA in the semifinal as the Lion's Michael Edwards returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown and UNA built a 35-0 lead before allowing a late score.

In the championship game, UNA played on a wet field for the fourth time, but Kenyatta Jones didn't slip in the first quarter when he went 90 yards for a touchdown on the longest run in

championship game history.

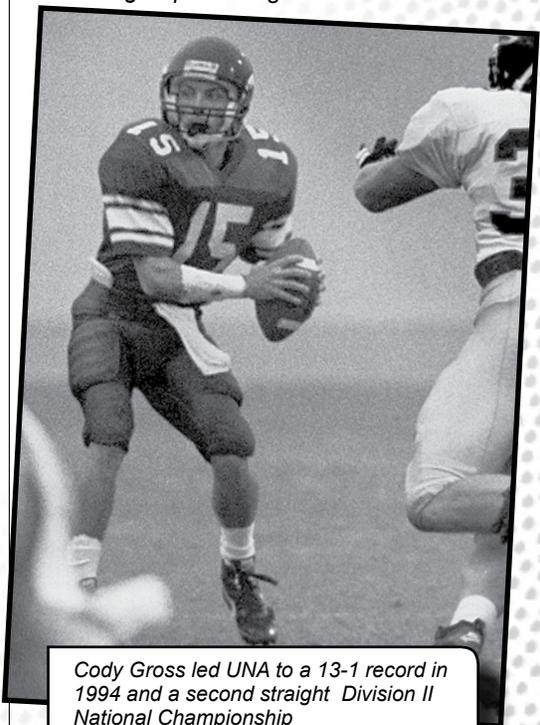
A Stoddard field goal and a Gross one-yard run made it 16-3 at the half, but again the offense sputtered in the second half, and it was up to the Purple Swarm to hold the line on the national title - and it did, once again.

Closing the season with 159 tackles, McKinnon became one of the most honored athletes in school history. He was a first-team All-America selection by the Associated Press, the American Football Coaches Association, the Football Gazette, the Division II Sports Information Directors and C.M. Frank. He was also first-team All-GSC for the third straight year, named GSC Defensive Player of the Year, and was selected as Division II National Player of the Year by CNN's College Football Preview show, as selected by Danny Sheridan.

Joining McKinnon on the various All-America teams were linebacker Keith Humphrey, defensive linemen Israel Raybon, Marcus Hunter and Marcus Keyes, and offensive linemen Kin Taylor and Jon Thompson.

Stoddard, punter Lee Morris, defensive back Gerald Smith, tight end Jarius Hayes and split end Michael Edwards were also first-team All-GSC picks.

Head coach Bobby Wallace was named Division II National Coach of the Year by ABC and Chevrolet, the American Football Coaches Association, the *Football Gazette* and *College Sports* magazine.



Cody Gross led UNA to a 13-1 record in 1994 and a second straight Division II National Championship

THREE IN A ROW . . . the 1995 Championship

NORTH ALABAMA ROLLS TO UNPRECEDENTED THIRD STRAIGHT NATIONAL TITLE

For the University of North Alabama, an unprecedented third straight NCAA Division II national championship appeared as easy as 1-2-3.

In taking two previous national titles in 1993 and 1994, the Lions had to leap some hurdles to get to the title game, then had to rely on some last minute heroics from quarterback Cody Gross and linebacker Ronald McKinnon to secure those respective titles.

The 1995 Lions would have none of that, however. They simply dominated their field of play like no other team in college football history.

And when the season finally ended with a 27-7 win over Pittsburg State, it seemed almost anticlimactic. The Lions had done what they were expected to do and ended the 1995 season with no worlds left to conquer.

