



RockyLONG

Head Coach • 9th Year • New Mexico '74

It took 27 years for Rocky Long's career to come full circle. The former star quarterback for the University of New Mexico was named head football coach at his alma mater on December 20, 1997, becoming the first former player to guide the Lobos on the gridiron.

"I'm overwhelmed and excited about coming back to Albuquerque to lead my alma mater," exclaimed Long upon his introduction as the Lobos' 28th mentor on a snowy Saturday afternoon. "It has been my dream to be the head coach at the University of New Mexico."

Entering his ninth season at the reins and his 18th year in the UNM football family as either a player or coach, it is Long's Lobos that have fans overwhelmed and excited.

Under Long, the University of New Mexico is experiencing football success - on and off the field - that is unparalleled in its 107-year history.

The Lobos' winningest head coach, Long's 46-50 career record does little justice in explaining the dramatic improvement made under his watch. You know things have changed when coaches, players and fans are less than satisfied with a 6-5 record as was the case with UNM in 2005. That used to be cause for celebration along the Rio Grande.

The facts and figures below illustrate the tremendous progress for New Mexico football under Rocky Long, specifically in the past five years:

Academics

- The top-10 semester grade-point-averages have been achieved in the past five years (11 semesters)
- UNM had a program best 2.69 GPA in the spring of 2003...the 2.66 figure in the fall of '05 is the second-highest ever and tops for a fall semester since grades began being recorded in the fall of 1988
- UNM has produced 60 academic all-conference performers since 2001

Attendance

- New Mexico fans have been responsible for three straight school records (2003-04-05) for season tickets sold and annual average attendance
- Average attendance for 29 games at University Stadium since 2001 is 34,230...that's nearly 1,000,000 fans
- More than 13,200 season tickets have been sold every year since 2001

THE LONG FILE

Age:	56 (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)

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-	Head Coach	University of New Mexico

Competition

- UNM is the only school in the Mountain West Conference that has been bowl eligible every year since 2001, including three straight bowl appearances (2002-04) for the first time in school history
- New Mexico is the only school in the Mountain West Conference that has posted at least six wins in five consecutive seasons (2001-05)...that's also a first for the the Lobo program
- A total of 34 victories since 2001 - an average of 6.8 a season - tying for the most by UNM in a five-year span
- A 19-10 conference record since 2002 and 23-13 since 2001, the second-most wins in the league over those periods...UNM has finished in the upper half of the MWC standings for five straight years

Recognition

- 8 All-Americans since 2001
- 26 first team all-MWC honorees since 2001, more than any other school in the league the past five years
- 50 games on television since 2001, including nine exclusive appearances on national networks

After winning three games in Long's inaugural season of 1998, New Mexico increased its victory total each of the next five years, reaching eight wins and a second straight bowl in 2003. No other coach in the history of Lobo football can make that claim. In fact, no other school in NCAA Div. I-A football duplicated UNM's stair-stepping feat from 1999-2003.

Gridiron pundits have been wrong about UNM nearly every year since the league's inception in 1999. The Lobos were picked seventh in 1999 and finished in a tie for fifth. A consensus last-place selection in 2000, UNM again tied for fifth. In 2001, the experts said seventh and the Lobos tied for third. The crystal ball was still murky in '02 as New Mexico finished alone in second place after a sixth-place prediction. Only in 2003 did UNM finally gather a smidge of preseason respect. The Lobos were picked to finish second, and did. The experts said fourth place in 2004. Incorrect again as UNM placed second.

Although he starred for UNM at quarterback, Long's coaching trademark has been established because of his defensive prowess. His team's indecipherable alignments have provided success with undersized and possibly less-talented players.

Remarkably, New Mexico was one of only three schools to have its defense rank in the top-30 nationally every season between 2000-04, the others being perennial national powers Oklahoma and Texas.

Long's teams have proven to be nothing if not resilient especially after some slow starts. New Mexico had a 5-1 stretch midway through the 2000 season. It won four of its last five games to close out 2001. Five wins in the last seven games in 2002 pushed the Lobos into a bowl for the second time in more than 40 years. A 7-1 mark the final two months of 2003 earned a repeat bowl appearance, a feat last accomplished after the 1945-46 seasons. And, in 2004, a five-game winning streak to close the regular season produced another bowl.

