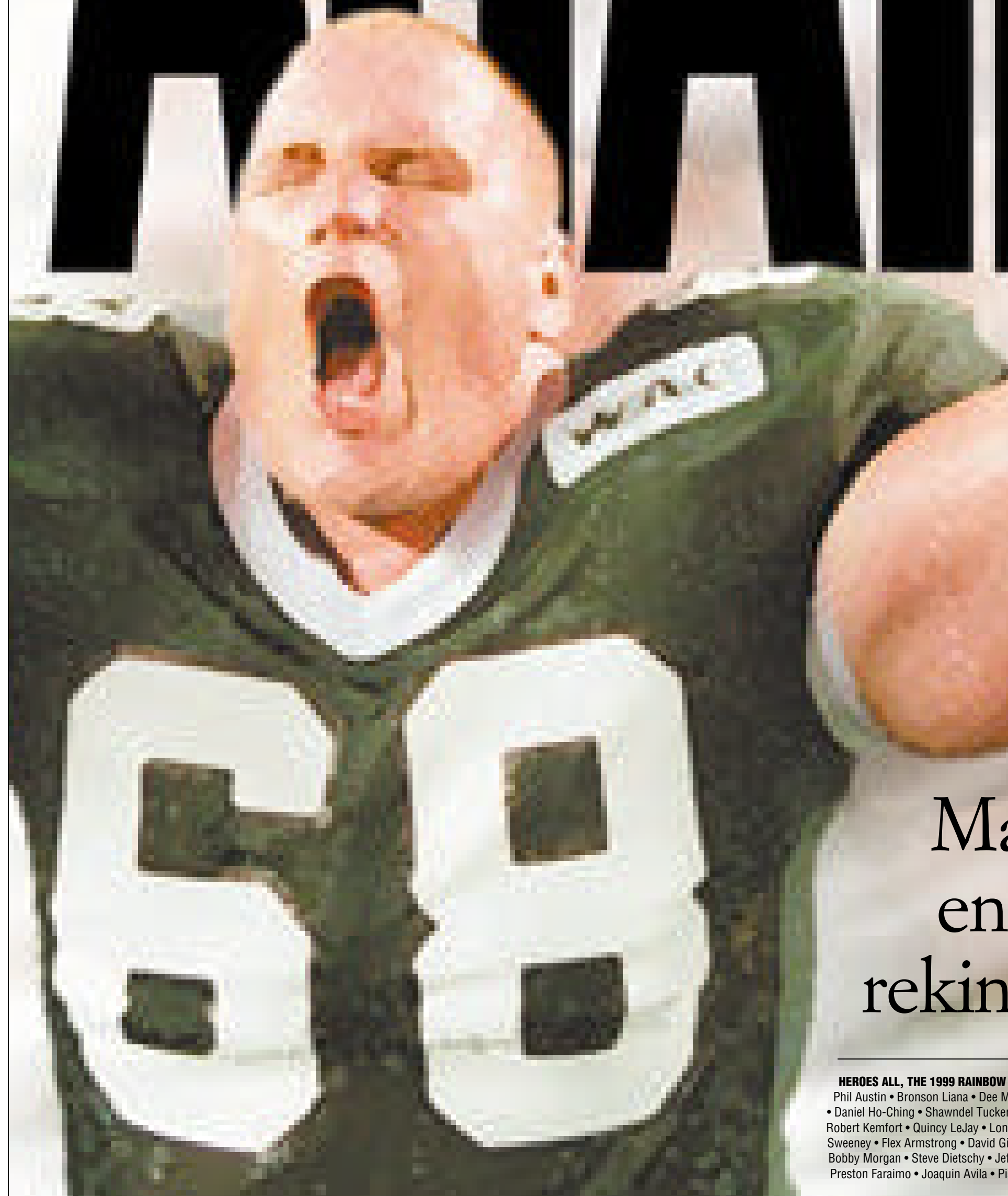


RAINBOW FOOTBALL '99 ■ SEASON TO REMEMBER

# Warriors,

# AGAANU



Magical year ends misery, rekindles pride



By PAUL ARNETT  
Star-Bulletin

There is a tendency to start looking at next year as if it were some Frankenstein monster breathing down your neck.

