

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

November 5, 1981



## HAWAII STOMPS UNLV BEFORE RECORD CROWD

Hawaii smashed UNLV Rebels, 57-21, last Saturday in Hawaii in a game that counts in the Western Athletic Conference standings.

Hawaii was an easy winner before 46,153 fans - the most ever to see UNLV perform - at Aloha Stadium.

The Rebels, 4-4, have allowed 126 points in their last two games, 167 in their last three and 212 in their last four.

UNLV fumbled the ball

away three of the first four times it had possession, and though



SAM KING

only one of the errors led directly to a Hawaii touchdown, all led to scores indirectly.

Hawaii, (6-0) one of the four unbeaten and untied I-A teams in the nation, ran 48 plays to UNLV's 30 as it built up a 30-14 halftime lead.

Sam King, third nationally in total offense at 283.4 yards per game, later threw 53 yards to Jim Sandusky and 32 yards to tight end Reggie LaFrance for touchdowns. He finished with 30 completions in 47 attempts for 439 yards and was intercepted twice by left cornerback Dana McLemore.

## STAFFORD READIES FOR CUEVAS

Roger Stafford didn't begin boxing professionally until age 22, but he made up for that relatively late start in a big way.

Stafford, who'll be 27 on Jan. 15, has progressed steadily, and now, in his 21st pro fight, he's meeting Jose "Pipino" Cuevas, the former World Boxing Association welterweight champion, Sat. Nov. 7 at The Hacienda Resort Hotel and Casino in a 10 round bout.

The Philadelphia boxer worked hard for this important fight and struggled through a few rough spots. He earned his shot at Cuevas by winning the ESPN national tournament, taking a 10 round decision over Kenny Croom on Jan. 29.

That was his fourth fight in the tournament, but he almost didn't make it past the first one. Actually, Stafford lost his first bout in the single elimination affair, dropping a controversial 8 round nod to Bernard



Roger Stafford

Peterson in August. But Peterson injured his eye the next week and Stafford was given new life. He responded by decisioning Johnny Cooper in September and Tony Suero in

December to set up the title bout with Croom.

The former Marine owes a lot to Joe Frazier. The former heavyweight champion worked with Stafford prior to the Cooper bout, giving him the tips and advice that ended his two-fight skid. Stafford had drawn with Peterson the fight before he lost to him.

"Joe helped me with everything," says Stafford. "He had me balanced and not lunging to throw punches. It made a world of difference."

Cuevas is a world of difference from Peterson and Cooper and Suero, but Stafford, who enters with a 17-2-1 record and seven knockouts, is not concerned.

"I'm not worried about Cuevas," he says. "Cuevas is nothing but a puncher. He has no strategy. I'm a better boxer than he is, and I use the ring better."

"I don't see the fight going past the fourth round."

Stafford, a better boxer than he is a puncher, is entering this, the most important fight of his career, with five straight wins, all by decision. He scored his last knockout in June of 1979. His last two wins in June and July were 10 round verdicts over Kevin Howard.

Stafford honed his boxing skills as an amateur, during which time he compiled an impressive 80-9 record.

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