

# Sunday Sports section B

## Rainbows break the ice, 16-12

### Kafentzis' 2 interceptions save victory over UNLV

By Ferd Lewis

Sometimes it's difficult to tell the three Kafentzis brothers apart. Last night it wasn't — at least as far as Kurt was concerned. He was the one whose two important fourth-quarter interceptions helped the University of Hawaii football team gain its first victory of the season, 16-12, over the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

If that didn't make him stick out like a sore thumb, then at least he stood out as a sore spot for UNLV quarterback Randall Cunningham, who until last night hadn't thrown an interception this season.

But, with an Aloha Stadium crowd of about 38,000 (41,904 tickets sold) watching, the Rainbows picked off three passes last night — two by Kafentzis — to break a five-game losing streak that dated to last season. UH is 1-3 in the 1984 season.

Kafentzis, a free safety, made his first interception with 9:55 to play, stepping in front of tight end Reggie LaPrance at the UNLV 28.

A clipping penalty kept the Rainbows from converting that one into a touchdown, but Richard Spielman got three points out of it with three field goals in the game. UH led, 16-0.

Then, with 1:50 remaining and the Rebels driving toward a go-ahead touchdown, Kafentzis intercepted at the UH 9 to put away the victory for all intents and purposes.

Cunningham got a final shot with four seconds left, but his pass was broken up by linebacker Michael Boatman.

Thus ended the longest streak of UH defeats in 19 years and a 63 start for 84 — "it feels good," UH coach Dick Tomney said.

Cherry was the Rainbows' biggest gainer with 78 yards on 21 carries, and he completed 8 of 15 passes for 115 yards. But Cunningham won the statistical battle (19 of 37 passing for 232 yards, 250 on total offense), it's significant, though, that Cunningham threw three interceptions and Cherry none.

The Rebels optioned many of their gains with 121 yards in penalties and at least one penalty on nine of their 11 possessions.

"I don't want to take anything away from UH's effort, but the penalties definitely had something to do with the game," UNLV coach Harvey Hyle said.

Cherry made the play: big, little and in between. He picked up 29 yards on the Rainbows' first scoring drive, the big play being a 26-yard scramble.

Nuu Paala was unable to grab a short-down pass near the goal line, and UH settled for the first of Spielman's field goals.

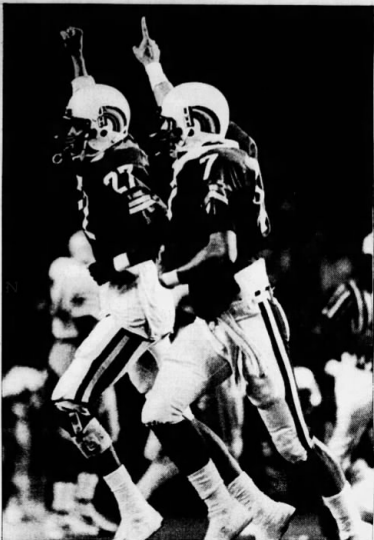
The Rainbows again drove 73 yards on their next possession, with Cherry passing for 39 yards and running for 10. An 18-yard screen pass to Marco Johnson and an UNLV personal foul set up Cherry's three-yard touchdown run.

"It was an option play," Cherry said. "The power back cut in and I got outside. I just fell in the end zone. The defense back was in a bad position."

The UH defense held the

**statistics**

Nevada-Las Vegas	17	27	2	12
UH	15	21	0	12
UNLV—Cherry 19 of 37 (51.4%)	232	250	3	3
UNLV—Total offense	250	37	3	3
UNLV—Cherry 22	232	250	3	3
UNLV—Total offense	250	37	3	3
UNLV—Cherry 22	232	250	3	3
UNLV—Total offense	250	37	3	3
UNLV—Cherry 22	232	250	3	3
UNLV—Total offense	250	37	3	3



Kurt Kafentzis (7) and Fred Hemphill (27) show that Hawaii has the game in hand after Kafentzis intercepted a pass by UNLV's Randall Cunningham at the UH 9 with 1:50 left.



Nevada-Las Vegas quarterback Randall Cunningham wouldn't give Hawaii linebacker Alvis Satele the shirt off his back, but Satele wanted it anyway during this first-quarter play.

