

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Mililani, McKinley advance in OIA

Late touchdown pass lifts Trojans to 19-15 win over Nānākuli

By Wu Huihane

Mililani High School receiver Nate Adams caught a 19-yard touchdown pass from Sean Fujisawa with eight seconds remaining last night to lift the Trojans to a 19-15 playoff victory over Nānākuli at Aloha Stadium.

Mililani (6-3) advances to Friday's O'ahu Interscholastic Association quarterfinals against Red Conference East co-champion Kaūka (7-3). The Trojans finished third in the Red West, but had their hands full with the White Conference champion Golden Hawks (6-3).

"Nānākuli played a great game, you gotta give them credit," Mililani coach James Millwood said. "They took a lot of things away from us and were successful in executing what they wanted to do."

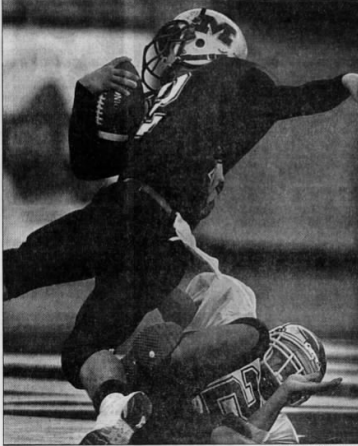
Nānākuli immediately showed that it had come to play, with Kyle Beck receiving the opening kickoff 84 yards for a touchdown. The Trojans tied it after Billy Barbour's 5-yard touchdown run with 3:32 left in the first quarter. Barbour, who finished with 148 yards on 18 carries, scored again on a 49-yard scamper with 3:57 remaining in the half, but the extra point attempt was blocked.

The Golden Hawks answered 27 seconds later with a 17-yard touchdown run by Blake Adams, who also ran in the two-point conversion to make it 15-13.

"That's how it should read," Adams' winning touchdown catch, which came two plays after Barbour's 16-yard run on fourth-and-2 from the Nānākuli 28. Barbour ran for one yard up the middle on the next play, and then Mililani — with no timeouts left — lined up in its "I" stack formation using two receivers in an "I" set on the wide right.

"We showed the stack a few plays earlier, and we ran short plays out of it to see how they would line up. If they would stay up close on the receiver," Millwood said. "They did, and that's why we went for the field goal."

Adams ran a corner route to the back of the end zone, out-jumped a defender for the ball, and landed just inches inside the out-of-



Mililani's Billy Barbour struggles to get by Nānākuli's Albert Distaso in their O'ahu Interscholastic Association tournament game at Aloha Stadium. Barbour rushed 18 times for 148 yards and two touchdowns.

bounds strip. "I just concentrated on getting my foot down," Adams said. "They had very good coverage, but Sean put it exactly where it was supposed to be, and the line gave him time to throw. It was just one of those plays where everything worked."

Millwood said Adams was the right man for the job. "He's been our go-to guy all year," Millwood said. "His ball has great hands, has great hands and he's just clutch. We call him 'Out-Bleatnik.' If there's a 40-

yard pass that he can make that play, it's his."

The Golden Hawks returned the opening kickoff to their own 36 and had one final chance with five seconds remaining. They got 25 yards on a halfback option pass, but Albert Chang was tackled at the Trojan 39 as time ran out.

That was only Nānākuli's second completion of the game, as it relied mostly on the running of Adison, a 6-foot-2, 240-pound senior. Adison built his way to 172 yards on 19 carries.

"Our two middle linebackers are our best tacklers, but he was getting through them both a lot," Millwood said. "He was just pounding away at us."

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Then the UH defense, which struggled early, stepped up once more. In the first half, the Bulldogs slipped a 300-pound guard Durgunson. 300-pound guard Durgunson. 300-pound guard Durgunson. 300-pound guard Durgunson.

Tigers top Waipahu, reach quarterfinals

By Stacy Kamohala

Advertiser Staff Writer

Quarterback Abel Werner passed for 304 yards and two touchdowns to lead McKinley over Waipahu, 27-7, in first round action of the O'ahu Interscholastic Association football tournament last night.

An Aloha Stadium crowd of 3,007 saw the Tigers (3-3, 6-3 overall) defeat 10th in the Advertiser Top 10, advance to a quarterfinal against No. 3 Waianae (5-2, 6-2) on Friday. It is McKinley's first quarterfinal since 2000.

The Warriors (3-5, 4-9) are one win from the year under first-year coach Sean Sauer. Werner completed 17 of 30 passes, including TD passes of 19 yards to Joshua Baumgardner and 70 yards to Louis Lee.

"It's a very knowledgeable of what we want to do," McKinley coach David Tanavass said of Werner. "A couple of the touchdowns were his calls."

Tanavass said on the deep pass to Lee, Werner noticed there was no free safety.

"He saw the matchup, made the call and it was a touchdown," Tanavass said. Werner's first TD came off a shovel pass. Although it's a designed play, Werner said he still can change the play based on what he reads of the defense. "I read the end," Werner said. "It's a counter to one of our signals."