A three-time academic all-conference recipient when he attended UNM, Long also places an emphasis on the term "student-athlete." The Lobos compiled a 2.66 grade-point-average during the 2005 fall semester, the second-highest average since the school began tracking grades in 1988. In fact, nine of the team's top-10 semester GPAs have come during Long's tenure at UNM, all in the past five years.

1998: Upon taking over the Lobo football program prior to the 1998 season, the unassuming Long understood that the team was coming off its best campaign in 36 years - 9-4 in '97 - and that the strength of a deep 1997 senior class was punctuated with a division title and the school's first bowl game since John F. Kennedy was in the White House.



Getting a late jump on recruiting, it was predictable that Long's first Lobo team would be young and inexperienced and the 3-9 record showed exactly that. Just two starters returned on defense and five on offense; in essence two-thirds of the starting lineup from the previous season's championship team was gone. Long realized that he and his staff would experience growing pains, especially being a first-year head coach. However, Long also had enough confidence in his ability that any struggles would be temporary.

1999: Long's second team improved to 4-7 overall and a solid 3-4 in league play to tie for fifth place. After winning two of its first three conference games, including its second straight victory at San Diego State, UNM was just a game out of first. However, three losses followed to eliminate New Mexico from bowl contention and the conference race. It would have been easy for the team to play out the season, but that didn't happen. UNM pulled up its bootstraps and closed the year with a dramatic 33-28 triumph over Air Force, a win that infused a lot more energy into the off-season.

Brian Urlacher, whom Long moved to free safety before the 1998 season, became the most decorated player in school history, earning consensus All-America honors. A finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top defensive back, Urlacher's skills were not confined to playing free safety either. He caught six touchdown passes as a receiver and returned punts and kickoffs to the amazement of all who saw him play.

Urlacher was a first-round selection of the Chicago Bears in 2000, and was almost immediately inducted into the Monsters-of-the-Midway pantheon alongside names like Butkus and Singletary. Shifting to middle linebacker early in the season, Urlacher was named NFC Defensive Rookie of the Year and earned a spot on the Pro Bowl roster. His status as one of the league's best players seems firmly entrenched for years to come.

2000: Picked to finish seventh or eighth in the MWC, the Lobos were 5-7 and ended in a fifth-place tie at 3-4. The squad came within an eyelash of being something really special.

A rough start had UNM winless after three games. Little did anyone know at the time that the Lobos' first three opponents - Texas Tech, Boise State and Oregon State - would combine for a 26-8 regular-season record and all play in bowl games. Oregon State finished No. 4 in the country with an 11-1 record after destroying Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl. The Lobos led the Beavers 20-14 going into the fourth quarter before falling 28-20.

Buoyed by the confidence of playing four competitive quarters against a tough Pac-10 team, the Lobos went 5-1 in their next six games to become a legitimate contender for the MWC title. UNM ripped Wyoming at home then took eventual conference champ Colorado State down to the wire in Fort Collins before falling in the final period, 17-14. New Mexico made it two straight over Air Force with a convincing win at the Academy followed by a defensive gem against Utah, 10-3.

The Lobos were 3-1 in the league and in the hunt for the conference crown going into the final three games of the season. UNM needed two wins to clinch an unfathomable bowl berth. Narrow losses to San Diego State (17-16) and UNLV (18-14) dashed the postseason hopes, although the big picture showed a Lobo program in good stead.

The 2000 UNM defense was the best in 38 years, allowing just 309.4 yards a game, good for 17th nationally. The Lobos led the Mountain West in turnover margin, rushing defense, pass efficiency defensive rating and sacks, and at one point held five straight teams under 300 yards total offense - something that hadn't happened since 1964.

2001: A 1-3 start did not deter the mission as UNM rattled off five victories in its last seven games to finish 6-5, Long's first winning season and only the Lobos' fifth since 1979. New Mexico was picked to finish seventh in the MWC, but recorded a 4-3 mark to tie Utah for third. Improvement was made on both sides of the ball and in the stands.

The offensive averages increased by more than eight points and 110 yards a game from the previous season. The stingy defense again finished in the top-20, allowing just 310.8 yards a game - 18th nationally - including a school-record-low 87.4 rushing yards a contest. UNM held its last five foes to less than 300 yards of offense.

The Lobos won at Wyoming for the first time in 20 years, beat Air Force for the third straight year, triumphed at San Diego State for an unprecedented third consecutive time and held explosive BYU to its fewest points of the season. A bowl berth all came down to a mid-November showdown with Colorado State. The battle-tested Rams won 24-17, but the defiant Lobos came back the next weekend to blast in-state rival New Mexico State 53-0 and finish with a winning record.

