

Rainbows' former coach awed by support, stadium renovation

By Ed McClymont

Few Nebraska football fans care to remember the game of Sept. 17, 1955, but to Hank Vasconcellos it remains as vivid today as 23 years ago. The final score of the contest was Hawaii 6, Nebraska 0 and Vasconcellos was the winning coach.

Vasconcellos is now retired from coaching but he traveled with the Hawaii team to Lincoln for Saturday's game. "It is good to come back to Lincoln one more time. I have a lot of friends here. It's been a good series and a good marriage between the schools," Vasconcellos said.

He said the 1955 game was "one of the biggest games" in Hawaii history.

"We had lost bad the year before in Hawaii and it was good to beat Nebras-

ka in Lincoln," he said.

The return trip brought a few surprises to Vasconcellos.

"The last time I was here, the stadium held 38,000 to 40,000 people. I was aghast at the size of it now when I went over to practice today (Friday), he said. The fans have always been great at Nebraska, they have such a good program."

The football program in Hawaii is on the upswing, according to Vasconcellos and the newly constructed Aloha Stadium in Honolulu has been a definite factor in the upswing, he said.

"We had 40,000 people at our season opener against New Mexico. The fan support is really improved. Coach Tomey has done a wonderful job and the team shows signs of becoming a really good football team."

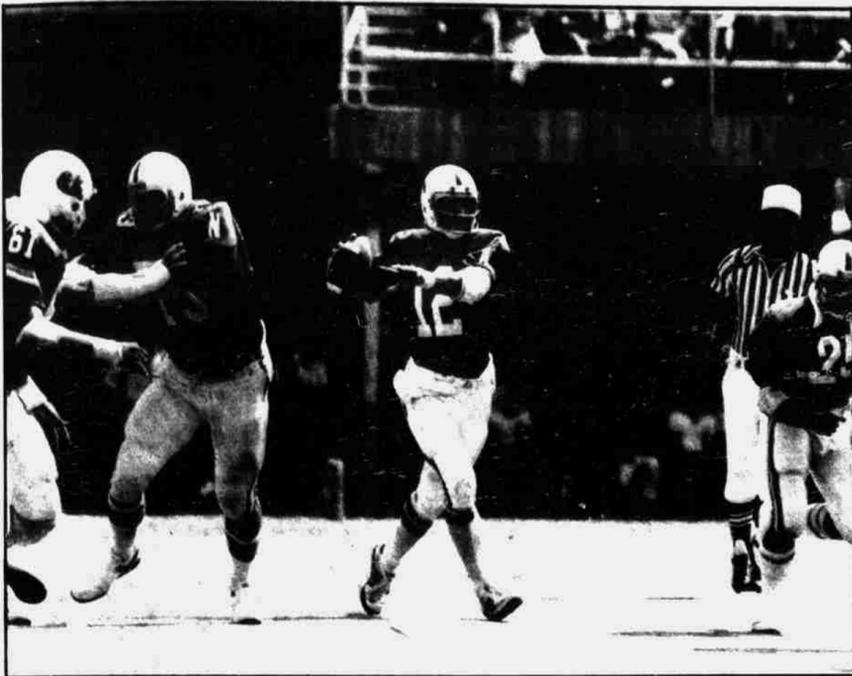


Photo by Ted Kirk

Quarterback Tom Sorley looks upfield to pass behind the protection of Kelvin Clark (73) and Tim Wurth (25).

Hawaiian punch...

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Osborne said he also thought that the reserve quarterbacks Tim Hager and Jeff Quinn played good games.

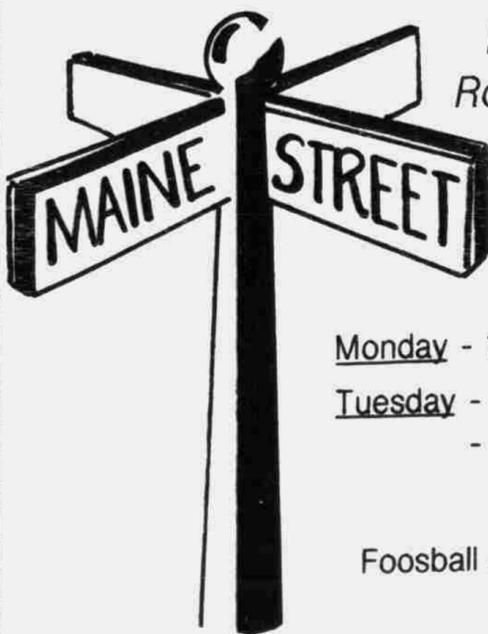
Hawaii head coach Dick Tomey said he thought his team lost its poise in the second quarter and that cost Hawaii the game.

"There was a point in the second quarter (with the score 7-0) when we lined up in the wrong formation and fumbled. To that point it was still a good game," Tomey said.

"We lost our poise and got steamrollered."

Although the win came easily, the Huskers did suffer some key injuries. Hipp and offensive guard Steve Lindquist suffered sprained wrists and Guard Paul Potadle and defensive back Andy Means also had minor injuries.

Sophomore wingback Tim McCrady suffered a separated shoulder in the fourth quarter and freshman center Dave Rimington tore cartilage in his knee. Both will require surgery.



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One of the 18 Hawaiian dancers who performed at halftime at Saturday's game smiles before the final score is known.

Photo by Ted Kirk

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