Certain members of the media have already begun a countdown to Hawaii's season-opener with Texas, as if we haven't had enough of those in the waning days of this millennium.

To be sure, the Rainbows coaching staff is well aware that tomorrow always comes and that recruiting can be as fickle as Daisy in "The Great Gatsby."

But to dip too far into the future so soon after the Oahu Bowl win would be a disservice to what this team accomplished in 1999. The underclassmen — while fortunate to be a part of this rare turnaround — will have an impossible act to follow. They will discover that fact soon enough.

So for now, let's allow these fine lads to sit on their sofas and watch the replay of how the Rainbows went from a 62-7 loss to Southern California in September to a 23-17 victory over Oregon State on Christmas Day to win the second annual Oahu Bowl.

Even June Jones is going to give it a rest and reacquaint himself with why he came to Hawaii in the first place. Granted, it was to be a head coach at a winning program.

But he also wants to enjoy what the islands have to offer away from the field. He bought a new Harley-Davidson and may soon challenge Jim Leahy to a race around the islands.

"I'm certainly going to enjoy myself," Jones said. "I'm going to play a little golf, spend a lot of time with my family and savor every moment of what our guys did this season. We've been through a lot together."

"And there's a lot of work still ahead of us. This thing never ends. But right now, I want to enjoy this

moment. Because no matter how long I stay in coaching, there will

never be another season quite like this one."

Let's hope not.

One thing that makes this 9-4 campaign so special is how far the Rainbows had to come to get here. To be a part of the best about-face means you have to be way down to do it.

Jones is not interested in experiencing that. He knows winning nine next year will be more difficult. The reasons are obvious. Hawaii lost 12 talented seniors. The Rainbows play a more ambitious schedule. And they won't be sneaking up on anybody.

"The year after we won the Holiday Bowl was disappointing, but it didn't take anything away from what the kids did the year before," UH associate head coach George Lumpkin said. He has played a part in all three of UH's postseason appearances.

"To me, there are a lot of parallels to what these kids did this year and what our players did in 1992. Both teams were coming off disappointing seasons, both teams were picked to finish eighth and both teams won bowl games as underdogs. I thank the good Lord above that I could be around both of these wonderful experiences."

The real wonderment was produced by farm boy Dan Robinson, big-city man Dwight Carter and Mr. Intensity Jeff Ulbrich. Add fellow seniors Quincy LeJay, Adrian Klemm and Kaulana Noa to the mix, and you have a half-dozen who made the real difference.

"I can't say enough about what those guys did up front," offensive line coach Mike Cavanaugh said of his five starters. "Noa and Klemm had great seasons, but you can't forget about Dustin Owen, 'Big Red' Andy Phillips and Manly Kanoa. Their job was to protect Dan Robinson. And they did that job to the best of their abilities."

Robinson certainly won't argue that point. Despite a body that needs more oil than The Tin Man just to get moving in the morning, this senior from American Fork, Utah, did all he was asked and then some.

"Dan and Warren Moon are the toughest quarterbacks I've been around," Jones said, which is high praise, indeed. "He was hurt the last month of the season, but he gutted it up, stood in there under pressure and delivered. It takes courage."

It's the kind of courage that rallies a team when things aren't going well. Add Ulbrich to that tough-guy list. Despite being speedy with excellent strength, Ulbrich's 6-foot-1, 243-pound frame has taken a pounding his two seasons here.

"I was healthy for one game last year and I played a little banged up most of this year," said Ulbrich, who still set the single-season school record in tackles with 178. "But nothing was going to stop us from reaching our goals. This team has been through a lot together."

