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Challenge answered

BY ANN MILLER
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With a huge assist from its four freshmen, sixth-ranked Hawaii captured the 16th annual Verizon Wireless Rainbow Wahine Volleyball Challenge last night by holding off Saint Mary's 25-22, 25-17, 25-21, 25-23.

Hawaii (9-1) needed 37 kills from tournament MVP Kanani Danielson and every last ounce of energy from all four other players to put away the Gaels (7-3) before 4,802 at Stan Sheriff Center (4,326 tickets distributed).

Saint Mary's, the reigning West Coast Conference champion, has been to the last two NCAA tournaments. By the looks of last night, the Gaels were simply too persistent and stubborn to let their season end any earlier.

"Their system is really good," said UH coach Dave Shoji. "They are just ... unorthodox. Plus they pass and serve really tough, and play great defense. That's what makes them so good. I thought admittedly they are about same as San Diego State and Irvine, but I guess they are really competitive."

Hawaii needed 2 hours and 17 minutes to finally silence the Gaels, after getting by UCI and SDSU in a little over an hour the first two nights. Saint Mary's seized big leads in all four sets, but could hold Hawaii off just once.

The Wahine were erratic and sometimes appeared dazed and confused, resulting in 27 hitting errors. But they just kept coming, 11 strong, until Saint Mary's finally went down on two flaky plays.

The first was Dani Mahua's ace, which appeared to be on its way out when a dazed pot in the way. That tied the fourth set at 23-all.

The Wahine scored their third straight point on Saint Mary's 21st hitting error. They won when the Gaels Sk Gill dig fell gently to the ground because the setter could not plow through the digger on match point.

They did not deserve to go so quietly into the Manoa night.

Hawaii rallied early in the first behind Danielson's six-kill, error-free performance. But when the UH All-American went from flawless to laughed, the Wahine had all they could handle.

"We got really impatient," Shoji said. "They played great defense and that frustrates you, as a hitter, so you try some other things and maybe some low-percentage things and you hit out.

"But we made the right plays at the end. We made some plays at the end of Games 3 and 4 and they didn't."

Danielson had six hitting errors in the second set, while on the other side of the net, the Saint Mary's middle attack was making UH look silly. Behind Shannon Lowell and Gabby Jolly, the Gaels took control after nine ties and had two set points at 24-22.

Chantheal Satele, who transferred home after playing for Saint Mary's the past two seasons, buried the first and cost the second. She wound finish with 11 kills, 11 digs and four stuffs, earning all-tournament honors.

The Gaels called their first timeout but UH freshman Emily Harting followed with a kill that gave Hawaii set point at 25-14. Saint Mary's called its last timeout, and Lauren Corp came out with a kill to tie it again.

Danielson's error gave the Gaels a third set point and, after Megan York's flat spike, Lowell ended it with her seventh kill.

Going into the third set Lowell and Jolly running a middle attack that almost looked as if it was in slow motion, were hitting a combined, 524. They would finish with 27 of the Gaels 58 kills — 15 from Lowell, who had 12 total the first two nights.

"The middles felt a different kind of set, and we couldn't get the right combination up there," Shoji said. "The timing is difficult and their middle hitters are just smart. ... We got real frustrated trying to stop the middle."

With four freshmen on the floor, Hawaii dragged itself back into the match and the third set after an ugly start put it at a 13-5 hole.

With Mita Elaio setting and Kaela Goodman, Harting and Michelle Walzer in the front row, the Wahine suddenly scored four in a row. The teams traded runs until the Wahine put together a final push.

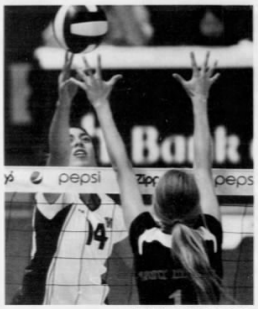
They got within one (20-19) with Danielson serving and Walzer scoring. They finally tied it at 21 on Walzer and Satele kills. After another Walzer kill tied it at 23, they took a lead when Harting and Goodman teamed for a stuff.