Waipahu starting quarterback Val Werner took a helmet to his knee after a sack late in the first half. He had completed 7 of 8 passes for 70 yards and was more adept at running the option. Backup Andrew Ogden, filled in, but his lack of experience was evident.

"I took us out of our running game, and we had to throw more," Sauer said. Danilo was 19 for 27 yards. McKinley passed to a 140 first quarter lead on two TD passes by Werner. On McKinley's first action of the game, it was the heroics of an illegal substitution penalty against Waipahu on a fourth-and-4 at the McKinley 41.

when the Tigers punted. Instead, the Tigers got the ball back and four plays later, Joshua Baumgardner took a shovel pass from Werner for the 19-yard TD.

Later in the quarter, the Tigers stuffed the Warriors' 40-yard short of a first down at the McKinley 20. Four plays later, Werner hit Lee on a slant pattern for a 70-yard TD to make it 14-0.

The Warriors responded quickly with advance of Abel Werner's 15-yard kickoff return to the McKinley 40. Seven plays later, Werner's shovel pass to Todd Dickman resulted in a 35-yard TD to pull Waipahu to 14-10 after the second quarter.

The Tigers added to their lead late in the half on a 15-yard TD run by Michael Vasconcelos to make it 21-7.

McKinley's John Mai nailed field goals of 34 and 40 yards in the second half.

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After the game, the Warriors spoke of their control. "It's all about the brotherhood," linebacker Pia Timoniano said. "We're a family, and a family never gives up on each other. We played to the end."

Mexican added: "It was a dog fight, so to speak. We stepped up when we needed to step up. As they say, it's not how you start but how you finish."

Warriors: Chang rallies UH past Fresno State, 31-21

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fought back tears of happiness while his teammates broke into their version of "Who Let the Dogs Out."

"The guys played great," Chang said. "They stuck with it all the way. Sometimes it looked like we were tired and huffing, but we stuck it up. Like men, and we played together."

UH's widest Justin Colbert passed Chang, noting the soft-spoken quarterback had a little bit of a swagger, and that's what got us over the top. He's the leader, and we all look up to him. He told the offensive line to give him some love and he would make the plays, and he did."

It was Colbert who closed the Warriors to 21-16 when he caught a pass at the end of a post route and sprinted the rest of the way for a 56-yard scoring play.

"That was a switch route, and the safety gave me the post, so I took it," said Colbert, who caught 11 passes for a career-high 116 yards. "Chang put the ball right on the money. When I caught it, I held myself. I'm not going to get caught. I'm supposed to be the fastest guy on the team, and I'm not going to get caught. I was running like crazy. If I got caught, I probably would be cut from the team. I would have gotten back up and kept running to San Francisco. I'm just happy I got the opportunity to make a play. God bless."

But it appeared the Warriors had moved out their big-play credit. Their drive ended when Tyrone Colver intercepted a Chang pass near the goal line.

But as a dejected Chang jogged toward the LH sideline, he was met by UH linebacker Chris Brown, who yelled, "We're going to get the ball back. Don't worry."

"Right then," Colbert recalled, "I knew it wasn't over. The defense made a promise, and they don't like to go back on their word."

Three plays later, redshirt freshman Paul Pinger attempted a drive along the right sideline. Cornerback Kelvin Millhouse, who was burned on a similar play earlier in the game, this time read down and made an over-the-shoulder pass interception. His 15-yard return gave the Warriors the ball at their 49.

Through three quarters, the Bulldogs decided to front-load their defense attack, moving eight players into the tackle box — the temporary rectangle near the line of scrimmage — and sending as many as three blitzers. But after Colbert's long touchdown, the Bulldogs retreated into a pass-prevent scheme, and Chang was able to find open receivers on underneath routes.

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Fresno State's Dee Maza blocked Mat McBrier's punt in the second half and returned it for a touchdown. Hawaii won the Western Athletic Conference game, 31-21, by rallying for 22 points in the fourth quarter.

There and it caused some problems," UH defensive coordinator Kevin Lempa said.

"At first, Lempa tried to sack the tackle box with as many as eight

defenders, but that left the Warriors vulnerable to play-action passes to the right end. In the second half, he went to a special blitz package, in which the linebackers

would pass before storming the backfield. That scheme had the double-edge effect of slowing Davis and harrying Pinger."

To make the scheme work, the cornerbacks must play man-to-man coverage. "We have confidence in our corner," Lempa said. "They can make plays."

This trust was rewarded when Millhouse made his second interception of the game, this time with 23 seconds left and the Bulldogs looking to set up the tying field goal attempt.

"It's disappointing," Pinger said. "It was a big game. We needed a win. It was tough for us, but we didn't take it. It's frustrating."

John Wey's 10-yard scoring run ended the Bulldogs' comeback attempt, and triggered a countdown to a wild UH celebration. The Warriors, who were taunted by bulldogs from the entire game, began flashing shaka signs.

The Warriors improved to 6-2 overall and 5-1 in the Western Athletic Conference. They need one more victory in their final five regular-season games to earn a berth in the Hawaii Bowl on Christmas Day. The Bulldogs fall to 4-5 and 2-7.

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