Arguably the biggest improvement came at the ticket counter. Thanks to a beautiful expansion in the north end of the stadium, the addition of the LoboVision videoboard and some pretty competitive football, attendance at home games soared by 32 percent. UNM set school records for total attendance (187,608) and average attendance (31,268).

2002: Long held together a team that was 2-4, had just been belted 49-0 on national television and had just lost its starting quarterback to a broken arm for possibly the rest of the season. Such was the case on Sept. 27 after Texas Tech left town. Somehow, the ship was righted and the Lobos started winning football games.

Adjustments - made for a variety of reasons - became the buzzword the last half of the season. The once-proud defense was suddenly allowing yardage in massive chunks, especially through the air. Changes were followed by improvement and the results bordered on fiction.

While most folks remained non-believers, the New Mexico team with just eight seniors participating won at UNLV for the first time ever, toppled San Diego State in Albuquerque for the first time in 19 years and defeated BYU in Provo for the first time since 1971 when Long was the Lobos' quarterback. When the dust settled, UNM was 7-6 overall and 5-2 in MWC action. Confidence had been restored, New Mexico finished as high as second in conference play for only the third time in the past 30 years and a rare bowl-game invitation was enthusiastically accepted.

Calling it "the gutsiest team he has ever been around," Long's fifth Lobo team embodied all that its head coach represents: hard work, unselfishness and humility.

2003: If Long thought his 2002 team was the gutsiest team he has ever been around, then the 2003 edition was absolutely the toughest, a mirror image of its head coach. Arguably possessing the best collection of talent in his tenure at UNM, the Lobos placed 13 players on the all-conference first or second team, the highest number in school history. Consecutive bowl appearances for the first time in 57 years was the result of the diligence.

An 8-4 regular-season record and another second-place finish in the MWC was highlighted by a 47-35 win at No. 23 Utah, the Lobos' first victory over a ranked team on the road in 28 years. Every attendance record was shattered and the Lobos were among the nation's leaders in offense and defense. Of course, they again led the MWC in sacks and rushing defense.

After starting 1-3, the Lobos reeled off seven wins in their last eight games, including the school's first four-game winning streak since 1997 and the first unbeaten October since 1959. New Mexico beat defending conference champ Colorado State for the first time in eight years and knocked off Air Force for the fourth time in the past five years. UNM also recorded its biggest win ever at Wyoming, despite four hours sleep due to travel complications, and snow and sub-zero temperatures at kickoff.

2004: The 2004 season heightened the stature of New Mexico football even more. After losing 14 starters - including eight first- or second-team all-conference performers plus the school's most successful quarterback - from the previous year's Las Vegas Bowl team, a middle-of-the-pack finish was predicted. As the straight-shooting Long annually says, don't pay attention to the pre-season prognostications.

After a 2-4 start, the Lobos closed the regular season with a five-game winning streak to claim second place outright in the Mountain West Conference for the third straight year. That translated into the aforementioned third consecutive bowl appearance for the first time in Lobo history. Moreover, New Mexico is the only team in the MWC to make a bowl appearance each of the past three seasons.

ROCKY LONG'S CAREER STATS AT NEW MEXICO

Rushing					Passing					Total Offense		KO Returns		Punt Returns	
Year	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

Under head coach Rocky Long: at least 6 wins in 5 straight seasons • 3 bowl appearances • 19 MWC wins since 2002



That Long slipped under radar as a player is an understatement. Playing in a Southern California high school all-star game in August of 1968, Long was the only prepster on the field who did not have a college scholarship. A UNM assistant coach attending the game later phoned and offered Long, which he gratefully accepted.

Originally a defensive back, Long became a standout quarterback for UNM from 1969-71. He was a three-year starter, won the Western Athletic Conference offensive player of the year award (1971) and was named the Lobos' team MVP all three seasons. Long was also a co-captain in 1969 - the first sophomore in the Modern Era to earn that distinction - and the team captain again as a senior in 1971.

With Long engineering the option attack, New Mexico recorded its two most prolific rushing seasons in school history, averaging a school-record 384.5 yards per game in 1971 and 350.1 yards in 1970. Long finished his career ranked No. 1 on the UNM all-time rushing list with 2,071 yards, and he is still among the top-10. He still ranks fourth in all-time rushing attempts (469) and is seventh in career total offense (4,461 yards.)

