

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN / SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

COLLEGE FOOTBALL B5

WAC & UH OPPONENTS

'Bama loses on missed PAT

Associated Press

FAITHEVILLE, Ark. — Mitch Martin threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Ben Cleveland in the second overtime — and Jeremy Davis made the extra point — to give Arkansas a 24-21 victory over Alabama yesterday.

The Crimson Tide had taken a 23-17 lead on a 3-yard pass from John Parker Wilson to Nick Walker, but Leigh Tilton finished a horrendous afternoon of kicking by missing the extra point. Tilton had already missed a 39-yard field-goal attempt in the first half, a 50-yarder late in the fourth quarter and a 37-yarder that would have won it in the first overtime.

Arkansas faced third down at the 11 on its final possession, but Alabama lost track of Cleveland, and he came down with Martin's pass in the end zone to tie it. The celebration was a bit subdued at first — Davis had missed an extra point himself in the third quarter — but when his final kick sailed through, the Razorbacks charged onto the field.

Cowh Nott, under pressure around Arkansas after several losing seasons, led the crowd in loud rendition of the school's fight song. The Razorbacks are 3-0 in Touchdown Conference play for the first time since 1996. Nott's first season as their coach.

Arkansas won the two league games in WAC history — in seven overtimes over Mississippi in 2003 and Kentucky in 2004. The Razorbacks also lost a six-overtime game to Tennessee in 2002.

Alabama is 2-0 in overtime games and hasn't won one since 1999. The Crimson Tide must win to advance to the postseason in 2007.

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to win. But Tilton, whose fourth-quarter kick was the margin in the Crimson Tide's 13-10 win over Vanderbilt two weekends ago, couldn't capitalize. All of Tilton's misses were wide right.

Tilton had been handling placekicking duties because of an injury to James Christensen, who made three winning kicks late in the fourth quarter last year.

Texas A&M 45, Louisiana Tech 14. COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Stephen McGee threw three touchdowns passes and drove the Aggies to a 45-14 victory. Lane ran for two touchdowns to lead the Aggies to win over the Bulldogs in a game that started 1 hour late because of lightning.

McGee completed 10 of 17 passes for a career-high 318 yards for the Aggies. Patrick Jackson ran for 41 yards and a touchdown for the Bulldogs, who dropped to 4-2 against the Big 12.

Louisiana Tech drove into A&M territory on three of its first four possessions, but came away with nothing, mostly because quarterback Zac Champion started 4-to-15.

BYU 20, Utah 6. S. PROVO, Utah — Jason Beck passed for 265 yards and a touchdown in his first start and Fu Vakapuna ran for three scores to lead the Cougars past the Aggies.

Beck was starting for John Beck (no relation), who rated his injured right ankle, and completed 20 of 28 passes with one interception as the Cougars gained 441 yards of offense.

Utah State was shut out for the third straight game and has yet to score a point on offense this season.

Marcus Cross ran for 127 yards — more than half of Utah State's 242 yards of offense. Lane Jackson was 14-for-24 for 90 yards with one interception, which Justin Robinson returned 64 yards for a touchdown.

Oregon 51, Idaho 0. CORVALLIS, Ore. — Dennis Erickson returned to River Stadium only to get blasted by the Beavers.

Yveson Bernard ran for 117 yards and a pair of touchdowns and Erickson's old team, Oregon State, beat his new one, Idaho.

Some in the crowd gave Erickson a standing ovation as he ran onto the field with the Vandals. There were also a smattering of boos.

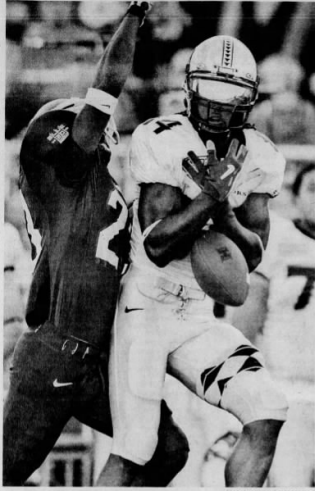
San Jose State 17, Cal Poly 7. SAN JOSE, Calif. — San Jose State cornerback Dwight Lowery led a school record with three interceptions and running back Tyson Derris rushed for 81 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Spartans to a nonconference win over previously unbeaten Cal Poly, ranked No. 3 in NCAA Division I-AA.

Lowery, a junior college transfer playing in his first season at San Jose, became just the sixth player in school history to record three interceptions in one game. All three interceptions came off Cal Poly quarterback Matt Brennan, who struggled after coming off the bench late in the second quarter.

West Lafayette 10, Indiana 7. WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Curtis Paster passed for 243 yards and two touchdowns to help the Boilermakers beat the Golden Hooplers.

Running back Byron Taylor gained 119 total yards and scored late and Dustin Keller had six catches for 119 yards and a touchdown as the Boilermakers, who will take a seven-game winning streak into next week's game at Notre Dame.

