

For immediate release
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ROCKY LONG STEPS DOWN AS LOBOS' HEAD COACH

Rocky Long, the winningest head coach in the history of University of New Mexico football, has decided to step down from the position he has held for the past 11 seasons effective immediately. Long, 58, compiled a 65-69 record as the head coach of his alma mater, but guided the Lobos to five bowl appearances in seven seasons since 2002. UNM won the 2007 New Mexico Bowl for its first bowl victory since 1961. New Mexico made just six bowl appearances from 1938-2001.

The Lobos wrapped up their 2008 season last Saturday with a 20-6 loss at Colorado State. New Mexico is the first Football Bowl Subdivision school to end its regular season.

UNM finished 4-8 overall and 2-6 in the Mountain West Conference in 2008. It's the most losses for UNM overall and in conference play since 1998 when it finished 3-9 overall and 1-7 in the final season of the Western Athletic Conference.

"I really appreciate all the support of the loyal Lobo fans throughout the years," said Long, who was a three-year starter at quarterback for UNM from 1969-71. "I also want to thank (former athletics director) Rudy Davalos, President Schmidly, Paul Krebs and the support staff for everything they have done to make our program get better in the past 11 years. I think the football program has a solid foundation and is in a position to really improve, given new leadership."

"Coach Long's decision to step down was unexpected," said UNM Vice President for Athletics Paul Krebs. "We can't say enough about the accomplishments and contributions that Rocky has made to the University of New Mexico. He is arguably the most successful coach in the history of Lobo football. Because of Rocky's passion and devotion to his alma mater, the program has been elevated and we are optimistic about the future."

"For as long as people talk about Lobos football, they'll talk about Rocky Long, because for as long as we've been playing football at UNM, no coach has been more of a winner than Rocky, and his winning relationship with UNM goes back almost 40 years now," said UNM President David Schmidly.

ROCKY LONG'S HEAD COACHING HIGHLIGHTS AT NEW MEXICO

- A 65-69 overall record in 11 seasons, but 46-40 since 2002, the third-best mark in the league

- UNM appeared in only six bowl games between 1938-2001, but went to five games in a seven-season period from 2002-08...that includes a 23-0 victory over Nevada in the 2007 New Mexico Bowl, marking the Lobos' first bowl win since the 1961 Aviation Bowl

- New Mexico was the only school in the Mountain West Conference to be bowl eligible and produce at least six wins in seven straight seasons from 2001-07....that's also a first in Lobo history

- The only team in the MWC that had a non-losing record in conference games every season from 2001-07

- 49 wins from 2001-07 - an average of 7 a season - the most by UNM in a 7-year span

- A 30-23 record in Mountain West Conference games since 2002, the third-most wins in the league over that period behind Utah and BYU

- The program's top-15 semester grade-point-averages were attained under Long, all in the past 17 terms, since the 2000 spring semester, including a program-best 2.79 in the spring of 2008, and a 2.98 in the summer of 2008

- 73 academic all-conference performers from 2001-07

- Seniors Cody Kase and Vince Natali were named Academic All-America in 2007...they were the only two players from the Mountain West Conference to make the prestigious team

- 9 All-Americans from 2001-08

- 10 NFL Draft picks from 1999-2008

- 33 first team all-MWC honorees from 2003-07, 12 more than any other school in the league over that span

- New Mexico fans were responsible for three straight school records (2003-04-05) for season tickets sold and annual average attendance