The Lobos achieved remarkable prosperity with Long at the helm, recording back-to-back winning seasons in 1970-71, and totaling a cumulative 17-12-2 record over the three-year span. In fact, the 1970-71 Lobos were the last team to have consecutive winning seasons until the 1996-97 squads matched the feat.

Additionally, Long was a three-time academic all-conference selection, recipient of the WAC Scholar Athlete Award (1970) and an honorable mention Academic All-America in 1969. He was awarded an NCAA postgraduate scholarship in 1972, and earned his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from UNM in 1974.

In the summer of 1971, Long joined Johnny Musso (Alabama), Lydell Mitchell (Penn State) and Stan Mauldin (Texas) as one of four NCAA players to visited U.S. servicemen in Vietnam.

In 1996, Long was named to the University of New Mexico Hall of Honor, an award given to alumni who advance the mission of intercollegiate athletics, promote pride among the Alumni Lettermen at UNM and educate future generations with regard to UNM's athletics traditions and history. Long's qualifications for the distinction were in evidence even during his playing days, when he was a two-time winner of the Chuck Cummings Memorial Award, given to the player with the best morale and spirit.

Long played professionally upon finishing his career at UNM, hooking up as a defensive back and punt returner with British Columbia of the CFL in 1972-73 and again from 1975-77. He also played with the Detroit Wheels of the World Football League in 1974.

Long came to UNM after serving two seasons (1996-97) as UCLA's defensive coordinator. The Bruins played in the 1998 Cotton Bowl, squelching Texas A&M 29-23. Ironically, that bowl game was Long's first as a player or as a coach. Long's defense was superior the entire 1997 season, finishing second in the nation in turnover margin (+20), 15th in rushing defense (108.3 ypg), 15th in pass efficiency defense (103.84 rating) and 33rd in scoring de-



Roxanne, Rocky, Debby and Hannah Long

fense (20.4 ppg). Long's 1996 Bruin defense finished third in the Pac-10 and was ranked 23rd in the nation against the run.

Prior to his days in Westwood, Long spent five years at Oregon State as defensive coordinator, where the Beavers recorded three of the school's top-10 rushing defense totals. Before that, Long spent three years as TCU's secondary coach, which was preceded by a two-year stint as linebackers coach for the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League.

From 1981-85, Long spent time in Laramie, Wyo., as defensive coordinator/secondary coach for the University of Wyoming. He actually had a previous stint with UNM before becoming a Cowboy, as a secondary coach from 1979-80, an offensive backfield coach in 1978 and as a graduate assistant in 1972-73.

Rocky Long was born on January 27, 1950, in Provo, Utah, while his father, Rod, was playing at BYU. The elder Long was a three-year letterman (end) at BYU from 1948-50, and a 33-year coaching veteran in California high schools and colleges. Long is a 1968 graduate of Alta Loma High School in Cucamonga, Calif.

Long is married to the former Debby Meerdink, who is a 1972 graduate of the UNM School of Nursing. The couple has two daughters, Roxanne and Hannah, and both are coaches. Roxanne is a 1998 graduate of the University of Oklahoma where she was a four-year letterwinner for the Sooners' basketball team. She is currently the head girl's basketball coach at Keller (Texas) Central High School. Hannah, a former volleyball and basketball player at Portland State, received her master's degree in Higher Education from Texas A&M and is currently the head women's volleyball coach at Southwestern (Texas) University.

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	—
Totals	46-50	27-20	19-27	0-3	30-28	29-20 MWC	14-15	16-13	16-22	13-5	3-14	0-3	2-2	14-19	17-13	13-13	0-3

