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WARRIOR REPORT

UH	3	6	0	22	31
FSU	7	0	14	0	21

Rolovich an inspiration for Chang

By Dave Reardon
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FRESNO, Calif. >> Hawaii's **Tim Chang** did something last night that **Nick Rolovich** did last year: quarterback the Warriors to a come-from-behind victory against Fresno State. He said Rolovich's presence helped him.

"Nick is such a great guy. When I saw him on the sideline and we were down, I had a big smile on my face and knew things were going to be all right," Chang said. "He gives me confidence every time I see him because he's such a great warrior. Guys like him and **Eddie** (former UH defensive back **Klaneski**, also in attendance), they really helped us with some great positive energy."

Rolovich said he's looking for a job. He's heard the rumors that the arena football team owned by **John Elway** might come calling for his services.

But last night he wanted to savor his former teammates' big win.

"That was incredible, the way they hung in there, held together and came back, it's the sign of a great team," Rolovich said.

The right move: Hawaii coach **Jane Jones** said he wasn't tempted to accept a roughing-the-kicker penalty against Fresno State and take a shot at a touchdown after **Justin Ayat**'s third field goal, a 26-yarder, gave UH a 9-7 lead with three seconds left in the first half.

"I don't ever take points off the board early in the game," Jones said.

Celebration: In the locker room afterward, defensive line coach **Vantz Singletary** did his Vantz Dance as the players chanted, "Who Let the Dogs Out."

Singletary refers to his linemen as "The Dogs."

"They (Fresno State) talk about The Dog Pound, we wanted to let them know we were the original," he said. "We wanted to go out there and make a statement against that big offensive line."

Hawaii's defense allowed only two touchdowns, but the way Fresno State moved the ball in the first half, the Warriors seemed lucky to be leading 9-7 at the break.

But UH pressured FSU freshman quarterback **Paul Pinegar** into two interceptions and held the point of attack better in the fourth quarter.

Bowl bit: The Seattle Bowl asked WAC commissioner **Karl Benson** last week about the possibility of a team from the conference playing in that game.

The Mountain West and ACC are tied into the game, but other commitments might leave them short of bowl-eligible teams.

Expressing oneself: UH sophomore cornerback **Abraham Elimimian** was so enraged by the call on **Marque Davis**' touchdown catch at the back of the end zone that he pulled the pylon out of the turf and threw it.

Everyone thought he was tossed, too, when an official signaled that Elimimian was ejected from the game. Apparently, though, an appeal was successful and he remained in the game.

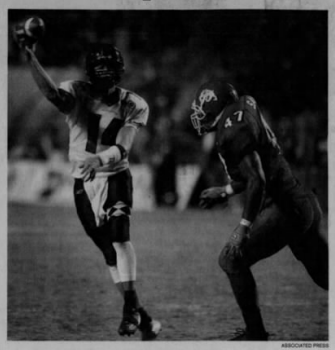
"I really wasn't trying to make SportsCenter," Elimimian said. "But I did want everyone to know that was a bad call. I thought I was out of the game, the ref said, 'You're gone.' But I guess they changed their mind."

Bringing the noise: The Fresno State crowd was tamer than two years ago, when at least one bottle was thrown at a Warriors player.

Still, some choice words were exchanged between Bulldogs fans and Hawaii players.

"The way I look at it, I guess we can tell them, 'OK, we still suck, but y'all must suck worse than us,'" defensive back **Keith Bhosapha** said.

Short yardage: Long snapper **Tanuvasa Moe** made one of the biggest hits of the night, finishing off punt returner **Adam Jennings** with a crushing tackle after Bhosapha made the initial hit on a third-quarter punt. ... FSU's **Bryce McGill** made a nice pop of his own, on **Thero Mitchell** on UH's first play from scrimmage. ... Hawaii head trainer **Eric Okasaki** reported no significant injuries. ... Ayat's 50-yard field goal tied for the second-longest of his career.



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Hawaii's Tim Chang, who tossed a pass over Fresno State's Claude Sanders last night in Fresno, Calif., was 36-for-61 for 462 yards, an interception and two TDs, which both came in the fourth quarter. The Warriors scored 22 unanswered points in the final period to beat the Bulldogs 31-21.

[KEY STATS]

[GAME STATS]

SCORING SUMMARY

INDIVIDUAL STATS

WAC STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Boise St.	3	1	0	5	1	0
Hawaii	3	1	0	5	3	0
San Jose St.	3	1	0	4	4	0
Nevada	2	1	0	3	4	0
Fresno St.	2	1	0	4	3	0
LaTech	1	2	0	3	4	0
UH	1	2	0	3	5	0
Rice	1	2	0	2	5	0
SMU	1	3	0	3	5	0
Tulsa	0	3	0	0	7	0

Friday
Hawaii 31, Fresno State 21

Today
Nevada at Louisiana Tech
Boise State at San Jose State
UTEP at Tulsa
SMU at Rice

Consistent Colbert has a spectacular game

By Dave Reardon
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FRESNO, Calif. >> It's not that Justin Colbert is having a bad season. In fact, even before last night's career night of 11 catches and 188 yards, Colbert was doing pretty well. This was his third 100-plus receiving yardage game in a row.