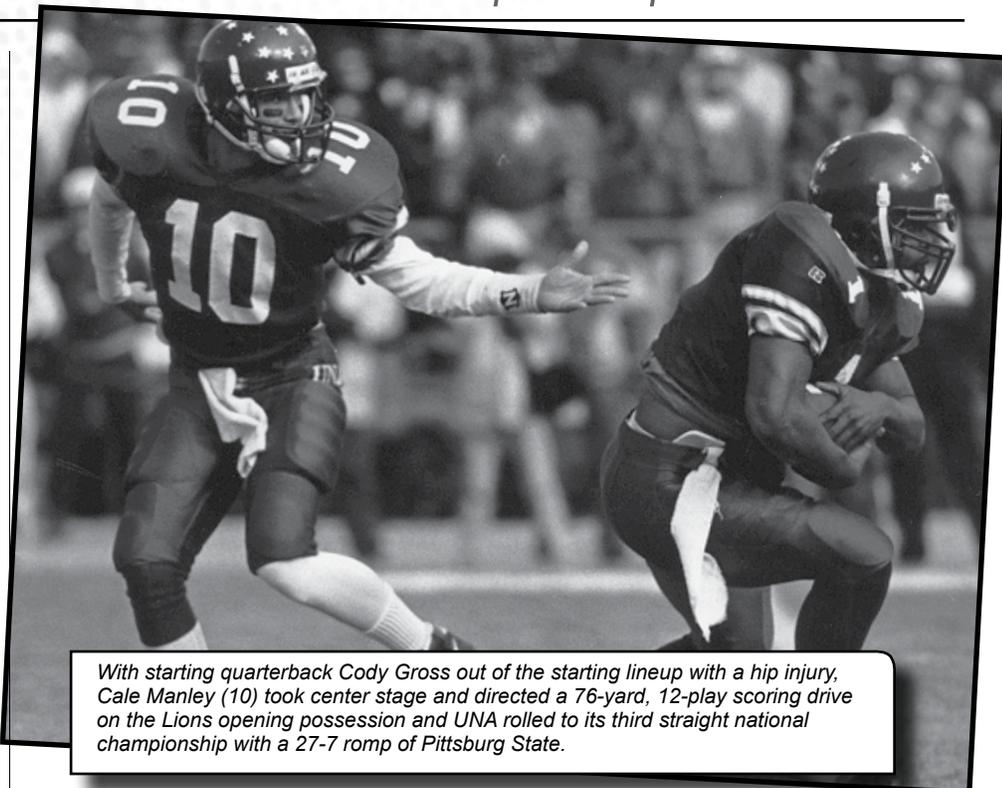
As a two-time defending national champion with 45 lettermen and 19 starters returning, the Lions entered 1995 with the pressure and expectation of trying to accomplish something that no previous Division II school had done. But the Lions managed to maintain their focus each Saturday throughout the regular-season, dominating 10 straight opponents, then clobbering four more in the playoffs by a combined 138-49 score.

Not only did UNA finish the season at 14-0 with its third straight conference and national championships, but both titles put the Lions in a class by themselves.

UNA's third straight national title marked the first time in the history of NCAA scholarship football (Division I, I-AA or II) that a school had won three consecutive national championships. And with a 41-1 record over that three-year span, UNA became the first team in the history of college football on any level to win 40 or more games in just three years.

In addition, UNA's third straight GSC title marked the first time in the league's 25-year history that any school had won three straight football championships.

The Lions dominance of Division II wasn't only in the post-season either. After taking over the top spot in the Division



With starting quarterback Cody Gross out of the starting lineup with a hip injury, Cale Manley (10) took center stage and directed a 76-yard, 12-play scoring drive on the Lions opening possession and UNA rolled to its third straight national championship with a 27-7 romp of Pittsburg State.

II poll on Oct. 4, 1993, the Lions have maintained that ranking in every Division II poll since, setting another national record with 27 consecutive No. 1 rankings over a three-year period.

Individually, the Lions were also one of the most recognized groups in college football history.

A total of 10 different UNA players were selected for various All-America teams, and linebacker Ronald McKinnon became the first defensive player in the ten-year history of the Harlon Hill Trophy to be named as the Division II College Football Player of the Year.

The Lions senior class of 1995 closed their collective careers as the winningest class in school and Gulf South Conference history, with a 48-5-1 record that included 41 consecutive wins against Division II opponents and 22 straight conference wins.

Both the Lions offense and defense were dominant in 1995, and nowhere was that better demonstrated than in the championship game.