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Rushing Offense	139.1 (12/75)	143.0 (6/67)	148.0 (3/56)	190.4 (6/T27)	178.9 (4/41)	210.0 (2/16)	178.9 (3/30)	200.0 (2/21)
Passing Offense	228.0 (2/38)	202.4 (6/68)	118.6 (8/110)	186.5 (4/83)	145.5 (7/104)	190.5 (6/87)	119.1 (8/114)	197.4 (8/86)
Total Offense	367.1 (7/57)	345.4 (7/76)	266.6 (8/109)	376.8 (5/60)	324.4 (8/102)	400.5 (2/39)	298.0 (8/108)	397.4 (6/43)
Scoring Offense	22.8 (6/66)	21.8 (7/83)	19.1 (6/93)	27.6 (3/T52)	24.4 (3/77)	30.1 (1/33)	20.3 (8/101)	29.6 (5/40)
Rushing Defense	172.5 (9/78)	165.4 (7/76)	115.3 (1/29)	87.4 (1/5)	114.9 (2/22)	86.1 (1/5)	108.2 (1/17)	130.8 (2/32)
Passing Defense Eff.	125.59 (13/68)	133.8 (8/94)	105.7 (1/25)	111.5 (4/31)	122.3 (5/64)	121.8 (5/51)	115.4 (2/34)	130.0 (5/79)
Total Defense	394.8 (12/77)	371.4 (5/57)	309.4 (2/17)	310.8 (1/18)	332.8 (2/30)	334.3 (3/28)	323.2 (1/25)	385.1 (4/68)
Scoring Defense	33.1 (14/100)	27.1 (7/73)	20.8 (3/36)	22.1 (2/36)	25.6 (4/56)	22.3 (4/39)	18.7 (1/20)	29.7 (6/84)
Sacks	26	23	50 (1)	26 (1)	38 (1)	39 (1)	42 (1)	36 (2)
Net Punting	31.5 (15/109)	31.4 (8/106)	35.5 (3/40)	35.0 (7/63)	36.0 (2/41)	35.8 (8/66)	35.4 (5/62)	35.7 (5/73)
Punt Returns	7.0 (14/85)	8.7 (4/66)	9.4 (3/57)	10.2 (3/46)	11.2 (2/41)	8.7 (4/73)	7.1 (5/88)	8.2 (4/68)
Kickoff Returns	19.4 (14/79)	19.6 (7/67)	21.2 (4/25)	23.6 (3/16)	19.6 (6/72)	19.1 (5/80)	17.5 (8/109)	18.3 (7/104)
Turnover Margin	-0.83 (16/101)	+0.18 (3/41)	+0.67 (1/22)	0.0 (5/T57)	+0.14 (3/55)	+0.38 (5/34)	+0.75 (2/T13)	-0.1 (6/65)



Rocky Long Game-by-Game at New Mexico

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 Hawai'i 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

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

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

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

ROCKY LONG vs. All Opponents

Table with 5 columns: Opponent, Overall, Home, Away, Neutral. Lists 30 opponents and their records against Rocky Long.



Rocky Long, the all-conference quarterback at UNM from 1969-71.



Long as the Lobos' 28th head football coach.

COACH IN THE MAKING?

Rocky Long's first taste of coaching may have come when he was a student-athlete at UNM more than three decades ago. In the spring of 1971, Long and fellow Lobo players Larry Korpitz and Pat Gallagher coached the Pi Beta Phi sorority team, which coincidentally had Debby Meerdink - now Debby Long - as a member. The results - and obviously the coaching - were stunning: The Pi Phis won the intramural championship in 1971 and '72, going undefeated and unscored upon both years. In fact, no Pi Phi foe was even able to crack the Red Zone in all those games.

Recalls Debby, who played defensive end: "We were very organized. We had t-shirts, playbooks, a trick play-of-the-week and an awards picnic."

"We were dating a couple of Pi Phis at the time," remembers Rocky Long. "We thought it would be a good idea from a public relations standpoint to coach because we might get to know more of the girls. We had a great team with a lot of good athletes. There was a pride factor involved, too. Since we played football we thought we might be able to coach little better. I think the closest game we had was 21-0. At that time we thought coaching was easy."

Under head coach Rocky Long: at least 6 wins in 5 straight seasons • 3 bowl appearances • 19 MWC wins since 2002

**1998 (3-9)**

- Brian Urlacher led nation in tackles with 178
- Chad Smith named National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete and awarded an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship
- Season record for season tickets sold (14,254)

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 the 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
- Best team in the MWC in rushing defense, pass efficiency defense, sacks, time of possession 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 the 1997 squad went 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 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 a game 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-ever 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)
- After starting 1-3, the Lobos won 7 of last 8 regular-season games, including the school's first 4-game winning streak since 1997 and 1st unbeaten October (3-0) since the 1959 team went 5-0
- Back-to-back bowl appearances for only the 2nd time in school history
- 3rd straight win at San Diego State