NEW MEXICO FOOTBALL UNDER ROCKY LONG

Year	Overall	Home	Away	Neu.	Conf.	Place	Home	Away	Non-Conf.	Home	Away	Neu.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1998	3-9	2-4	1-5	---	1-7	7th WAC	0-4	1-3	2-2	2-0	0-2	---	---	2-2	1-4	0-3	---
1999	4-7	3-3	1-4	---	3-4	T5th MWC	2-2	1-2	1-3	1-1	0-2	---	---	1-3	2-1	1-3	---
2000	5-7	3-3	2-4	---	3-4	T5th MWC	2-1	1-3	2-3	1-2	1-1	---	0-1	3-2	2-1	0-3	---
2001	6-5	4-2	2-3	---	4-3	T3rd MWC	2-2	2-1	2-2	2-0	0-2	---	---	1-3	2-1	3-1	---
2002	7-7	5-1	2-5	0-1	5-2	2nd MWC	3-0	2-2	2-5	2-1	0-3	0-1	1-1	1-3	2-1	3-1	0-1
2003	8-5	5-2	3-2	0-1	5-2	2nd MWC	2-2	3-0	3-3	3-0	0-2	0-1	1-0	1-3	3-0	3-1	0-1
2004	7-5	3-2	4-2	0-1	5-2	2nd MWC	2-1	3-1	2-3	1-1	1-1	0-1	---	2-2	3-2	2-0	0-1
2005	6-5	2-3	4-2	---	4-4	T4th MWC	1-3	3-1	2-1	1-0	1-1	---	---	3-1	2-3	1-1	---
2006	6-7	3-5	3-2	---	4-4	5th MWC	2-2	2-2	2-3	1-3	1-0	---	---	2-3	3-1	1-2	0-1
2007	9-4	6-1	3-3	---	5-3	T3rd MWC	3-1	2-2	4-1	3-0	1-1	---	---	3-2	3-0	2-2	1-0
2008	4-8	3-3	1-5	---	2-6	---	2-2	0-4	2-2	1-1	1-1	---	0-1	2-2	2-2	0-3	---
Totals	65-69	39-29	26-37	0-3	41-41	40-34 MWC	21-20	20-21	24-28	18-9	6-16	0-3	2-3	21-26	25-16	16-20	1-4

THE LONG FILE

Age: 58 (born January 27, 1950)
Birthplace: Provo, Utah
Alma Mater: New Mexico '74
Playing Experience: New Mexico (QB, 1969-71)
Bowl Games Coached: 1998 Cotton (UCLA)
 2002 Las Vegas (New Mexico)
 2003 Las Vegas (New Mexico)
 2004 Emerald (New Mexico)
 2006 New Mexico (New Mexico)
 2007 New Mexico (New Mexico)

ROCKY LONG'S COACHING CAREER

1972-73	Graduate Assistant	University of New Mexico
1974-75	Assistant Football Coach/ Boy's Basketball Coach	Albuquerque Eldorado HS
1978	Offensive Backfield Coach	University of New Mexico
1979-80	Secondary Coach	University of New Mexico
1981-85	Def. Coord./Secondary	University of Wyoming
1986-87	Linebackers Coach	British Columbia Lions (CFL)
1988-90	Secondary Coach	TCU
1991-95	Defensive Coordinator	Oregon State
1996-97	Defensive Coordinator	UCLA
1998-08	Head Coach	University of New Mexico

ROCKY LONG vs. All Opponents

Opponent	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
Air Force	5-6	4-1	1-5	
Arizona	2-0	1-0	1-0	
Baylor	1-1	1-0	0-1	
Boise State	0-2	0-1	0-1	
BYU	2-9	0-5	2-4	
Central Florida	0-1	0-0	0-1	
Colorado State	4-6	2-2	2-4	
Fresno State	0-1	0-1	0-0	
Hawaii	1-0	0-0	1-0	
Idaho State	1-0	1-0	0-0	
Missouri	1-1	0-1	1-0	
Navy	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1
Nevada	1-0	1-0	0-0	
New Mexico State	8-3	4-1	4-2	
North Carolina State	0-1	0-0	0-1	
Northern Arizona	2-0	2-0	0-0	
Oregon State	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-1
Portland State	0-1	0-1	0-0	
Sacramento State	1-0	1-0	0-0	
San Diego State	9-2	4-2	5-0	
San Jose State	0-2	0-1	0-1	
TCU	0-4	0-2	0-2	
Texas A&M	0-1	0-1	0-0	
Texas-El Paso	2-4	2-1	0-3	
Texas State	1-0	1-0	0-0	
Texas Tech	1-4	1-1	0-3	
Tulsa	0-1	0-0	0-1	
UCLA	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1
UNLV	7-3	4-1	3-2	
Utah	5-6	3-3	2-3	
Utah State	2-1	2-0	0-1	
Washington State	0-2	0-1	0-1	
Weber State	1-0	1-0	0-0	
Wyoming	8-2	4-1	4-1	
Totals	65-69	39-29	26-37	0-3