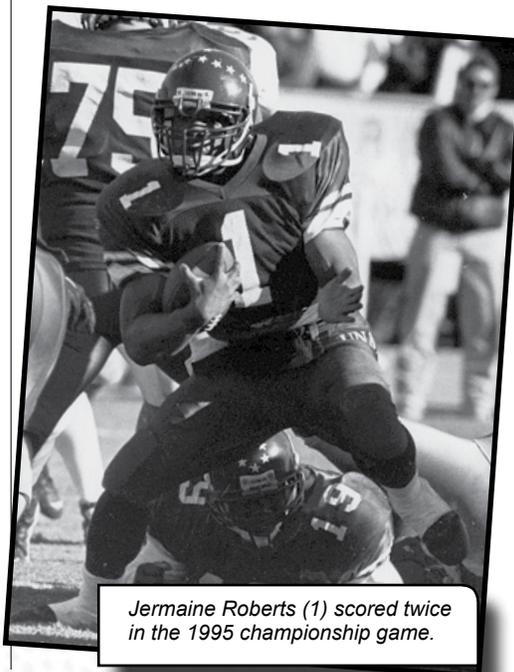
Pittsburg State had averaged 318 yards per game during 1995, but managed just 50 yards on 15 carries in the first half against UNA, while the Lions rolled up 248 total yards in the first 30 minutes with a make-shift offensive backfield.

With starting quarterback Cody Gross sidelined for the first time since 1992 with a hip injury, senior back-up Cale Manley stepped in and directed a 76-yard, 12-

play drive on UNA's opening possession. Jermaine Roberts went the final 28 yards untouched through a huge hole for the game's first score with 8:04 left in the opening period.

The Lions also turned to third-string fullback Nate George to start when 1,000-yard rusher A.J. Lamar went down with a stomach virus.

The Lions never missed a beat, and when McKinnon pounced on a PSU fumble early in the second quarter, Gross limped onto the field to give the team an additional



Jermaine Roberts (1) scored twice in the 1995 championship game.

emotional charge that also electrified the partisan UNA crowd of 15,241.

Gross, who closed his career at UNA with a 41-2 record as a starter, completed a pass to Demetrea Shelton on his first play and led a five-play drive that was capped by a five-yard TD run by Roberts. Gross would also fire a 13-yard touchdown pass to Michael Edwards with five seconds left in the half to make it 21-0, capping a 69-yard, 11-play drive.

The only bright spot for Pittsburg State came in the final period, when Ben Peterson recovered a UNA fumble and Jeff Moreland tossed a 15-yard touchdown pass to Chris Hudson on the next play for the Gorillas only score.

UNA answered with a score of its own, with George bulling in from one yard out with 34 seconds left to make it 27-7.

Moreland was picked off four times and the Gorillas were held to 99 yards rushing and just 176 total yards by UNA's Purple Swarm defense. UNA dominated the line of scrimmage, controlling the ball for 40:13, while PSU had it just 19:47.

Jermaine Roberts led UNA's championship game effort with 107 yards on 20 carries and scored twice. Gross, in limited duty and in severe pain, completed eight of 13 passes for 102 yards and a touchdown.

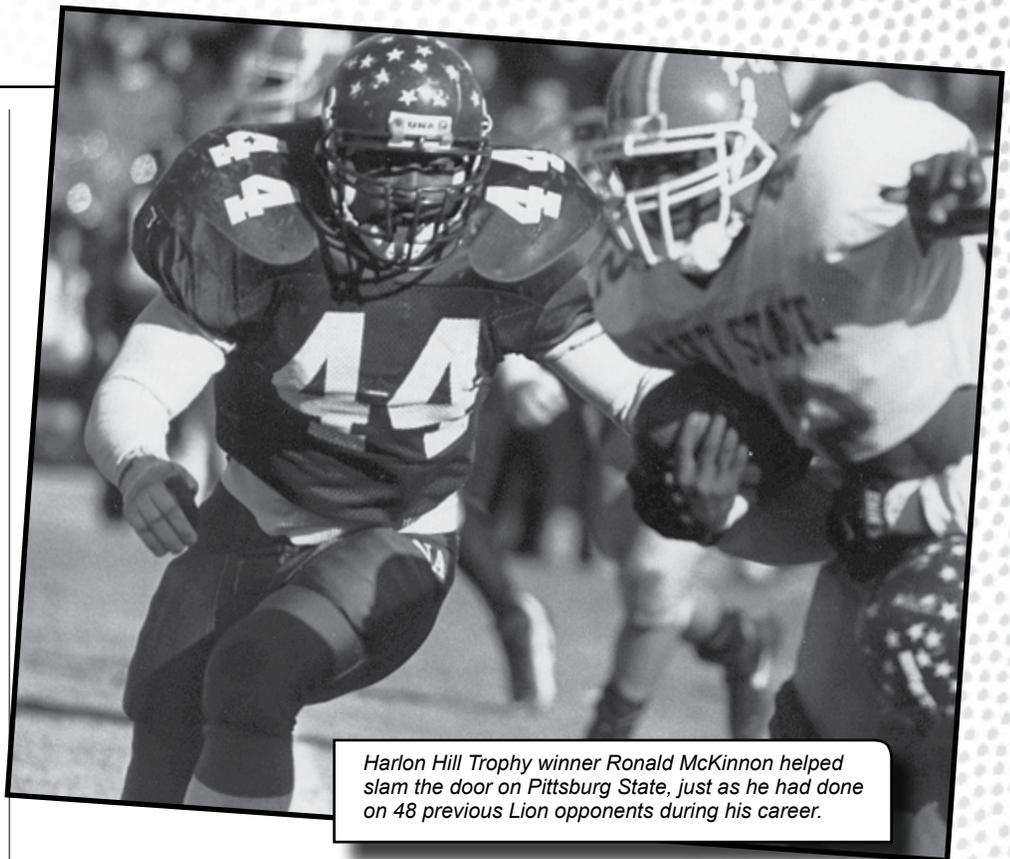
McKinnon, as always, led UNA's defensive charge with 14 tackles, one tackle for a five-yard loss and recovered a fumble that led to UNA's second touchdown. He closed his career as the all-time leading tackler in school and Gulf South Conference history with 621 career tackles.