- 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 came against 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 in 106 years of football after qualifying only 5 times in the program's first 98 seasons
- Picked to finish 4th in the preseason, the Lobos landed all alone in 2nd place for the 3rd straight season at 5-2
- The only team in the MWC to appear in a bowl game each of the past 3 seasons (2002-04)
- Won at least 7 games in 3 consecutive seasons for the 1st time in program history
- The 22 wins since 2002 tie for the most in a 3-year span
- 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)
- New Mexico has led the MWC in sacks 5 straight seasons
- Paced the league in rushing defense 4 of the past 5 years
- 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 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 since a 29-24 decision in Albuquerque on 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
- The Lobos won 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

**NEW MEXICO (TEAM)**

	HIGH	LOW
Points scored	72 vs. Texas State (2003)	0 vs. Texas Tech (2002)
First Downs	33 vs. San Diego State (2005)	7 vs. Oregon State (2003)
Rushing	20 vs. Texas State (2003)	1 vs. Oregon State (2000)
Passing	16 vs. Air Force (2001)	1 several
Penalty	7 vs. Utah State (2002)	0 several
Rushing Attempts	66 vs. Wyoming (2005)	23 vs. Washington St. (2003)
Rushing Yardage	407 vs. Utah (2003)	-10 vs. BYU (1999)
Pass Attempts	44 vs. TCU (2005)	8 vs. UNLV (2002)
Pass Completions	25 vs. TCU (2005)	2 vs. UNLV (2002)
Passing Yardage	429 vs. UNLV (2003)	20 vs. UNLV (2002)
Passes Had Intercepted	5 vs. Colorado State (2001)	0 several times
TOTAL OFFENSE	633 vs. Utah (2003)	114 vs. Oregon State (2004)
Total Plays	98 vs. Air Force (2001)	50 vs. Weber State (2002)
Turnovers	6 (4 int/2 fumb) vs. Utah (1998)	0 15 times
	6 (3 int/3 fumb) vs. UNLV (2003)	
	6 (4 int/2 fumb) vs. TCU (2005)	
Fumbles	5 vs. San Diego State (2002)	0 several
Lost	3 three times	0 several
Penalties	17 vs. UTEP (2001)	1 vs. Wyoming (1999)
Yards	159 vs. New Mexico State (1998)	5 twice
Punts	14 vs. Utah (2004)	1 three times (last: Navy)
Punt Average	53.8 vs. Texas Tech (2004)	20.5 vs. Air Force (1999)
Punt Returns	8 vs. Oregon State (2000)	0 three times
Punt Return Yardage	107 vs. Baylor (2002)	0 three times
Kickoff Returns	7 twice	0 several
Kickoff Return Yardage	153 vs. UTEP (1998)	0 several
Time of Possession	39:33 vs. Air Force (2001)	21:10 vs. Washington St. (2003)
Sacks	9 three times	0 several
Longest Drive (plays)	19 vs. New Mexico State (2005)	
Longest Drive (yards)	97 vs. Central Fla. (1998, 14 plays, 6:09, TD)	
Longest Drive (time)	9:30 vs. New Mexico State (2005, 19 plays, 91 yards, TD)	

NEW MEXICO (INDIVIDUAL)

Rushing Attempts	36	DonTrell Moore three times
Rushing Yards	265	Quincy Wright vs. Weber State (2002)
Longest Rush	78	Adrian Byrd vs. Utah (2003)
Rushing TDs	4	DonTrell Moore vs. Texas State (2003)
Longest TD Rush	73	Justin Millea vs. UNLV (2002)
Pass Attempts	43	Kole McKamey vs. TCU (2005)
Pass Completions	25	Kole McKamey vs. TCU (2005)
Passing Yardage	408	Casey Kelly vs. UNLV (2003)
TD Passes	4	Graham Leigh vs. Utah State (1998)
	4	Casey Kelly vs. Wyoming (2002)
Longest Pass	87	G. Leigh to Martinez Williams vs. San Diego State (1998)
Longest TD Pass	87	G. Leigh to Martinez Williams vs. San Diego State (1998)
Receptions	11	Martinez Williams vs. UNLV (1998)
Yards Receiving	209	Hank Baskett vs. Missouri (2005)
TD Receptions	3	Hank Baskett vs. Missouri (2005)
Points	30	DonTrell Moore vs. Wyoming (2002)
Long Punt	78	Cort Moffitt at Texas Tech (2000)
Long Field Goal	52	Jason Bloom vs. BYU (1998)
Punt Return	77	Holmon Wiggins at New Mexico State (2000)
Long Kickoff Return	88	Dion Marion vs. New Mexico State (1998)
Interceptions	3	Gabriel Fulbright vs. San Diego State (2003)
Interception Return	59	Terrell Golden vs. Utah State (2002)
Fumble Return	83	H. Josue (41) lateral to B. Strother (42) vs. Weber State (2002)
Tackles	20	Brian Urlacher four times
Tackles for Loss	5.5	Zach Rupp vs. UNLV (2003)
Sacks	3	Daniel Kegler vs. Weber State (2002)
	3	Billy Strother vs. Wyoming (2002 and 2003)