But Colbert was always somewhat overshadowed by teammates making big plays while the senior, who is a third-year starter, plugged along consistently.

Last night he was consistent, yes — but also spectacular, and at just the right time. .

He didn't catch the game-winner, but Colbert's 59-yard scoring catch from Tim Chang ended a three-quarter touchdown drought, which is a lifetime by run-and-shoot standards. The play sparked the Warriors' 22-point fourth-quarter scoring binge.

It ended with Colbert and his former high school teammate, Jeremiah Cockheran, embracing on the sideline. Cockheran came up big, too, with five catches for 112 yards.

"It feels great, man. Everybody said it couldn't be done," Colbert said of beating Fresno State at Bulldog Stadium. "But when we got down everybody stuck together and played as a team. No matter how much we get down, everybody on this team sticks together. And we came out with the victory."

Center Lui Fuata said Colbert kept the Warriors going throughout the second half.

"Justin inspired us. He had kind of an off game the past couple weeks, but he made the plays when we needed plays to be made," Fuata said.

Hawaii coach June Jones said the receivers have come into their own as a group.

"Britton Komine and Nate Ilaoa made some big catches for us, and of course Justin made some great clutch plays," Jones said. "Justin did a great job. I'm happy for him."

And running back John West's 81-yard run to cap the scoring was the Warriors' longest rush of the season.

The outstanding play of Colbert and Cockheran also set up the game-winner to Komine.

"They opened up the middle to cover Justin and Jeremiah," Komine said. "I just got off my guy and hit the post. Timmy stood in there and threw it right on the money and made it happen.

"We had a lot of guys step up," Komine added. "All the receivers stepped up."

[TURNING POINT]

Komine's game-winner silenced Fresno fans

Britton Komine caught six passes for 79 yards last night at Fresno State, including the biggest reception of his life.

It came on fourth down-and-four, with Hawaii at the FSU 13-yard line.

And Komine almost didn't get to where he needed to be.

The 5-foot-9, 184-pound slotback had to battle off the line of scrimmage. But when he did, he was wide open and quarterback Tim Chang found him for the go-ahead score with 2 minutes, 25 seconds left in the game.

Bulldog Stadium, the loudest it was all night seconds earlier, stood in stunned silence — except for several hundred Hawaii fans near the end zone where Komine cradled the pass.

Hawaii led 24-21, and Kelvin Millhouse's second interception of the fourth quarter six plays later sealed the win.

Dave Reardon, Star-Bulletin

[COMING UP]

Surprising Spartans next for Warriors

Next Saturday Hawaii hosts San Jose State, another team making a run toward a winning record and bowl eligibility.

The Spartans gained a measure of respect by winning 38-35 at Illinois in September and began their Western Athletic Conference slate with wins over Texas-El Paso and at Southern Methodist.

But San Jose State (4-4, 2-1 WAC) has since lost two in a row and is an underdog against conference-leader Boise State today.

Charles Pauley is second nationally in kickoff return average at 34.4. He's taken two back for touchdowns.

Also, Gerald Jones is No. 2 in the country in interceptions with six in seven games.

UH beat San Jose State 34-10 last year at Aloha Stadium, as Thero Mitchell rushed for two touchdowns and Justin Colbert caught six passes for 108 yards and a touchdown. Keani Alapa led Hawaii with 13 tackles.

Dave Reardon, Star-Bulletin

Warriors: Scored 22 points in fourth quarter

Continued from B1

season and a ConAgra Foods Hawaii Bowl bid.

True, it can be said officially now that the Bulldogs (4-5, 2-2) are suffering through an off year. But that didn't diminish how the Warriors felt about beating rival Fresno State for the first time at Bulldog Stadium. A crowd of 37,615, including nearly a thousand Hawaii fans, saw UH score 22 points in the fourth quarter against the Bulldogs for the second year in a row.

"This is incredible, a great feeling," senior linebacker Matt Wright said as he walked the infamous — but this time, quiet — "Red Mile" back to the makeshift visitors' locker room. "I've been waiting to do this for a while now."

Hawaii won at Fresno for only the fourth time in 15 meetings and the first since before any of UH's current players were born, in 1973.

Why was this team able to accomplish what others before it could not?

"It's character and it's togetherness and it's chemistry. We're getting better as a football team," Jones said. "If you get a punt blocked for a touchdown on the road you usually pack it in and go home. But these guys have a different heart. Even the year we won three games, we had great character. That's what makes it fun to coach these kids."

