

Football Sunday

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No. 5 Michigan shocked by Appalachian State

Inside Today's Section

Warriors' defense in season opener C1

"They kept trying to run the ball down the middle. We weren't having none of that."

MICHAEL LAFARLE | University of Hawaii defensive tackle

"To be honest, I didn't really feel like I was throwing the ball all that well."

COLT BRENNAN | University of Hawaii quarterback

HAWAII 63 | NORTHERN COLORADO 6

Loaded for Bear

Brennan throws for 416 yards, 6 TDs as Warriors score early and often



Immovable defense, two returns for scores spice opening night

BY STEPHEN TSAI

Feeding an appetite for destruction, the 2nd-ranked University of Hawaii football team focused on lower-division Northern Colorado for a 63-6 rout in last night's season opener.

A game-growing crowd of 36,483 watched the Warriors dominate in every which way. Colt Brennan launched his Heisman Trophy candidacy by completing 14 of 40 passes for 416 yards and six touchdowns—all in the first half. Brennan was out of uniform for the second half.

The Warriors' defense, under coordinator Greg McMeekin, forced three turnovers—two of which abbreviated the Bears' first two drives and led to LH touchdowns.

And punt returner Michael Washington and kick returner Malcolm Lane broke away for long touchdown returns to the left off what was decided in the game's first 15 minutes.

"We didn't want to come out and be like Michigan," said Washington, referring to the fifth-ranked team's loss to Division I AA Appalachian State earlier in the day. "We wanted to make a statement. We wanted to come out and blow them out."

Brennan said the tone was set in the five practices leading to last night's game.

"We have to lead to take care of business," Brennan said. "That's what we focused on. We were very businesslike in our approach in this week's practices."

Brennan was playing behind an offensive line that had new starters at four positions. The starting right wideout, CJ Hawthorne, was a comebacker last season. Two running backs—Kaiolua Filani, the state's Offensive Player of the Year in 2005 and Leon Wright-Jackson, one of the nation's top 25 prospects in 2004—did not play football last season.

But the inexperienced meant little, especially with Brennan at the controls, and following more than four weeks of rigorous training.

"We do the same thing over and over in practice," said LH wideout Jason Rivers, who had

Hawaii's starback Devone Beas stretches for the end zone to complete a 5-yard touchdown reception despite the efforts of Northern Colorado overback D.J. Crall.

ANDREW SHIMAZUKI | The Honolulu Advertiser

Warriors barely break sweat in runaway opener

They were sweating and puffing and, well, they kept coming back for all University of Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan and the Warriors could dish out.

The six-seeded University of Northern Colorado football team? Well, the Bears too, of course.



FERO LEWIS

But we're talking the Warrior Battalion, the gray-shirted, close-cropped 30-strong LH

ROTC students who descended from their north end seats at Aloha Stadium en masse to do pushups in the end zone after every Hawaii score. A unit that made them something of frequent visitors to the field last night.

For on a night when the No. 23 Warrior football team was never tested in a 6-6 barely-break-a-sweat, season-opening

victory, its ROTC brethren were. Early and often on an 84-degree night.

As Brennan wrote five more entries into the school record book, the ROTC posted alongside the Bears. While the LH cruised to a 42-0 halftime lead and defensive tackle Michael Lafarle said, "Man, I wasn't even tired," the Warrior Battalion did 147 pushups.

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