Nobody can argue that point. Prior to 1999, the half-dozen fifth-year seniors had a fistful of victories. They needed two hands to count the number of games they won this time around.

"We said we were going to do it and we did it," an always confident Klemm said. "We believed it coming out of the spring and we believed it even after the loss to USC."

The man who brought them all together plans to be around for years to come. A week from now, Jones and his staff will begin the most important month of this young regime. They have already landed a few promising players, but that's subject to further review at the Division I level.

"Guys are interested in us," UH assistant Rich Miano said. "But you don't know how interested until they sign on the dotted line."

Jones echoed those sentiments. But give him another week before you start asking him about it. Right now, the Oahu Bowl is still on his mind.



**HEROES ALL, THE 1999 RAINBOW WARRIORS — DEFENSE:** Bo Espinoza • Joe Correia • Phil Austin • Bronson Liana • Dee Miller • Anthony Smith • Nate Jackson • Keith Bhonapha • Daniel Ho-Ching • Shawndel Tucker • Yaphet Warren • Tavis Campbell • Brad Candido • Robert Kemfort • Quincy LeJay • Lonnie Williams • Jeff Baird • Chris Riccardi • Chris Sweeney • Flex Armstrong • David Gilmore • Jacob Esplau • Gary Wright • Clyde Lewis • Bobby Morgan • Steve Dietsch • Jeff Ulbrich • Keani Alapa • Matt Paul • Chris Garnier • Preston Faraimo • Joaquin Avila • Pita Tinoisamoa • Victor Fonoimoana • Daniel Reed •

Anipati Mailo • Kevin Jackson • Chris Brown • Todd Matsui • Lance Samuseva • Mike Iosua • Shaun Jackson • Miles Garner • Keyonta Marshall • Matt Elam • Tony Tuoti • Kealoha Emmsley • LaVell Moore • Olen Rosehill • Doug Sims • Karman Sautsberry • Lui Fuga. **OFFENSE:** Craig Stutzmann • Derek Johnson • Dwight Carter • Ricky Lumford • Afafia Thompson • Shawn Withy-Allen • Ashley Lelie • Dan Robinson • Mike Harrison • Josh Skinner • Scott Sims • Avion Weaver • Sean Butts • Robert Grant • James Fenderson • Thero Mitchell • Jonathan Kauka • Matt Wright • Dwight Zimmerman • Lui Fuata • Doug Gosling • Chris Hoggis • Lyle Castro • Chris Smith • Adrian Klemm •

Shayne Kajioka • Vince Manuwai • Brian Smith • Andy Phillips • Kaulana Noa • Chris Smith • Dustin Owen • Manly Kanoa III • Brian Tomihama • Attrice Brooks • Neal Gossett • Justin Colbert • Ryan Gray • Channon Harris • Jamal Garland • John Kirby • Davey deLaura • Clifton Herbert • Chris Pinkney. **SPECIAL TEAMS:** Chad Shrout • Eric Hannum. **HEAD COACH:** June Jones. **ASSISTANT COACHES:** George Lumpkin • Greg McMackin • Vantz Singletary • Mike Cavanaugh • Dan Morrison • Wes Suan • Dennis McKnight • Ron Lee • Rich Miano

"Big Red" Andy Phillips had reason to cheer after the Rainbow Warriors snapped their 19-game losing streak by beating Eastern Illinois 31-27 on Sept. 11, 1999. At right, the Oahu Bowl trophy.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DEAN SENSUI AND DENNIS ODA, Star-Bulletin

# Road to Redemption

RAINBOW FOOTBALL '99 SEASON TO REMEMBER

*June Jones*  
June Jones: Jones ends his first season with his biggest win, a stunning victory on Christmas Day in the Oahu Bowl. The 9-4 mark for a first-year coach equals the best start in team history. Former UH head coach Dave Holmes went 8-3 his first year.



## Numbers tell story of UH turnaround

You can play the numbers' game with Hawaii this season and have more winners than the luckiest gambler in Las Vegas.