Danielson's 15th kill ended it.

"I'm not sure if that's the reason we came back," Shoji said of the freshmen. "But certainly it seemed to turn Game 3 around.

"To me it was just dead even. Someone had to lose and someone had to win. I'm glad it was us winning."

In the third-place match, UC Irvine (3-7) ended a four-match losing streak with a 21-25, 25-21, 25-20, 24-26, 15-12 victory over San Diego State (5-4). UCI hitters Juliane Piggott (21 kills, 19 digs) and Kari Pestoleo (15 and 21) both had double-doubles, as did SDSU's Kyley Sentner (18 and 21) and Andrea Hanssaeck (13 and 10).



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Chantheal Satele had 11 kills and an ace during the match.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Most Outstanding Player: Kanani Danielson, Hawaii
Elizabeth Ka'uhane, Hawaii
Chantheal Satele, Hawaii
Gabby Jolly, Saint Mary's
Megan York, Saint Mary's
Kari Pestoleo, UC Irvine
Kyley Sentner, San Diego State

NO. 6 HAWAII DEF. ST. MARY'S 25-22, 25-17, 25-21, 25-23

GAELS (7-3)

	S	K	E	ATT	PCT	D	BS	BA	PTS
Corp	4	0	5	34	.147	12	2	1	3
Shaw	4	0	1	13	.192	3	0	0	0
York	4	4	4	27	.074	20	1	0	5
Gill	4	0	0	1	.000	1	0	0	0
Lowell	4	15	2	58	.224	7	1	1	16.5
Jolly	4	12	1	54	.207	1	1	0	13
Hudson	4	3	1	14	.143	1	0	0	3
Kamano	4	2	1	11	.091	0	0	0	2
Totals	4	58	27	162	.235	7	1	1	46.5

RAINBOW WAHINE (9-1)

	S	K	E	ATT	PCT	D	BS	BA	PTS
Hawaii	4	10	2	24	.375	1	0	0	10
Danielson	4	37	6	64	.156	1	0	0	37
Mahua	4	2	1	7	.143	0	0	0	2
Maeda	4	1	1	3	.333	0	0	0	1
Walzer	4	7	1	19	.368	0	0	0	7
Harting	4	7	0	19	.368	0	0	0	7
Elaio	4	1	1	13	.154	1	0	0	1
Goodman	4	5	1	17	.353	0	0	0	5
Ka'uhane	4	1	1	3	.333	0	0	0	1
Griffith	4	1	1	3	.333	0	0	0	1
Totals	4	67	17	159	.297	3	0	0	67

Kills — 3 games or more in hitting errors, att. attempts, pct. hitting percentage, d. digs, bs. block solo, ba. block assists, pts. points. Solo block double assist.
Service Aces — Hawaii (3): Danielson 2, Mahua. (7): Corp 3, Shaw 2, Hudson 2. Hawaii. Saints. Gaels.
Service Errors — SMW (10): York 3, Kamano 2, G. Shaw 2, Hudson. (4): Danielson 2, Maeda, Gaels. Aces — SMW (5): White 2, Kamano 2, Corp 0. York. Hawaii (3): Mahua 2, Ka'uhane 0. Danielson. Maeda. Walzer 7 — 2 — 1
Officials — Ernest Hu, Wayne Lee
A — 4,802.

Championship team formed lasting bonds

BY CINDY LUIS
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The title banners hanging from the Stan Sheriff Center rafters have been silent reminders of Hawaii's early volleyball success, a legacy that has continued decades after that last championship in 1987.

During this week's Verizon Wireless Challenge, those banners represented even more, with players from each of those winning teams only a dozen court-lengths away from the beloved sweat box called Klum Gym.

"My players asked about me playing in here (the Sheriff Center)," said San Diego State coach Deidre Collins-Parker, arguably the most decorated player in Rainbow Wahine history. "I told them, 'Let me show you Klum Gym.'

