

## Pre-Season Highlights

The first game of the pre-season saw Damien match up against Aiea. Die-hard fans may remember it was Aiea that challenged Damien the State Division II title in 2003, with Aiea prevailing 9-7. Damien got the upper hand in this year's contest with some strong defense when it counted. Aiea churned out fifty more yards of offense on the gridiron than Damien, but a key interception and scoring drive late in the game gave Damien the win, 14-13. Sophomore quarterback **Marcus Faufata-Pedrina** led the Monarchs, completing 11 passes in 19 attempts for 92 yards and a touchdown. Faufata-Pedrina also rushed for a touchdown, racking up more than 90 yards on the ground for the game. **Kaimana Cameron** and **Jarin Manuel** led the defense, each snagging an interception.



(photo from Hawaii Tribune Herald)



In their second game, Damien defeated Kauai 34-19 at the Aiea High School field. Kauai has been runner-up in Division II title games three times, the last in 2013. Faufata-Pedrina had another strong showing, completing 15 of 26 passes for over 150 yards and a touchdown, and rushing for just over 100 yards. His favorite targets were **Justice White** and **Kepono Kawaakoa** with four receptions

Damien traveled to the Big Island for their third game to play Hawaii Preparatory Academy. Damien had their way with the Ka Makani, winning 41-7. Kawaakoa shined in this contest as he rushed for 151 yards on 11 carries, including a 46 yard touchdown run. The defense was very active also with **Austin Ballesteros** in on three sacks and Cameron grabbing his second interception of the season. Cameron continued to kick accurately, booting 2 field goals and 5 PATs.



So far for the year, Damien has posted stats two-fold over their opponents for average points scored, passing yards, and throwing yards per game, which is probably a concern for St. Francis in the upcoming league match-up. The Saints are currently 2-1, with one win being a forfeit against undermanned Anuenue. As for Pac-5, they are currently 3-0, including a win over St. Francis, Kalani and Waimea.

Damien has fared well in the pre-season and has a real chance to get back to the State tournament, for sure, but this is the ILH and anything can happen.

***Game time against St. Francis on Saturday is 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt. Go Monarchs!***

