

# Auau, Rigg Top 'Hits' in Volleyball Tourney

By Catherine Enomoto  
Star-Bulletin Writer

The Hawaii High School Athletic Association volleyball championships are "Rigged" again!

The fourth and final brother in Punahou's Rigg dynasty, 6-foot-3 setter/hitter Doug, leads the top-seeded Buffanblu boys into tomorrow's first round of the 15th annual tournament in a 3 p.m. game against No. 8 Lahainaluna at Damien Gym.

Meanwhile, volleyball/basketball ace Mafi Auau sparks second-seeded Farrington in its quest for a first-ever state girls' volleyball title in a 4 p.m. contest against No. 7 Baldwin of Maui on the Governors' homecourt.

Rigg and Auau led their respective teams to undefeated seasons and league championships. Punahou rolled to a 12-0 record and the Interscholastic League of Honolulu boys' crown, while Farrington's 16-0 tally earned it the Oahu Interscholastic Association girls' title.

"I'M SURE THE rest of the ILH will be happy to see the last of the Riggs graduate," said Punahou Coach Chris McLachlin, who has coached all four Rigg brothers. Mark spearheaded the 1973-74 squads, Scott led the '75 Buffanblu and Matthew was the unanimous choice for most valuable player honors on last year's state-title team.

"On teams I've coached them on," McLachlin said. "I don't think they've ever lost a match. They have a pretty impressive record going for 'em."

A solid-B student who is involved in Punahou's peer counseling program, Doug Rigg, according to McLachlin, "has won three ILH and two state championships, and he is going for his third state title. He played in the National Junior Olympics this past summer at (UCLA's) Pauley Pavilion with a Mainland team out of Pacific Palisades. They came in third in the 18-and-under division. Two years ago, he played for the Outrigger Canoe Club in the Junior Olympics, and they ended up winning the national championship.

"I think the other three brothers may have been a little more gifted naturally," McLachlin said, "but I don't think anybody has worked as hard as Doug has to maximize his talents. He's the only true setter of the bunch; the others were outside hitters or center blockers. That's what makes him so special.

DOUG ACKNOWLEDGES THAT being a setter makes him "more versatile than all my other brothers. I'm not as good a hitter but they didn't set, so it equals out," he said.

"I was pretty short in seventh, eighth and

ninth grades," he recalled. "In ninth grade I was under 6 feet, and they were all giants around me. I never thought I'd grow.

"I didn't grow till my sophomore and junior years, so they just started to make a setter out of me. It was all I could really do when I started playing competitively. When I did start to grow, my ability to do both (set and hit) was advantageous to me."

McLachlin said of the team's co-captain: "Doug will be probably one of the top five or 10 most sought-after prep players in the nation this year. He's what you call a hot commodity in college volleyball. Six-foot-3-tall setters are really valuable and rare commodities. There are lots of outside hitters and a fair amount of good setter/blockers, but few are as tall, agile and good all-around as Doug is.

"Schools that have indicated an interest are Santa Barbara, Pepperdine, Stanford and UCLA, and I assume that USC and UH will throw their hats in the ring, as well," McLachlin said.

Brothers Mark and Scott both played on Pepperdine's 1978 national championship volleyball team, and Matthew is a freshman at the Malibu, Calif., school. If Doug ends up on the same campus, he and Matt could very well "Rigg" the NCAA tournament, too.

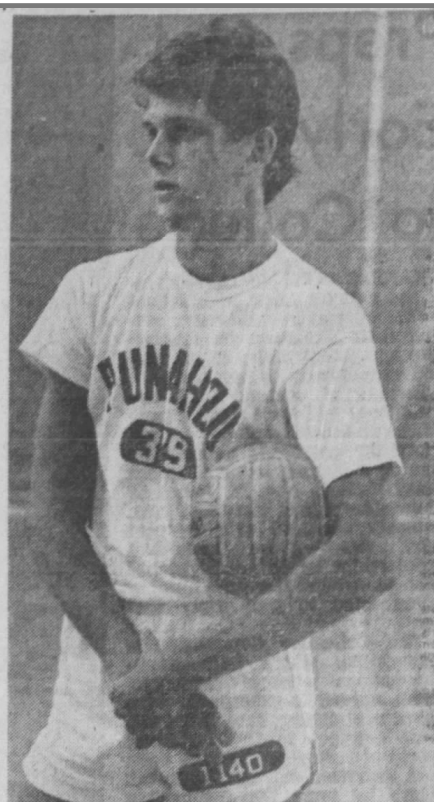
PART OF NOT QUITE a dynasty, Mafi Auau is, nevertheless, one of a growing number of Farrington's dynamic Samoan volleyball players. Seven of nine team members are Samoan, including seniors Toga Lupeolai, a standout hitter; Cindy Quiane, the squad's morale booster, and Malia Paulo, Auau's teammate in girls' basketball at Farrington. Also, junior twins Elisa and Peta Tuani, and sophomore Lofi Pupuola, the squad's best hitter.

Rounding out the team are juniors Willynn Cleveland and Edwina Delos Santos.

First-year head Coach Evelyn Duque said the Samoan nature of the team has resulted in a lot of team prayer, and the girls are very close. "There's something about the team this year," she said. "I've coached for other schools and outside leagues, and this is the only team where I've found this closeness. We really care for each other.

"Mafi is the type of person who would be concerned about the person sitting next to her, even a total stranger . . . she's that type of person. She is a natural leader," Duque added about her 5-9½ blocker, "and she is an overall player. It's hard to find an overall player who can go all the way around the court without being subbed. She is the quickest of all, and can save balls that you would think were out (of play) already.

"I'M JUST PROUD to play for the school" Auau said quietly. The two-year volleyball



ONE OF A DYNASTY—Doug Rigg, the last of Punahou's Rigg brothers, leads the defending state champion Buffanblu into the HHSAA volleyball championships tomorrow through Saturday.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Ken Sakamoto.

starter is also an OIA honorable-mention all-star in girls' basketball with an 18 points-per-game average.

"We'd like to see ourselves go all the way to take the states," she said. "We scrimmaged them (the Junior 'Bows of top-seeded University High) when our season started, and they took us in two sets. We played them again, and we took them in two sets, too, the same day."

Auau said that at first the Jr. Rainbows' height was intimidating. "She (Coach Duque) knew we were afraid because they were all taller than us. Then we just, you know, talked it out . . . and won with our hits, blocking, covers, pickups and serves."

First serves of playoff matches will be hit every hour from 3-8 p.m. tomorrow and Friday at Damien and Farrington. The site of Saturday's final-round action is Farrington with consolation championship games at 3 and 4:15 p.m., and finals at 5:30 (girls) and 7 (boys).