"It would have been amazing to play in this arena. It's such a fun atmosphere, and I would have been very appreciative of it. But where we played was special in a different way, and it is amazing that people still remember you."

Collins-Parker, the 1983 Broderick Cup winner as the top female collegiate athlete, anchored the 1982 and '83 NCAA championship teams that were a combined 37-3 in the middle blocker's last two seasons. She's never been able to return for an alumnae match, having gone from Manoa to the national team, the 1988 Olympics and then into the coaching ranks.

"Maybe they could have a spring game?" she suggested.

It might be enough to lure Diana Jessie-Nunn back as well. She and Collins-Parker have remained close, although the two were never teammates.

"She was playing basketball for the one season when I was a freshman," said Jessie-Nunn, a senior on the 1987 team, who flew in from Dallas. "She showed me the ropes coming in. I wanted to come and support her team.

"Seeing the banners brings back a lot of memories. It was a very special time. We played a few games at Blaisdell (Arena), but I didn't like it there; it was so open. I loved the closeness of Klum.

That closeness has been a lasting bond. Marcie Wurts Nowack (1980-83) lives in Kailua but often visits Diane Sebastian Pestoleo (1978-81) in Southern California.

"My mom still lives in Corona del Mar, and I see Diane at least once a year," Wurts Nowack said. "I love coming in here, seeing the banners. It's part of history and I'm proud to be part of it.

"It doesn't seem that it's been that long until you think about your kids, who weren't born yet. You see Diane's and Lee Ann's daughters playing and see how similar they are to their parents."

There was no mistaking Lee Ann Pestana Satele's daughter, Chantheal, when Pestoleo saw her play a few years ago.

"We were at a tournament in Reno and I thought, 'That has to be Lee Ann's daughter,'" said Pestoleo (1978-81), a graduate on the 1982-83 teams. "It was."

Both of their daughters played well this weekend. Kari Pestoleo was an all-tournament selection for UC Irvine, and Chantheal Satele for No. 6 Hawaii, the tournament champion.

"What a wonderful experience this is for Kari," said Pestoleo, a Wahine All-American, who married former UH men's All-American Tom. "It's something she grew up hearing about, how great it was to play here, how great it was to play for Dave Shoji, how great to play in front of all the wonderful fans. Ever since she was a little girl, she dreamed of this opportunity.

"Playing here was such a positive experience for me. Even though we didn't have this great arena, we still had the great support and it was awesome to be a Wahine in the '70s and '80s.

"Our legacy? There is nothing that compares to this. Thirty years later, people still remember. That has to do with Hawaii volleyball. This is a special, special place to play."

Penn State finally loses

It had been nearly three years and 109 matches since the Penn State women's volleyball team had lost a match.

Now the second-longest winning streak in Division I team sports is over after the Nittany Lions fell to Stanford 28-26, 25-12, 25-18 last night in a tournament at Florida.

UH: Team blocks field goal, recovers fumble in fourth

Continued from C1

snorts. If the Black Knights defense is that it often has single coverage on two of the widest receivers.

Moniz took advantage of that defect, firing scoring passes, 12 26 yards to right wideout Royce Pollard, 11 to left wideout Andrew Bradley and 41 to right sidback Keakina Pilares. Moniz finished 24-for-36 for 341 yards without an interception.

Meanwhile, the Warriors were able to slow Army's triple-option running attack, which features the fullback, then the quarterback rush and the pitch to a trailing tailback. The Warriors used a 4-4 scheme in which safeties Spencer Smith and Mana Silva were used as bracket linebackers assigned to narrowing the Black Knights offense.

But then, as the poets would describe it, everything changed gradually and then suddenly. It began when Smith suffered a fractured right forearm when he landed awkwardly.

Beginning in the second quarter, Army changed its offensive and defensive schemes.

Because the Warriors were effective against the triple-option, Army "stopped running the option," UH defensive coordinator Dave Aranda said.