Michigan 24, Samford 13. BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Vincent Webb rushed for 218 yards and a touchdown as the Panthers defeated the Bulldogs in the Ohio Valley Conference opener for both teams.



Hawaii receiver Jason Rivers dropped a pass as Boise State's Quinton Jones defended in the first quarter of yesterday's game in Boise, Idaho.

Warriors: Special teams hurt Hawaii's chances again

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23 for UH. But the Warriors' mistakes were game and heart breakers.

So were two instant-replay reviews that went against the Warriors late in the game while they were trying to tie late back.

But it might not have come to that if UH hadn't botched a field-goal try and two post-kick field-goal attempts, both on had snaps.

"I don't even know what to say... I practice as hard as I can. Snap, snap, snap," said UH snapper Alan Ingram. "It's not like I was nervous in the game, or felt pressured. There was no bad thought. I feel bad I let everyone down."

On one fumbled PAT, Orlando Steadrick returned a fumble by holder Kurt Mitze 58 yards for 2 points.

Steadrick was the same player to return a blocked PAT for a score on the decisive play of BSU's 4-41 win last year at Aloha Stadium.

"Every year (against Boise State) it's been special teams," said Mitze, a senior who is also UH's punter. "Returns, field position, blocked kicks. I really honestly don't think it's what they do. We do to ourselves."

Boise State took a 15-0 lead on Johnson's first of two TDs and Jared Zahransky's 4-yard scoring pass to Legado Naez, going to 84 unanswered points on the blue turf going back to Hawaii's 60-loss here in 2004.

"A couple of years ago we came in here and we didn't do too good," Rivers said. "This year we get down, but our guys showed pride."

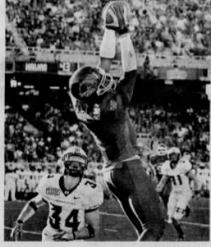
Touchdown passes to Rivers from Brennan of 26 and 11 yards kept the Warriors in the game this time, and Boise State's huddle had gone 23-14.

Following the break, Brennan found Davone Bean for an 18-yard scoring pass after Johnson ran in from 9 yards out, and Boise State led 24-7.

The Broncos had a chance to go up by 29 and put the game away late in the third quarter, with head and goal at the UH 10.

But after a holding penalty, a sack by Mike Lafayette and a tackle for loss by Karl Noa (who had 11 tackles) of Zahransky, BSU faced third and 32. On the next play, Kenny Patten patted off Zahransky's pass in the end zone and returned it to the Hawaii 18.

The Warriors then drove steadily downhill, scoring when Brennan hit Bean for a 14-yard TD on fourth and 5, and



Boise State's Jared Rabib pulled down a 24-yard reception in front of Hawaii's A.J. Martinez in the first quarter.

BSU's lead was cut to 34-27. UH failed again on the ensuing PAT, with a bad snap sidled by Mike Kicker Dan Kelly picked up the ball and threw a pass that fell to the ground 10 yards from the goal.

Hawaii forced BSU to punt, and the Warriors offense had the ball at the Broncos 49 after a roughing call, setting up the final turning point of the game.

As Cal Brooks sacked the ball and it was recovered by BSU's Grant Alexander. The officials ruled it a fumble, and a replay review requested by the Warriors got just the one pick by Patten.

"It's too bad," Jones said. "That's life. If you don't win the turnover battle on the road, you give it away on the road, you don't give yourself a chance."

For the third time in three games this season, Hawaii turned it over more than its opponent. UH lost two fumbles and an interception, while the Warriors got just the one pick by Patten.

"I thought they threw up three interceptions in the first half and we didn't get any. Both off Zahransky's pass in the end zone and returned it to the Hawaii 18."

The Warriors allowed a season-high 515 yards, and Johnson netted more yards against UH (100) on the ground than Alabama and TCU combined.

"It's the real deal," Jones said. "It's a better than what I thought he was. I thought he was just a hot guy."

Johnson got the tough yards, too, carrying eight times in a row on the next series before Zahransky found tight end Derek Schuman for an 18-yard touchdown and a 41-27 lead with time running out.

On Johnson's fifth carry of the drive, Noa appeared to recover a fumble by him, but a replay review requested by the officials ruled it a fumble, and a replay review requested by the Warriors got just the one pick by Patten.

"You never leave it up to the referees," said UH safety Leonard Peters, who had a game-high 13 tackles. "You got to win the game on your own. We should've got a couple calls, but it should never come down to that."

Brennan hit Rivers for an 8-yard TD with 2:59 left, but Brennan recovered the onside kick and BSU ran out the clock.

The teams combined for 991 yards. "The always have interesting games with Hawaii," BSU coach Chris Peterson said. "They usually are high scoring, but I thought it would be more of a defensive struggle."

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