UH head coach June Jones produced one of the most prolific offenses in the history of the school and he did it mostly with former head coach Fred vonAppen's players. Imagine what he will do when he has players better-suited for the run-and-shoot.

Most of the team records were set by quarterback Dan Robinson. The last count was 30. He also had a lot of help from his offensive line that didn't yield a sack in the Oahu Bowl win over Oregon State and from a stable of receivers who went after his passes whether they be high or low.

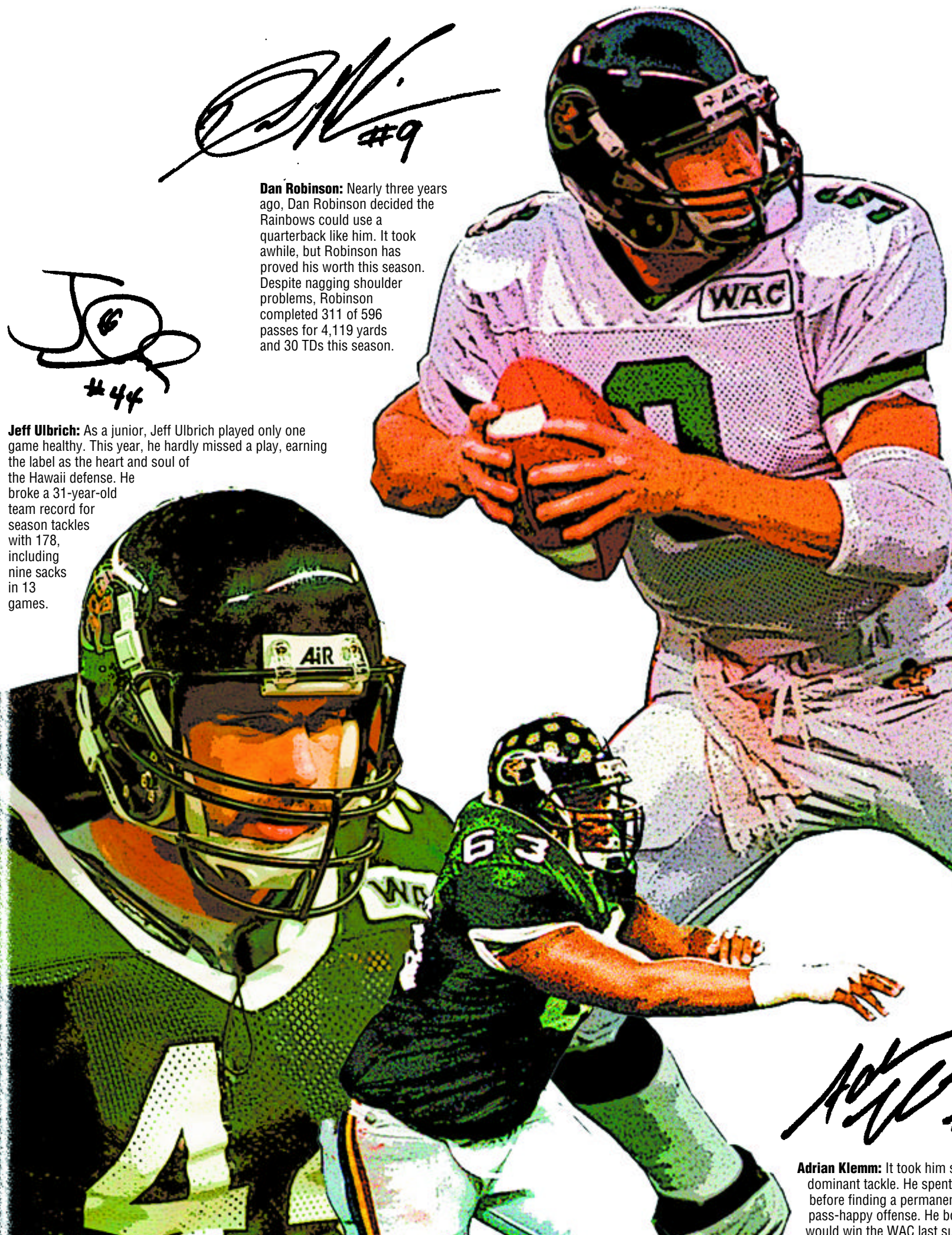
The defense equaled a team record for most touchdowns scored with five. Cornerback Quincy LeJay scored three of those with linebackers Yaphet Warren and Anthony Smith taking back the other two.