The Black Knights turned to a formation they did not use before — "the twins," in which there are two receivers to one side, one on the other side and two backs. They also ran power-blocking plays, fly sweeps (in which an overdoze receiver takes the handoff on a misdirection route) and play-action passes.

On defense, the Black Knights switched from a five-man front to a 4-2-5 scheme. The reasoning, according to Army coach Rich Ellerson, was to create a pass rush with four linemen, allowing the Black Knights to drop another defender into pass coverage. In particular, defensive end Joshua McNary was disruptive with his ferocious pass-rushes.

"They changed up our fronts, giving us a little harder time," Moniz said. "We had less time to let the long routes develop. We had to get the ball out shorter."

The Warriors had fewer opportunities. During a 13-minute stretch from the second quarter to the middle of the third, Army had possession for 15 minutes, 46 seconds. Two UH possessions short-circuited because of lost fumbles — one by linebacker Maea Lokeiai on a pooch kickoff, the other when McNary stripped the football from Moniz.

Army scored 28 points in a row, all on rushing touchdowns, to seize a 28-21 lead with 5:35 remaining in the third quarter.

After the Warriors tied it on Alex Green's 30-yard run, the Black Knights had two chances to regain the lead.

The first was extensionated when UH freshman John Hardy-Tuliau blocked Alex Carlton's field-goal attempt from 37 yards.

UH ran an isolation play in which maneuvering allowed Hardy-Tuliau to align on the left of Carlton. "We created a short edge, then brought him from the short edge," said Chris Tormey, who coaches UH's special teams.

"I told the guys I was going to get it," Hardy-Tuliau said. "I didn't even feel (the block) because of the adrenaline."

A possession later, the Black Knights advanced to the UH 26. Then Max Jensen, an injury replacement for starting quarterback Trent Steelman, took the snap and glided to his left. Defensive end Kamaki Umu hit Steelman, who fumbled.

Silva, who was back at safety, recovered the football. "I just lumped on it," he said. "I held it like it was a newborn baby."

After a review, the Warriors were awarded possession, at their 27, with 24 seconds remaining. They were out of timeouts.

As the offense was about to take the field, Pollard, the right wideout, reminded offensive coordinator Nick Rolovich of a play he suggested at halftime ... and in the first quarter ... and during warm-ups.

"He wanted to run (the hitch-and-go)," Rolovich said of a pattern in which Pollard runs about 8 yards, makes a stutter-step to the outside, then sprints upfield.

Rolovich relented — to hail the request.

Pollard ran the "hitch" portion, catching a pass and stepping across the sideline, where he was hit by linebacker Steve Ezinger. The 15-yard penalty advanced the ball to the Army 45.

From there, Rolovich signaled for the hitch-and-go play. Pollard ran about 8 yards, hasting cornerback Antuan Aaron to move up. Pollard then ran downfield, catching Moniz's pass. The 41-yard gain moved the line of scrimmage to the 14.

McMackin ordered Moniz to spike the ball to stop the clock. Enos then was summoned.

"I've been visualizing this since last week," Enos said.

Long snapper Luke Ingram recalled thinking: "I tried to stay as calm as I could."

Holder Shane Austin said: "I was a little nervous. Catch. Hold. That's all I was thinking. We just said, 'Make it,' and he did. He listened to us."

Enos' ensuing kickoff was fielded by Justin Schaal at the Army 31. Schaal ran 3 yards before being hit by UH's Kenny Estes, and fumbling. UH's Jordan Gomes recovered as time expired, triggering a UH celebration.

"Football never ceases to amaze you," Miano said. "It was so exciting, it stops your heart. There were so many changes in emotion. We were up early, and then they got the momentum. And we finally make a play at the end and get the ball back. We worked for 59 minutes and didn't get any turnovers. And we get our turnover in the 60th minute. That's amazing."

COURTESY OF UH WATCH | UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Warriors quarterback Bryant Moniz had three touchdowns and no interceptions.

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