1998 (3-9, 1-7 WAC Pacific, 7th)
 Sept. 5 Idaho State..... W, 38-9
 Sept. 12 Utah St..... W, 39-36 (3OT)
 Sept. 19 at NMSU..... L, 28-27
 Sept. 26 at San Jose State..... L, 37-20
 Oct. 3 at Air Force..... L, 56-14
 Oct. 10 UTEP..... L, 22-19
 Oct. 17 San Diego St..... L, 36-33 (OT)
 Oct. 24 at Hawaii..... W, 30-20
 Oct. 31 Fresno State..... L, 28-20
 Nov. 7 at BYU..... L, 46-21
 Nov. 14 Utah..... L, 41-7
 Nov. 21 at Central Florida..... L, 38-6

1999 (4-7, 3-4 MWC, T5th)
 Sept. 4 at UTEP..... L, 13-10
 Sept. 11 NMSU..... L, 35-28
 Sept. 18 No. Arizona..... W, 45-14
 Sept. 25 at Boise State..... L, 20-9
 Oct. 9 at San Diego St..... W, 24-21
 Oct. 16 BYU..... L, 31-7
 Oct. 30 UNLV..... W, 27-6
 Nov. 6 Colorado State..... L, 36-22
 Nov. 13 at Utah..... L, 52-7
 Nov. 20 at Wyoming..... L, 42-28
 Nov. 27 Air Force..... W, 33-28

2000 (5-7, 3-4 MWC, T5th)
 Aug. 26 at Texas Tech..... L, 24-3
 Sept. 2 Boise State..... L, 31-14
 Sept. 9 Oregon State..... L, 28-20
 Sept. 16 at NMSU..... W, 16-13
 Sept. 23 No. Arizona..... W, 35-28
 Sept. 30 Wyoming..... W, 45-10
 Oct. 7 at Colorado St..... L, 17-14
 Oct. 21 at Air Force..... W, 29-23
 Oct. 28 Utah..... W, 10-3
 Nov. 4 San Diego State..... L, 17-16
 Nov. 11 at UNLV..... L, 18-14
 Nov. 18 at BYU..... L, 37-13

2001 (6-5, 4-3 MWC, T3rd)
 Sept. 1 UTEP..... W, 26-6
 Sept. 8 at Texas Tech..... L, 42-30
 Sept. 22 at Baylor..... L, 16-13 (OT)
 Sept. 29 at Utah..... L, 37-16
 Oct. 6 at Wyoming..... W, 30-29
 Oct. 13 BYU..... L, 24-20
 Oct. 27 Air Force..... W, 52-33
 Nov. 3 at San Diego St..... W, 20-15
 Nov. 10 UNLV..... W, 27-17
 Nov. 17 Colorado State..... L, 24-17
 Nov. 24 NMSU..... W, 53-0

2002 (7-7, 5-2 MWC, 2nd)
 Aug. 23 at NC State..... L, 34-14
 Aug. 31 Weber State..... W, 38-24
 Sept. 7 at Air Force..... L, 38-31 (OT)
 Sept. 14 Baylor..... W, 23-0
 Sept. 21 at NMSU..... L, 24-13
 Sept. 27 Texas Tech..... L, 49-0
 Oct. 12 at UNLV..... W, 25-16
 Oct. 19 at Utah St..... L, 45-44 (OT)
 Oct. 26 Utah..... W, 42-35 (2OT)
 Nov. 9 San Diego State..... W, 15-8
 Nov. 16 at BYU..... W, 20-16
 Nov. 23 at Colorado St..... L, 22-14
 Nov. 30 Wyoming..... W, 49-20
 Dec. 25 UCLA..... L, 27-13
 (Las Vegas Bowl)