## UH's Kurt Kafentzis knew what to expect

By Andy Yamaguchi

Kurt Kafentzis looks in a mirror when he plays football. A former wide receiver, he uses the experience to help him make big plays as the starting free safety for the University of Hawaii.

Last night he intercepted two passes in the fourth quarter to help Hawaii gain a 16-12 victory over Nevada-Las Vegas.

First he intercepted a Randall Cunningham pass and ran 32 yards to the UNLV 28-yard line. That led to a 40-yard field goal by Richard Spielman and a 16-0 Rainbow lead.

Then, with 1:50 left and the Rebels at the Hawaii 36, Kafentzis intercepted a long pass at the UH 9.

"The Rainbows ran the clock down to 0:10, then gave up an intentional safety," Kafentzis said. "Being a receiver helped me a lot," said Kafentzis, one of four brothers from Richland, Wash., to play for Hawaii. "I

have receiver instincts. I know what a receiver likes to run against a certain kind of zone. On that first interception, we were in a 3 Hole Tight, and everybody's in man coverage except me. I read the quarterback's eyes. It worked out that he was throwing to the tight end coming across the middle, and I stepped in front of him."

Kafentzis' second interception came on a third-and-21 play for UNLV after a clipping penalty had erased a gain to the UH 10. Cunningham, rolling left, was hit by Rainbow tackle Colin Scotts as he threw, and Kafentzis was in the right spot to grab the wobbly pass.

"If he had thrown it deep I think I'd have intercepted it anyway, because I had good position," said Kafentzis, a 6-foot-2, 195-pound senior.

Kafentzis was a wide receiver his first two years at UH. He caught seven passes for 117 yards and two touchdowns.

"I thought I'd be right in the

think of things as a junior," he said, "but they moved me to defense."

Coach Wagner (Bob Wagner, defensive coordinator) told me I'd get a lot more balls catching interceptions than receiving. And I kinda missed the hitting."

Following in Mark's footsteps, Mark Kafentzis, five years older than Kurt, is now a starting safety for the Indianapolis Colts.

Kurt and all the other Rainbows were laughing and smiling in the lockerroom. Said inside linebacker James Ellisor: "You can't compare the difference between winning and losing. People said we played well against BYU, but that didn't make us feel too much better."

Asked how he felt, UH head coach Dick Tomney said, "Paula, good. I'll tell you something — we won 23 out of 27 games a few years ago and some people

See Experience on B-6

## Syracuse humbles top-ranked Nebraska, 17-9

By Rich Cimini

When it was over, Syracuse players weren't. "The last time I saw something like that was when I was coaching at Massachusetts and we had to play Western Illinois, the number one Division IAA team at the time," MacPherson said. "And you know what? We beat them, too."

The extra hour of sleep gave the Orangemen more time to dream of what it would be like to beat the mighty Cornhuskers, who had won 25 consecu-

tive regular-season games. When it was over, Syracuse plierchick Don McAulay thought he still might have been dreaming.

"—ouch me so I know it's real," McAulay said to a teammate during the postgame pandemonium.

Yes, it was real. But was it real? The Orangemen, who advanced their record to 3-1 before 47,200 fans at the Carrier Dome, came into the game off a 134-10 to mediocre Rutgers

and were listed as 24-point underdogs. How, then, did they manage to hold the nation's strongest offense to its lowest point total since 1981?

With an immense, swarming defense, that's how. Digenese, the number one Nebraska, which amassed 468 yards in total offense in a 45-7 drubbing of UCLA last week, had only 214 yards against Syracuse. After Craig Sandberg's 26-yard touchdown pass to Todd Franzen, the Cornhuskers (2-1) could

muster only three penetrations into Syracuse territory.

"Their defense played as good a game against us as any one has in the last three or four years," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "We got banged around today."

The words sounded incongruous coming from a coach whose team usually leaves its opponents hurting after last week's game. "UCLA players weren't healthy enough to play against Colorado yesterday."

Meanwhile, Nebraska suffered only one injury, a bad one. Linebacker Jeff Smith, who was averaging 158 rushing yards a game, hurt an ankle and didn't dress for yesterday's game. He was replaced by sophomore Doug Dahlson, who gained 108 yards.

But Osborne felt that Smith's absence wasn't a factor. "Syracuse outplayed us without Jeff Smith," he said. "And they weren't healthy enough to play against Colorado yesterday."

See Cornhuskers on B-3