OPPONENT (TEAM)

	HIGH	LOW
Points scored	56, Air Force (1998)	0, Baylor (2002)
First Downs	37, Texas Tech (2002)	9 three times
Rushing	19, Utah (1999)	1, UTEP (2001)/Wash. St. (2004)
Passing	24, Texas Tech (2004)	2, New Mexico State (2002)
Penalty	6 several	0 several
Rushing Attempts	59, Air Force (2002)	22, No. Arizona (1999)
Rushing Yardage	355, Air Force (1998)	-53, UTEP (2001)
Pass Attempts	70, Texas Tech (2004)	8, Navy (2004)
Pass Completions	47, Texas Tech (2002)	5 four times
Passing Yardage	469, Texas Tech (2002)	54, New Mexico State (2002)
Passes Had Intercepted	5, San Diego State (2003)	0 several
TOTAL OFFENSE	590, Texas Tech (2002)	107, Baylor (2002)
Total Plays	105, Missouri (2005)	46, Air Force (2001)
Turnovers	6, San Diego State (2003)	0 several
	6, UNLV (2004)	
Fumbles	6, San Diego State (1999)	0 several
Lost	4, San Diego State (1999)	0 several
	4, UNLV (2004)	
Penalties	12 twice	1 twice
Yards	154, Utah State (2002)	4, Air Force (2000)
Punts	11 twice	0, Utah (1999)
Punt Average	54.8, Fresno State (1998)	15.0, Missouri (2005)
Punt Returns	8, Texas Tech (2001)	0 several
Punt Return Yardage	163, Utah (1999)	-5, San Diego State (1999)
Kickoff Returns	11, Texas State (2003)	0 several
Kickoff Return Yardage	282, Utah (2003)	0 several
Time of Possession	38:50, Washington St. (2003)	20:27, Air Force (2001)
Sacks	9, Colorado State (2000)	0 several
Longest Drive (plays)	26, Navy (2004, 94 yards, 14:26)	
Longest Drive (yards)	96, North Carolina State (2002, 11 plays, 4:51, TD)	
Longest Drive (time)	14:26, Navy (2004, 26 plays, 94 yards, FG)	

OPPONENT (INDIVIDUAL)

Rushing Attempts	32	Paul Smith, UTEP (1999)
	32	Mike Anderson, Utah (1999)
Rushing Yards	204	Mike Anderson, Utah (1999)
Longest Rush	89	Reynaldo Brathwaite, BYU (2003 - no TD)
Rushing TDs	4	Steven Jackson, Oregon State (2003)
	4	Jeff Ballard, TCU (2005)
Longest TD Rush	80	twice
Pass Attempts	70	Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech (2004)
Pass Completions	44	Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech (2004)
Passing Yardage	449	Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech (2004)
TD Passes	6	Kliff Kingsbury, Texas (2002)
Longest Pass	80	Jose Fuentes to Kevin Curtis, Utah State (2002)
Longest TD Pass	80	Jose Fuentes to Kevin Curtis, Utah State (2002)
Receptions	10	six times
Yards Receiving	200	Ronshay Jenkins, New Mexico State (2003)
TD Receptions	3	four times
Points	30	Steven Jackson, Oregon State (2003)
Long Punt	75	John Courtney, Air Force (2001)
Long Field Goal	56	Owen Pochman, BYU (2000)
Punt Return	91	Siaha Burley, Central Florida (1998)
Long Kickoff Return	100	Ivory McCann, Texas Tech (2001)
Interceptions	2	three times
Interception Return	80	Jon Burbridge, BYU (2002)
Fumble Return	63	twice
Tackles	18	Matt Pommer, Air Force (2000)
Sacks	4	Setema Gali, BYU (1999)