Bobby Wallace, who has been named Division II National Coach of the Year in both 1993 and 1994, was honored again in 1995 by the American Football Coaches Association, ABC and Chevrolet, CNN, American Football Quarterly and the Football Gazette.

UNA opened the 1995 season at home against an Albany State squad that had reached the Division II playoffs in 1994. At halftime, the Lions trailed 13-6 but rallied to score on their first possession of the second half and scored 28 third quarter points on the way to a 41-13 blowout of the Rams.

The Lions followed with a 49-0 thumping of Alabama A&M, a 30-0 rout of Delta State and a 41-3 win over Mississippi College to quickly move to 4-0.

An eventual playoff team, West Georgia provided the next test and trailed just 14-13 at the half, but UNA again rolled in the



Harlon Hill Trophy winner Ronald McKinnon helped slam the door on Pittsburg State, just as he had done on 48 previous Lion opponents during his career.

second half and went on to a 34-19 win.

A 28-7 win in a defensive struggle at Central Arkansas pushed UNA to 6-0 as the Lion defense scored twice. Then the Reddies of Henderson State charged into Braly Stadium, ready to end the Lions string of successes. Henderson only led once in the game, at 14-7, the Reddies would not go away and UNA managed to hold on for a 33-28 win behind 216 yards rushing from A.J. Lamar.

A 26-9 rout of Valdosta State, a 52-17 whipping of Arkansas Tech and a 42-10 victory over West Alabama closed the Lions regular-season at 10-0 and gave the Lions a full head of steam for the playoffs.

In the opening round, UNA again met Albany State, and again found itself trailing at the half, 14-10. But the Lions again scored on their opening possession of the second half and never looked back, scoring 28 second half points on the way to a 38-28 win.

Carson-Newman was then eliminated from the playoff picture for the third straight year by the Lions, although the Eagles held a 7-0 lead near the end of the first quarter. Gross rambled 90 yards, going from sideline to sideline on his way to the end zone, to tie the game, and UNA dominated the rest of the way to whip the Eagles 28-7.

Undefeated Ferris State was the Lions semifinal opponent, but the Bulldogs were no match for UNA as McKinnon dominated a head-to-head show with fellow Hill finalist

Bill Love, intercepting two passes and sacking Love once.

UNA won 45-7 in a runaway, with the only down moment coming when Gross suffered a hip injury at the end of a 31-yard touchdown run on UNA's opening possession.

In claiming the Division II title, UNA gave the Gulf South Conference its fourth straight Division II football crown and sixth football championship in the last nine years.

The Lions closed 1995 with numerous streaks still intact, including 26 straight home field wins, 18 straight wins over nationally ranked Division II opponents, 12 straight NCAA playoff wins and 23 straight wins overall.

McKinnon became just the fifth player in Division II history to be a three-time consensus All-American, and was just one of 10 Lions to receive All-America honors. He was joined by linebacker Keith Humphrey, defensive linemen Israel Raybon, Marcus Keyes and Reginal Ruffin, defensive back Gerald Smith, quarterback Cody Grossm tight end Jarius Hayes and offensive linemen Jon Thompson and Michael Williams.