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# WARRIOR REPORT

SPORTS C5

## Like in 2007, Warriors pull a win from their hat



Dan Reardon  
Further Review

**WEST POINT, N.Y.** So Specialist Kevin Peoples sat in the stands of Michie Stadium yesterday with mixed emotions as he watched Hawaii edge Army 21-20. But the ratio was similar to that of an old-school martialist — with the generous side of gin being his collage and the drop of renegade his employer.

“I still have feelings both ways, but at the same time I had to remember to matter what, I’m a Warrior regardless,” Peoples said. “Win, lose or draw.”

It’s not a warrior, assigned to an infantry unit at Fort Drum scheduled for deployment to Afghanistan next year. But when Peoples says Warrior, he means University of Hawaii football players, which he was born 2004 to 2008. Yet, he pleads ignorance and everything else to the flag and the Army in which he’s enlisted — everything except his football loyalty. Peoples traveled 275 miles to West Point mostly to cheer on his former teammates, not his future boss. Peoples and at least a thousand other Hawaii fans saw

their team sometimes dominate, sometimes frustrate and finally succumb.

In the dramatic final minutes, the Warriors pulled a win out of their collective hat — the way they often did when Peoples was a special team player and backup running back and linebacker at UH.

“I know, it’s just our win. But I’m going to say it — maybe this is a team that ‘thinks’ ways. Certainly, it had a way to blow a big lead, hitting away a near-perfect first quarter on both sides of the ball. But it also found a way to make the big plays when it counted, at the end with the score close.

## Pollard’s push for hitch-and-go cinches win

BY STEPHEN TSAI  
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**WEST POINT, N.Y.** So For the Hawaii football team, the path to victory was Royce Pollard’s read.

Pollard, a junior right without, made two timely catches in leading the Warriors’ winning drive in yesterday’s 13-20 victory over Army.

Throughout the game, Pollard suggested calling the hitch-and-go, a trick in which he runs a few yards, stunts steps to the outside, then spins upfield.

“It’s not something we really work on a lot,” offensive coordinator Nick Rolovich said.

But when the Warriors gained possession at their 27, with 24 seconds remaining in a game tied at 20, Rolovich gave his backup

“Royce is such a bright player and we need a big play,” Rolovich said. Army was “going to establish in the coverage,” it was the right time to call it. That’s what we talk about all of the time. Communication. Bring some information back.”

The play relies on the defender overplaying the receiver. Rolovich knew the play needed a winning act. Rolovich called for a delayed hitch. Pollard ran a few yards, then cut to the outside.

“I knew I had to get out of bounds,” Pollard said. “I didn’t see anybody there, so I took a few steps up. When I stepped out of bounds, that’s when linebacker Steve Fringer hit me. I suckered him a little bit. Got a little personal foul called.”

“The 13-yard play was adjusted to an aggregate 28 yards because of the 13-yard penalty for the late hit.”

“The next play, I set them up again,” Pollard said. “The corner (Antuan Aana) came down more, anticipating the hitch. As soon as I saw him come closer, I knew it would work. I wanted to get him to hit down. When he hit down, I take it over the top.”

Pollard raced along the right sideline.

Last season, quarterback Bryant Mouton struggled with his accuracy on late passes,



Receiver Royce Pollard, backed by Army’s Antuan Aana, had a knockdown in the first quarter, but his nagging got him to run the hitch-and-go to the field drive set up for the game-winning field goal.

converting about 10 percent of them.

“I talked a lot about his eyes,” Rolovich said. “We want (Monte) to keep an eye on the receiver not watching how pretty his pass is coming out of his hands.”

Mouton and Pollard worked out extensively together this summer.

“That’s where I paid off,” Monte said.

Monte lobbed a pass to Pollard for a 41-yard gain, setting up Scott Foner’s winning field goal.

“I didn’t want to hold onto the ball too long because of the pressure (the Black Knights were giving),” Monte said. “I just a little more air on it, letting Royce make his move. It worked.”

Rolovich said, “Great throw! I thought Bryant hanging in there against some pressure. He kept it in bounds. That was the big thing.”

After the game, Pollard smiled when recalling his playful nagging about the hitch-and-go.

“I talked for it in the beginning of the game,” Pollard said. “I talked it before the game even started. The whole game. I was like, why aren’t they running that play? I kept trying to put that in (Rolovich’s) head!”

Right about now, Rolovich said, “That was Royce’s drive right there. He put everything together.”

UH assistant coach Mousie Davis, the architect of the modern-day hitch-and-go, has been part of the package for a long time.

“How do I know it’s a good play?” Davis said. “I just won in the game. That’s how I know it’s a good play.”

## Black Knights ‘learn from it and move on’

BY DAVE REARDON  
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**WEST POINT, N.Y.** At the end, the great Corps of Cadets was a stunned, silenced sea of white in the stands of unopposed, Michie Stadium.

They had just watched their brothers fight the great fight against a bigger, faster and stronger football team at Army’s picturesque and historic home field — only to ultimately come up empty.

The Army Black Knights battled back from a three-touchdown deficit to tie a four-touchdown away game 13-20 at the end.

Backup quarterback Max Jenkins replaced starter Trent Slocum after the headman’s shoulder was injured, and Jenkins scored on the 13-yard touchdown run that

gave Army its only lead, 20-13, with 5:55 left in the third quarter.

But it was Jenkins who bumbled when hit by UH end Kamala Tins, as the Black Knights appeared to be doing for a gradual score late with the game tied at 20.

Aana Brown recovered for the Warriors.

The officials originally ruled the play dead with Army retaining the ball. Then, after a longer-than-usual review, possession was awarded to Hawaii.

UH made the most of the opportunity, with two games from Bryant Monte to Royce Pollard and a personal foul by Army punter Steve Fringer setting up Scott Foner’s 21-yard game-winning field goal.

The first rule at the academy is don’t let. Apparently the second is don’t make excuses. “You just learn from it and move on,” Jenkins said

“There’s no point in dwelling on it.”

Head coach Nick Eversan left the same message, telling his team there was no one call or play to blame in a game that was full of twists and counterintuitive shifts.

“Don’t be people,” the former Hawaii player and assistant coach said. “We had a thousand chances to win that game.”

Specifically about the review, he said, “You just bend your knees and take what you get.”

The time at which Hawaii compiled with no first downs for Army in the first quarter — had more influence on the outcome, Eversan said.

“Three and outs while they’re holding it. You talk about the difference in the football game, you don’t have to go much further than



Army quarterback Max Jenkins scored on a 13-yard run, but he also fumbled to set up Hawaii’s game-winning field goal.