

sports

Football finds home in Hawaii

By DERRICK CRUBBS

The number-one industry of Hawaii is tourism. Visitors from the mainland often go there to enjoy the warm weather and experience the atmosphere of one of our nation's most beautiful states.

There is one particular aspect of Hawaii that links it with the other 49 states of the union — college football.

The University of Hawaii at Honolulu is a liberal arts college located on the side of the Koolau Mountain Range on the island of Oahu. It has an enrollment of around 19,000 students.

Currently, the Rainbow Warriors of UH are competing athletically as an NCAA Division I independent, but will become a member of the Western Athletic Conference beginning with the 1979 season.

Last season, the Bows finished 5-6 under new head coach Dick Tomey, who had a seven-year stint as an assistant coach at UCLA. He

also coached five years at Kansas before joining the Bruin staff.

"I think Dick Tomey is a great coach," says Frank Stephens, a defensive back who played out his eligibility at UCLA in 1977. "I thought he always needed to be a head coach somewhere. When I heard he was going to Hawaii to develop the program, I knew he was going to do a good job."

Gus Coppens, a Bruin offensive lineman who also played out his eligibility last year, agrees, pointing out that Tomey was the one who recruited him to UCLA:

"He's a straight-forward, pleasant, easy-going and friendly guy. I thought it was a great opportunity for him when he went to Hawaii. He deserved a chance to be a head coach at a major college. Hawaii fits his friendly personality. Looking at UH last season with their 5-6 record when they weren't supposed to win any, I think in the seasons to come,

Hawaii will be one of the top colleges around."

Indeed, their season was a surprise to many people. Tomey feels it was just an indication of the improvement in the football program at UH.

"Hawaii played its best football last year," he notes. "We defeated South Carolina 24-7 before just barely losing to Arizona in our last game of the season. Those were a couple of good teams with big reputations. Our program here at UH is definitely on the rise."

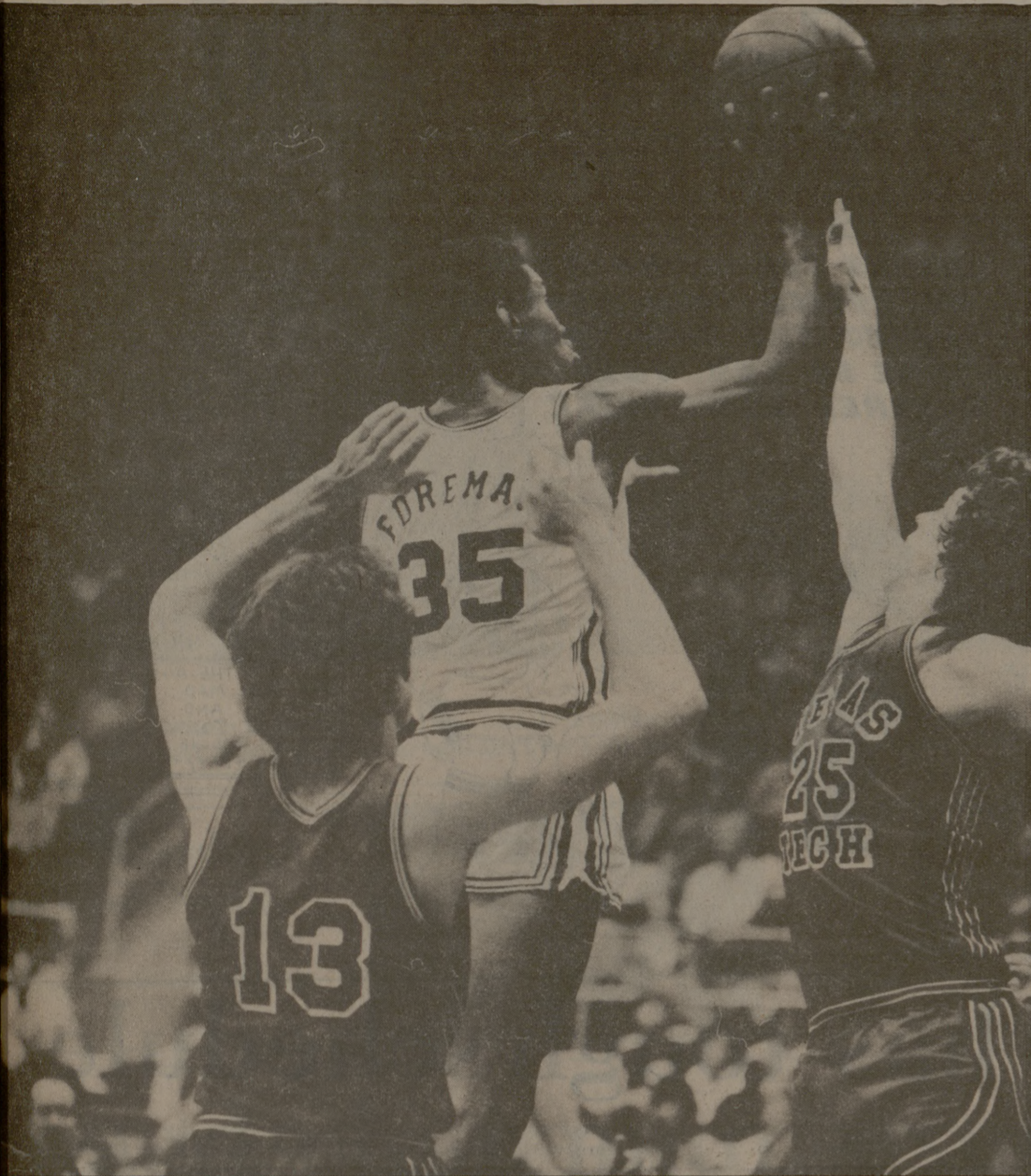
Next season, their last competing as an independent, the Bows have what Tomey considers the most difficult schedule in the school's history.