Hawaii rallied from a 21-9 deficit as quarterback Tim Chang passed for two fourth-quarter touchdowns after the Warriors hadn't crossed the end zone in three quarters. Also, cornerback Kelvin Millhouse came up with two crucial interceptions in the final period.

"We sucked it up and the linemes did a great job of staying with the play," Chang said. "The receivers did a great job of getting open continuously. It was an overall great effort by the team."

Chang — with UH's starting quarterback of last season, Nick Rolovich, watching from the sideline — passed for a career-high 462 yards.

"Timmy Chang was marvelous. He did what great quarterbacks do, winning the game in the final two minutes," Jones said. "Go the length of the field, convert third downs, like the big-time guys do."

The winning touchdown was a 13-yard pass from Chang to a wide-open Britton Komine with 2 minutes and 25 seconds left and a fourth-and-4 situation.

This would be the game.

"Britt was getting held up on the line. I knew he was going to get loose sometime," Chang said. "Right when I threw it he shook off the guy and caught the ball in the end zone and that's all I remember."

There will be lots of memories from this night, especially for Justin Colbert (career-high 11 catches for 188 yards) and Jeremiah Cockheran (5 for 112).

And the defense, too.

Komine's touchdown made it 24-21, Hawaii, but the Bulldogs were not out of it yet. They drove to the UH 39.

But Millhouse grabbed his second interception of Fresno State quarterback Paul Pinegar with 58 seconds left on a fly pattern intended for Jermaine Jamison that could have gone for a game-winning touchdown.

Millhouse's first pick, with 5:25 left, set up the go-ahead drive.

He had given up a 39-yard completion — FSU's longest play of the night — that helped an earlier Bulldogs' scoring drive.

"After I messed up on that one play when they caught that ball on me, I had to buckle down and have patience and confidence and hope I could make up for it later in the game," Millhouse said.

That was a theme for the Hawaii defense. The Warriors led 9-7 at halftime despite allowing 117 rushing yards. UH defensive coordinator Kevin Lempa said the Warriors didn't make any significant second-half adjustments after Rodney Davis rushed for 88 of his game-high 140 yards.

"We played the same defenses, we played them better. We put them in third-down situations and showed them blitzes we hadn't used before," Lempa said. "A couple sacks. That helped us. The key was getting a turnover. We hadn't got one all game. Then Kelvin gets two."

Fresno State had two first downs in the fourth quarter.

"We made those big plays to get them off the field and that helped a lot," said linebacker Pisa Tinoisamoa, who contributed a sack before the first interception — and some leadership.

"Pisa came up big. He rallied the underclassmen," sophomore cornerback Abraham Elimimian said. "He saw in some of our eyes that we needed something from him, and he told us this might be his last year and we needed to do it for him and the other seniors. That's what a captain does."

Center Lui Fuata said Jones kept the Warriors focused on doing what they needed to do to come back.

"Coach told us, 'Everybody keep their composure because they're a very undisciplined team.' " Fuata said. "We just needed to be very disciplined and keep the penalties down. We did, and we came out on top."

Fresno State was penalized 13 times for 107 yards, but it almost didn't matter.

The Bulldogs led 21-9 after Dee Meza blocked Mat McBriar's punt, recovered it and ran it 10 yards past the UH goal line at 8:43 of the third quarter. Fresno State took a 21-9 lead on its third blocked kick of the season.

FSU had just taken the lead, 14-0, on Pinegar's 8-yard pass to Marque Davis at the back corner of the end zone at 6:51. The call was hotly contested by Elimimian.

The Warriors — whose offense had been three Justin Ayat field goals, including a 50-yarder — finally scored a touchdown with 13:43 left in the game when Chang hit Colbert for a 58-yard score. Colbert broke open across the middle at the FSU 25 and Chang hit him in stride.

The extra point made it 21-16.

UH's defense stopped Fresno's next drive at the Hawaii 41, but Bulldogs punter Jason Simpson and gunner Adam Jennings pinned the Warriors at their own 3.

Tyrone Culver intercepted Chang 12 plays later with 6:59 left after UH had driven to the FSU 25. But Millhouse's first interception came three plays later, and three consecutive passes for first downs put the Warriors at the Bulldogs' 19. Short passes to Neal Gossett and Colbert and an incomplete set up the final drama to Komine.

Davis bulled in from 3 yards out for Fresno's first score with 5:06 left in the first quarter.

"Hawaii's a great team. It's always good playing them. They just made plays at the end to win the game," Jennings said.

Fresno State coach Pat Hill said his team played hard.

"The bottom line in this profession is winning, and we just didn't get it done," he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresno State's Dee Meza blocked Mat McBriar's punt before running it in for a touchdown last night.

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