2003 (8-5, 5-2 MWC, 2nd)
 Aug. 30 Texas State..... W, 72-8
 Sept. 6 at Texas Tech..... L, 42-28
 Sept. 13 BYU..... L, 10-7
 Sept. 20 at Washington State..... L, 23-13
 Sept. 27 NMSU..... W, 24-17
 Oct. 4 Utah State..... W, 34-7
 Oct. 18 at Utah..... W, 47-35
 Oct. 25 at San Diego State..... W, 30-7

Nov. 1 UNLV..... L, 37-35
 Nov. 7 Colorado State..... W, 37-34
 Nov. 15 Air Force..... W, 24-12
 Nov. 22 at Wyoming..... W, 26-3
 Dec. 24 Oregon State..... L, 55-14
 (Las Vegas Bowl)

2004 (7-5, 5-2 MWC, 2nd)
 Sept. 3 Washington State..... L, 21-17
 Sept. 11 Texas Tech..... W, 27-24
 Sept. 18 at Oregon State..... L, 17-7
 Sept. 25 at New Mexico St..... W, 38-3
 Oct. 1 Utah..... L, 28-7
 Oct. 9 at Air Force..... L, 28-23
 Oct. 16 at UNLV..... W, 24-20
 Oct. 23 San Diego State..... W, 19-9
 Oct. 30 at Colorado State..... W, 26-17
 Nov. 13 at BYU..... W, 21-14
 Nov. 20 Wyoming..... W, 16-9
 Dec. 30 Navy..... L, 34-19
 (Emerald Bowl)

2005 (6-5, 4-4 MWC, T4th)
 Sept. 5 UNLV..... W, 24-22
 Sept. 10 at Missouri..... W, 45-35
 Sept. 17 New Mexico State..... W, 38-21
 Sept. 24 at UTEP..... L, 21-13
 Oct. 1 at TCU..... L, 49-28
 Oct. 8 BYU..... L, 27-24
 Oct. 15 at Wyoming..... W, 27-24
 Oct. 22 at San Diego State..... W, 47-24
 Oct. 28 Colorado State..... L, 35-25
 Nov. 12 at Utah..... W, 31-27
 Nov. 19 Air Force..... L, 42-24

2006 (6-7, 4-4 MWC, 5th)
 Sept. 2 Portland State..... L, 17-6
 Sept. 9 at New Mexico St..... W, 38-24
 Sept. 16 Missouri..... L, 27-17
 Sept. 23 UTEP..... W, 26-13
 Sept. 30 at Air Force..... L, 24-7
 Oct. 7 Wyoming..... L, 14-10
 Oct. 14 at UNLV..... W, 39-36 (OT)
 Oct. 19 Utah..... W, 34-31
 Oct. 28 at Colorado State..... W, 20-19
 Nov. 11 TCU..... L, 27-21
 Nov. 18 at BYU..... L, 42-17
 Nov. 25 San Diego State..... W, 41-14
 Dec. 23 San Jose State..... L, 20-12
 (New Mexico Bowl)

2007 (9-4, 5-3 MWC, T3rd)
 Sept. 1 at UTEP..... L, 10-6
 Sept. 8 New Mexico State..... W, 44-34
 Sept. 15 at Arizona..... W, 29-27
 Sept. 22 Sacramento State..... W, 58-0
 Sept. 29 BYU..... L, 31-24
 Oct. 13 at Wyoming..... W, 20-3
 Oct. 20 at San Diego St..... W, 20-17
 Oct. 25 Air Force..... W, 34-31
 Nov. 3 at TCU..... L, 37-0
 Nov. 10 Colorado State..... W, 26-23
 Nov. 17 at Utah..... L, 28-10
 Nov. 24 UNLV..... W, 27-6
 Dec. 22 Nevada..... W, 23-0
 (New Mexico Bowl II)

2008 (4-8, 2-6 MWC)
 Aug. 30 TCU..... L, 26-3
 Sept. 6 Texas A&M..... L, 28-22
 Sept. 13 Arizona..... W, 36-28
 Sept. 20 at Tulsa..... L, 56-14
 Sept. 27 at New Mexico State..... W, 35-24
 Oct. 4 Wyoming..... W, 24-0
 Oct. 11 at BYU..... L, 21-3
 Oct. 18 San Diego State..... W, 70-7
 Oct. 23 at Air Force..... L, 23-10
 Nov. 1 Utah..... L, 13-10
 Nov. 8 at UNLV..... L, 27-20
 Nov. 15 at Colorado State..... L, 20-6