"We open with New Mexico and from there play teams like USC, Nebraska, Brigham Young, Wyoming and San Diego State. We had a tough schedule last year and are playing even better teams in 1978."

Not only does UH struggle for athletic prominence against the big-name universities of the west coast, but they must make themselves heard above the roar of the Pacific Ocean, being more than 2,000 miles from the mainland.

"Our program isn't as far along as schools like USC or UCLA," says Tomey. "We're just getting started really. I don't think we've been

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Bucket bound

A&M forward Willie Foreman (No. 35) drives past Texas Tech defenders Mike Edwards (No. 13) and Kent Williams (No. 25) for a bucket.

Foreman had 15 points against the Red Raiders, but it wasn't enough. A&M lost 78-70.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

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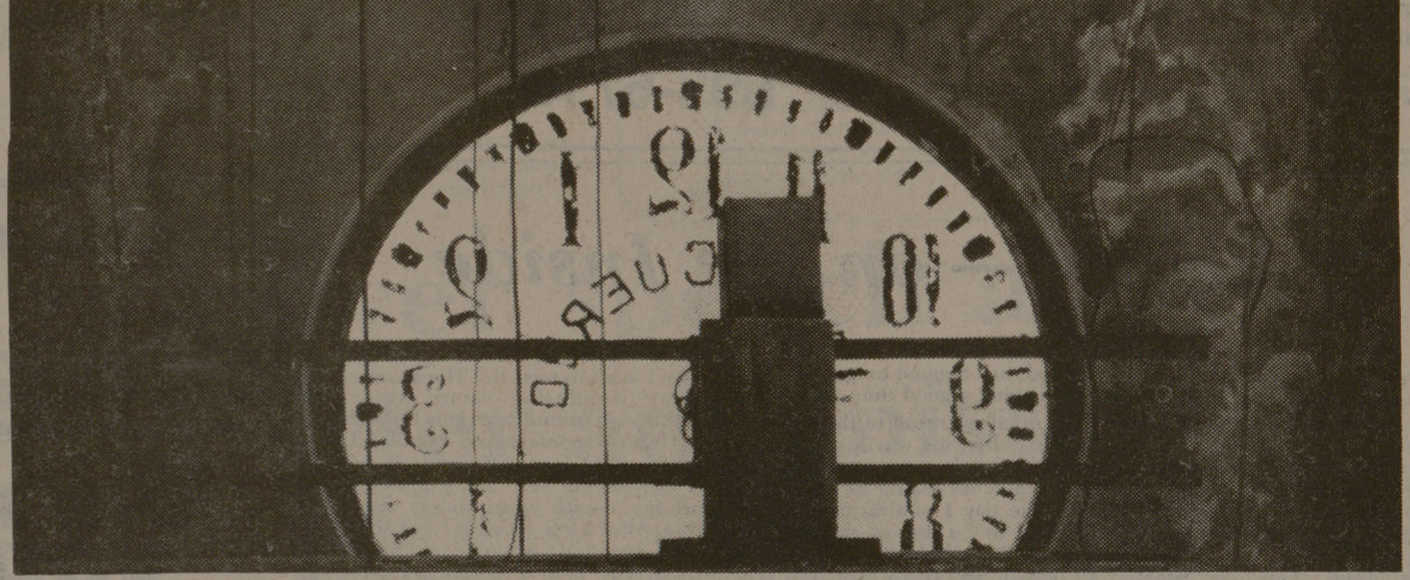
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