"This was a good season all the way around," UH head coach June Jones said. "You can't ask for more than these guys were able to give. They exceeded everyone's expectations, heck, even my own."

### By the numbers

Statistics tell much of the story behind the Rainbows' success this season. Here are some worth remembering:

- 19** The win over Eastern Illinois ended the nation's longest losing streak at 19 games.
- 24** Hawaii's 20-0 win over Southern Methodist in the Cotton Bowl snapped a 24-game league road losing streak that dated back to Halloween of 1992.
- 8** The eight regular-season wins tied the greatest about-face in NCAA history. The mark was first set in 1940 by Stanford and equaled by Purdue in 1943.
- 4,119** That's the single-season record for passing yards set by Dan Robinson. He claims all of his 30 team records will be broken by the end of the next decade.
- 1,167** Hawaii's two-headed running back — Alafatia Thompson and Avion Weaver — combined to rush for more than 1,000 yards, disproving the adage you can't run in the run-and-shoot.
- 3** That's how many interceptions Quincy LeJay returned for touchdowns, falling one shy of equaling the NCAA record set this year by California's Delthea O'Neil.

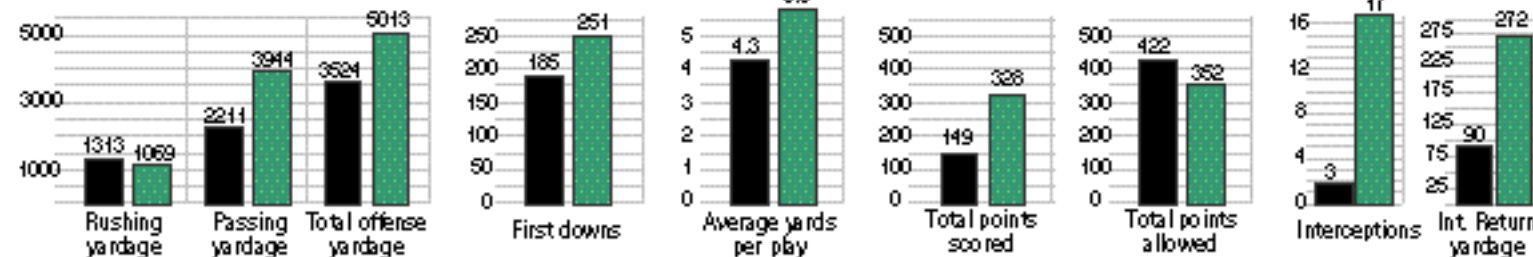


*Dan Robinson*  
Dan Robinson: Nearly three years ago, Dan Robinson decided the Rainbows could use a quarterback like him. It took awhile, but Robinson has proved his worth this season. Despite nagging shoulder problems, Robinson completed 311 of 596 passes for 4,119 yards and 30 TDs this season.

*Jeff Ulbrich*  
Jeff Ulbrich: As a junior, Jeff Ulbrich played only one game healthy. This year, he hardly missed a play, earning the label as the heart and soul of the Hawaii defense. He broke a 31-year-old team record for season tackles with 178, including nine sacks in 13 games.