ROCKY LONG'S CAREER STATS AT NEW MEXICO

Year	Rushing				Passing				Total Offense		KO Returns		Punt Returns		
	G-GS	Att.	Yds.	TD	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD	Plays	Yds.	No.	Yds.	No.	Yds.
1969	10-7	151	450	4	61	125	7	865	4	276	1,315	13	289	14	168
1970	10-10	158	674	4	48	115	9	649	1	273	1,323	---	---	---	---
1971	10-10	160	947	13	54	105	7	876	4	265	1,823	---	---	---	---
Totals	30-27	469	2,071	21	163	345	23	2,390	9	814	4,461	13	289	14	168

NEW MEXICO FOOTBALL UNDER ROCKY LONG

1998 (3-9)

- Brian Urlacher led the nation in tackles with 178
- Chad Smith named National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete and awarded an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship

1999 (4-7)

- Brian Urlacher named consensus All-America
- Picked to finish 7th or 8th in MWC preseason and finished T5th
- Beat Air Force and San Diego State in the same season for first time since 1982
- Beat Air Force for the first time since 1991, rallying from a 21-14 halftime deficit

2000 (5-7)

- Picked to finish last in MWC and finished T5th
- Started 0-3, but went 5-4 in last 9 games
- Led MWC in rushing defense, pass efficiency defense, sacks, possession time and TO margin

2001 (6-5)

- Stadium expansion completed; 41,771 on hand for opener against UTEP
- Picked to finish seventh in the MWC, the Lobos tied Utah for third place at 4-3, their best conference finish since winning the '97 WAC Mountain Division title at 6-2
- 1st winning season since 1997 (9-4)
- After a 1-3 start, UNM went 5-2 in its last seven games, 4-1 in last 5
- Set school records for total attendance (187,608) and average attendance (31,268 in six games)...averaged 23,656 fans in 2000, a 32% increase
- Finished in the top-20 in total defense for the 2nd straight season
- For the second straight season, UNM led the MWC in rushing defense...the Lobos ranked 5th nationally - best in school history - allowing just 87.4 yards, the first time since stats became official in 1946 giving up less than 100 yards
- Total offense jumped from 266.6 yards to 376.8 yards, an increase of 110.2 yards
- Won at Wyoming for the 1st time since 1982

2002 (7-7)

- 2nd bowl game since 1961
- 1 of 4 teams in NCAA Div. I-A to start 2-4 or worse, but qualify for a bowl game
- 2nd place in the MWC after being picked to finish 6th...won 5 of last 6 conference games to finish 5-2...4 consecutive conference wins for 1st time since 1982
- Reached 7 wins for the 15th time in school history, but for only the 2nd time since going 10-1 in 1982
- In addition to 1st first victory at BYU since 1971, the Lobos also collected their 1st win against San Diego State in Albuquerque since 1983 and their first triumph at UNLV
- Finished 5-1 at home, the 1st five-win campaign at University Stadium since 1997
- In conference play, the Lobos were 3-0 at home - the first undefeated home campaign since going 2-0 in 1970
- Averaged more than 30,000 fans a game for the second straight year and the third time overall

2003 (8-5)

- A program-best 2.69 team GPA in the spring of 2003
- 8 wins for only the 8th time in 105 years of football
- Broke all attendance records: single-game (44,075 for New Mexico State), season (245,891) and season average (35,127)
- Back-to-back bowl appearances for only the 2nd time in school history
- Won 47-35 at No. 23 Utah, the first victory over a ranked team on the road in 28 years and it halted an 8-game losing skid to ranked teams overall
- Led the MWC in sacks for the 4th straight year and rushing defense for the 3rd time in the past 4 years
- 13 Lobos made either 1st or 2nd team all-conference, the most in school history; 7 on the 1st team, more than any other school and the most ever for a UNM team; 3 offensive linemen named to the 1st team for the 1st time since 1971
- 3 All-Americans in junior OG Claude Terrell, OG Robert Turner (Freshman) and TB DonTrell Moore (honorable mention)
- Led the conference in scoring offense (30.1 ppg) for the first time since 1986 and only the 3rd time in school history
- Placed 8 players in postseason all-star games
- Undefeated in conference road games (3-0) for the first time since 1982
- 3 of last 4 wins versus teams with winning records: Utah, Air Force and CSU
- 1st win over CSU since 1995 and first win over CSU at home since 1988

2004 (7-5)

- History made as the Lobos played in 3 straight bowl game for the first time
- Picked to finish 4th in the preseason, the Lobos landed all alone in 2nd place for the 3rd straight season at 5-2
- Won at least 7 games in 3 consecutive seasons for the 1st time
- 15 victories in conference play since 2002, the most ever in a 3-year period and 2nd only to Utah (16) during the same time
- At least 6 wins in 4 straight years for the 1st time since 1961-64
- A 5-game winning streak, the longest since the 1997 squad began 6-0
- Won 5 consecutive league games in the same season for the 1st time since 1952
- Just 1 of 3 teams to finish in the top-30 in the nation in total defense each of the past five seasons (2000-04)...the other two are Oklahoma and Texas
- Attendance record for the 3rd time in the past 4 seasons, drawing an average crowd of 37,282...also sold a school-record 15,729 season tickets
- Led the MWC in rushing defense (108.2 ypg), total defense (323.2 ypg), scoring defense (18.7 ppg) and sacks (42)...UNM has led MWC in sacks 5 straight seasons
- Back-to-back wins at BYU for the 1st time in the 54-year history of the series
- Consecutive wins over Colorado State for the 1st time since 1981-82, and victories over both CSU and BYU in the same season for the first time since 1964
- 38-3 win at New Mexico State was the largest victory margin in Las Cruces in 43 games, dating to 1905, and is the biggest road win since a 56-7 triumph at UTEP in 1972
- 27-24 victory over Texas Tech ended UNM's 10-game, 20-year losing skid against the Red Raiders...New Mexico had not beaten TTU Sept. 22, 1984

2005 (6-5)

- Fifth straight six-win season for the first time in program history
- Bowl eligibility for the fifth straight year
- Season record for season tickets sold (17,404)
- The Lobos win their school-record sixth straight conference game, a 24-22 decision over UNLV in the 2005 season opener
- The 45-35 win at Missouri made Long the school's winningest coach with 42 victories...it's also snapped a 15-game losing skid for UNM against non-conference foes outside the state of New Mexico and a 12-game slide versus Big 12 opposition on their home turf dating to 1983
- Consecutive wins over Utah in Salt Lake City for the first time

2006 (6-7)

- Tied the largest comeback in school history in the 34-31 victory over Utah...the Lobos trailed 24-3 with 3:27 left in the 2nd quarter
- UNM wins consecutive games at Colorado State for first time in 25 years
- Fourth bowl appearance in the past five seasons

2007 (9-4)

- Won 9 games (9-4) for only the fourth time in school history
- Beat Nevada 23-0 in New Mexico Bowl II, the Lobos' first bowl win since 1961...Nevada had not been shut out in 329 games, since 1980
- Seniors Cody Kase and Vince Natali were named to the 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America first and second teams, respectively...it's the first time in program history two Lobos earned All-America honors in the same season...the duo were the lone Mountain West Conference representatives on the first and second teams
- Beat a Pac-10 team (Arizona) on the road for the first time and snapped a 9-game losing streak to the Pac-10 overall, winning against that league for the first time since 1979
- UNM is the only team in the MWC to be bowl eligible every year since 2001
- A total of 49 victories since 2001 - 7 per season - for the most prosperous 7-year run in school history
- Senior K John Sullivan went from unheralded walk-on to a consensus 1st team All-American after leading the nation in field goals made (29)
- A school-record 8 Lobos were named 1st team all-conference
- 6-1 at University Stadium, the most home wins since 1939 (6-0)
- The Lobos finished 13th in the nation in total defense (319.9 ypg), the highest national ranking in Rocky Long's 10 years as head coach