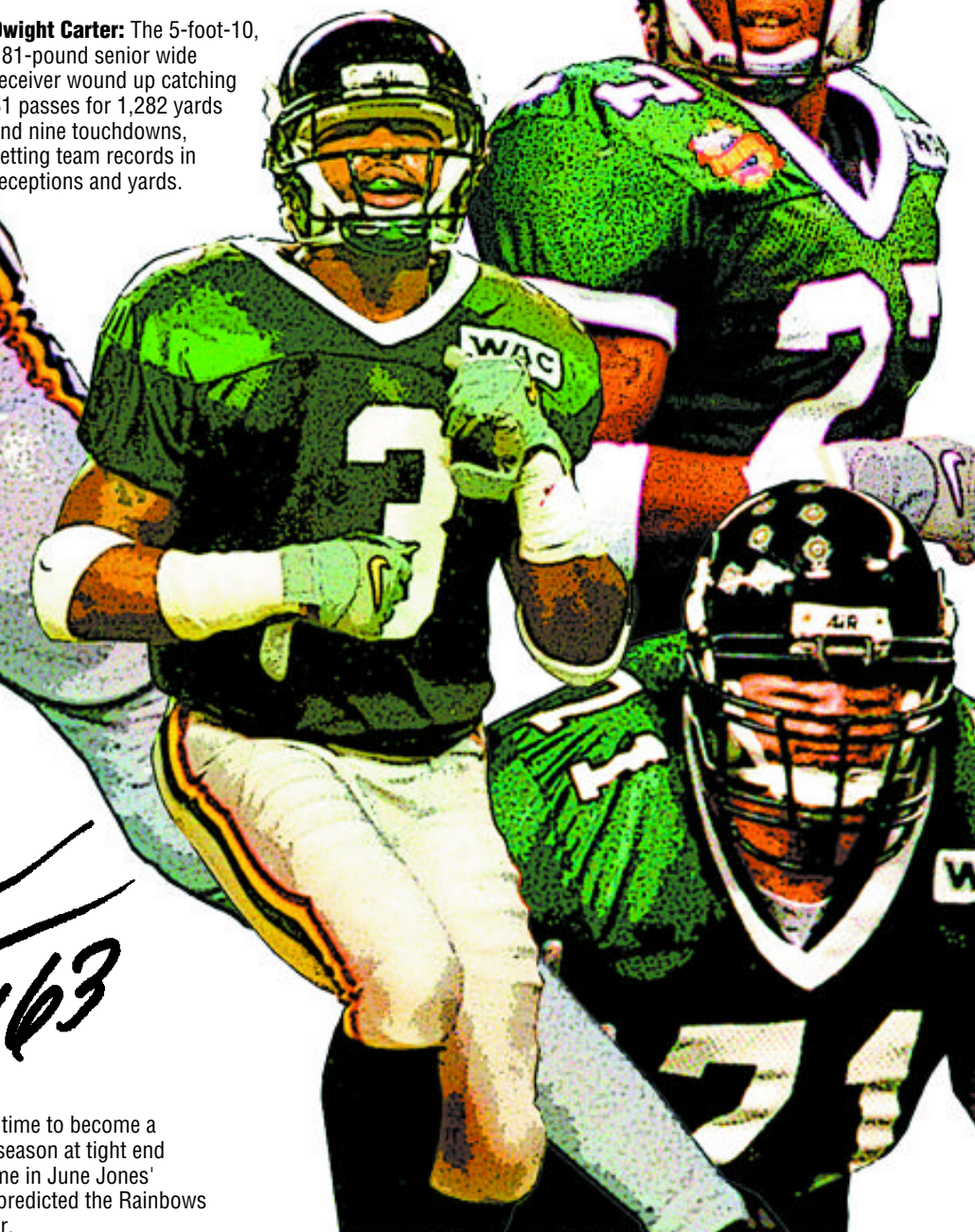
### What a difference a year makes

Several key offensive statistics were markedly improved during the Rainbows' 1999 season as opposed to 1998. Rushing yards were down in '99, but yards per carry increased by 8 yards per rush, a 20 percent jump. Also up significantly was the number of interceptions.



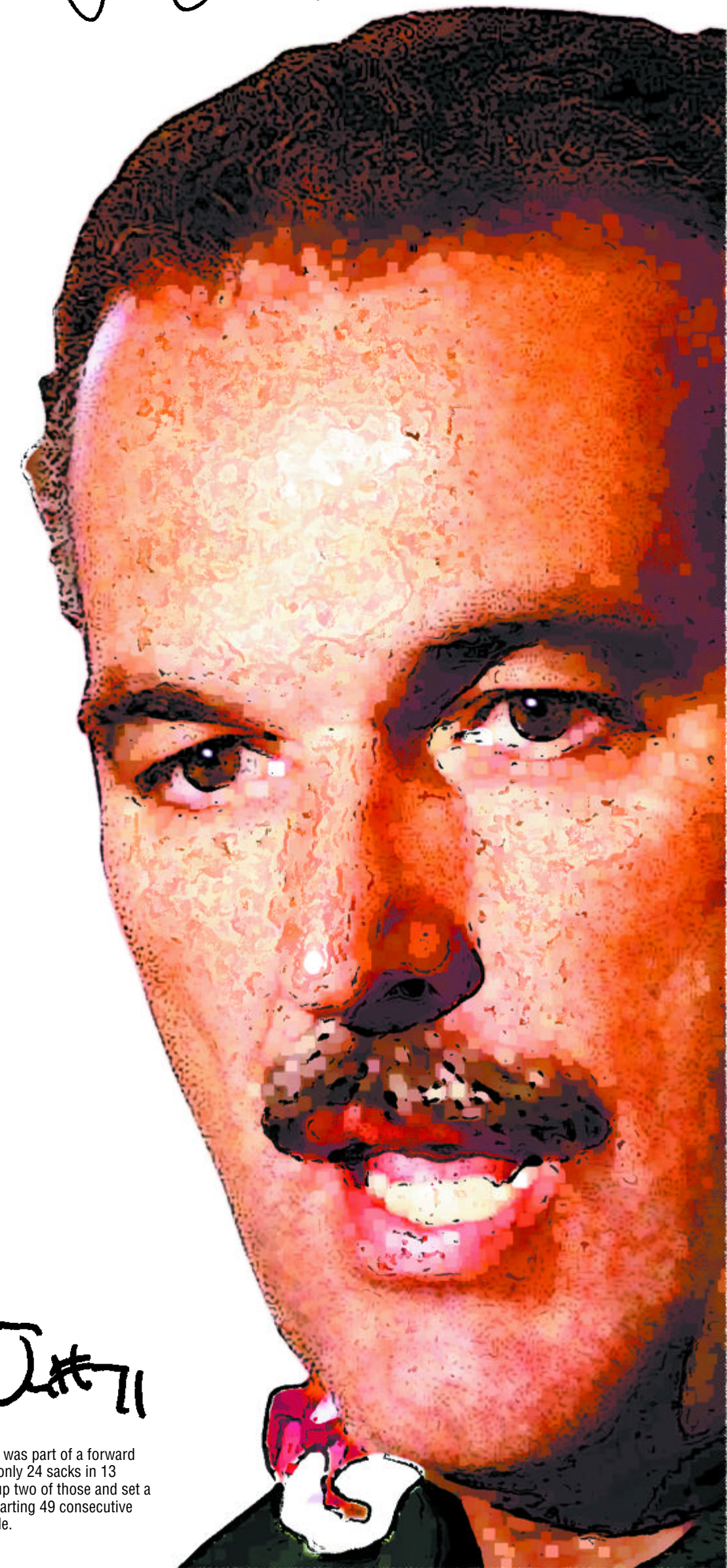
\*Regular season only. Oahu Bowl not included.

*Dwight Carter*  
Dwight Carter: The 5-foot-10, 181-pound senior wide receiver wound up catching 81 passes for 1,282 yards and nine touchdowns, setting team records in receptions and yards.

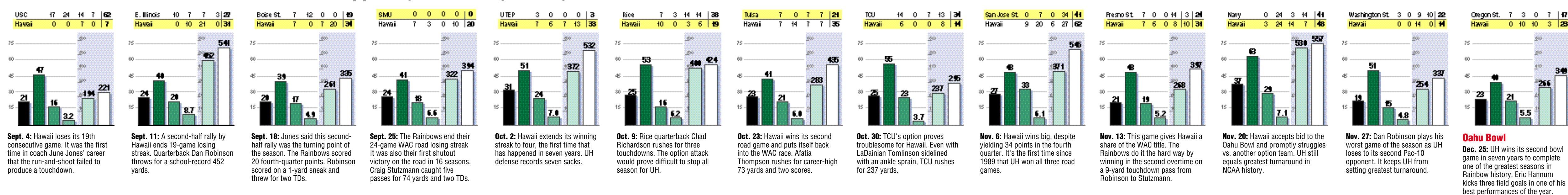


*Quincy LeJay*  
Quincy LeJay: For two weeks, the Hawaii cornerback shared the NCAA record for most interception returns for touchdowns with three. Twice he had a shot at No. 4, only to let it slip through his fingers. LeJay finished the season with a league-high seven interceptions. He also had 12 pass breakups.

*Kaulana Noas*  
Kaulana Noas: He was part of a forward wall that yielded only 24 sacks in 13 games. He gave up two of those and set a team record by starting 49 consecutive games at right tackle.



## Statistics for the incredible 9-4 record capped by a stunning victory in the Oahu Bowl



**Sept. 4:** Hawaii loses its 19th consecutive game. It was the first time in coach June Jones' career that the run-and-shoot failed to produce a touchdown.

**Sept. 11:** A second-half rally by Hawaii ends 19-game losing streak. Quarterback Dan Robinson threw for a school-record 452 yards.

**Sept. 18:** Jones said this second-half rally was the turning point of the season. The Rainbows scored 20 fourth-quarter points. Robinson scored on a 1-yard sneak and threw for two TDs.

**Sept. 25:** The Rainbows end their 24-game WAC road losing streak. It was also their first shutout victory on the road in 16 seasons. Craig Stutzmann caught five passes for 74 yards and two TDs.

**Oct. 2:** Hawaii extends its winning streak to four, the first time that has happened in seven years. UH defense records seven sacks.

**Oct. 9:** Rice quarterback Chad Richardson rushes for three touchdowns. The option attack would prove difficult to stop all season for UH.

**Oct. 23:** Hawaii wins its second road game and puts itself back into the WAC race. Alafatia Thompson rushes for career-high 73 yards and two scores.

**Oct. 30:** TCU's option proves troublesome for Hawaii. Even with LaDainian Tomlinson sidelined with an ankle sprain, TCU rushes for 237 yards.

**Nov. 6:** Hawaii wins big, despite yielding 34 points in the fourth quarter. It's the first time since 1989 that UH won all three road games.

**Nov. 13:** This game gives Hawaii a share of the WAC title. The Rainbows do it the hard way by winning in the second overtime on a 9-yard touchdown pass from Robinson to Stutzmann.

**Nov. 20:** Hawaii accepts bid to the Oahu Bowl and promptly struggles vs. another option team. UH still equals greatest turnaround in NCAA history.

**Nov. 27:** Dan Robinson plays his worst game of the season as UH loses to its second Pac-10 opponent. It keeps UH from setting greatest turnaround.

**Oahu Bowl**  
**Dec. 25:** UH wins its second bowl game in seven years to complete one of the greatest seasons in Rainbow history. Eric Hannum kicks three field goals in one of his best performances of the year.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION AND GRAPHICS BY DAVID SWANN • PHOTOS BY GEORGE F. LEE AND DENNIS ODA • DESIGN BY MICHAEL ROYNER, Star-Bulletin

