



1912-13

The College of Hawai'i fields its first basketball team. The "Fighting Deans," as Hawai'i athletic teams were known then, defeats McKinley High School, 14-13, in their very first game on Feb. 13, 1913, at the Honolulu YMCA.

1918-19

David Crawford becomes the program's first basketball coach. In his one-year stint, the Deans win two of seven games.

1920

The College of Hawai'i changes its name to the University of Hawai'i and basketball becomes a varsity sport.

1921-22

Otto "Proc" Klum serves a dual role as football and basketball coach. Klum, whose name bears the future home of UH basketball, accumulated a 13-8 record in two seasons.

1923

After the UH football team upset Oregon State, a rainbow appeared over the gridiron. Reporters started calling UH teams the "Rainbows" and the tradition began that whenever a rainbow appeared, Hawai'i could not lose.

1930-31

The Eugene "Luke" Gill era begins and the Rainbows post their first of consecutive undefeated seasons (8-0). Gill went on to coach 11 seasons and compiled an 88-47 record.

1932-33

UH plays its first intercollegiate opponent, Meiji University of Japan. UH wins 45-40 at the newly built Civic Auditorium in Honolulu, O'ahu.

1937-38

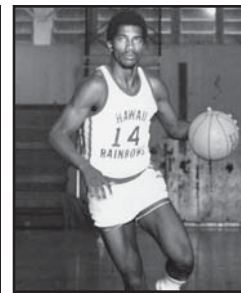
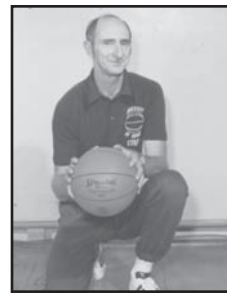
UH plays its first game against a collegiate opponent. Washington hands the Rainbows a 76-24 defeat in Honolulu, O'ahu.

1941

World War II halts play for the UH basketball program. The Rainbows play an abbreviated eight-game schedule during the first year of the war and suspends play until 1946.

1946-47

Fielding its first team since the conclusion of World War II, the Rainbows make their first trip to the mainland, taking an eight-game swing through five states, beginning in New York City.



In front of a sellout crowd of 18,000 at Madison Square Garden, UH falls to St. John's, 80-37. The team finishes 0-8 on the trip, which also took them through Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Nevada and Utah.

1947-48

UH wins its first game against a collegiate opponent—a 47-34 victory at Seattle—the first of a five-game road trip to the U.S. Northwest. UH finishes the season with a 24-3 record.

1948-49

After finishing the regular season with a 21-5 record, the Rainbows are invited to their first post-season tournament—the National Intercollegiate Basketball Association Tournament—in Kansas City. UH loses in the first round to North Dakota, 70-53.

1949-50

Coached by Art Gallon, the Rainbows win 22 of 39 games. Included on the schedule is a 13-game trip to the East Coast, the longest in UH history, and a 77-53 loss to second-ranked Bradley.

1951-52

Al Saake begins his first of two stints as Rainbow coach. After the conclusion of his nine-year career, Saake holds the school record for wins (92).

1958

The Rainbows move into the newly built, 3,800-seat on-campus Otto "Proc" Klum Gymnasium, named after the former UH basketball and football coach and athletics director. Utah defeats the Rainbows, 66-54, on Jan. 31, in the team's home-opener.

1963-64

Hilo High graduate and former NBA player and coach Ephraim "Red" Rocha becomes the new coach of the Rainbows. Rocha, who attended Hawai'i briefly but later transferred to Oregon State after UH dropped its basketball program due to the war, went on to coach for 10 seasons and brought national attention to UH.

1964-65

The Rainbows host the inaugural Rainbow Classic, founded by Red Rocha and Chuck Leahey, the director of special services and athletics director for the 14th Naval District. The tournament, which started with five mainland college teams, two local military teams and UH, was played at the newly built Honolulu International Center.

1967-68

UH begins playing its home games at the 7,500-seat Honolulu International Center (later re-named the Neal S. Blaisdell Center Arena). The Blaisdell Arena serves as home to Rainbow basketball for 27 years until 1994.

1968

Fred Smith becomes the first UH player drafted in the NBA. Smith is selected in the fourth round by the expansion Milwaukee Bucks.

1969-70

UH plays its first all-collegiate schedule. The Rainbows finish 6-20 against teams such as nationally ranked Jacksonville and Houston, Washington State, Centenary, Oregon State and Long Beach State.

1970-71

The Rainbows earn the program's first berth into the prestigious National Invitation Tournament in New York City. The "Fabulous Five," made up of four junior-college transfers and a returning sophomore—Bob Nash, John Penebacker, Al Davis, Dwight Holiday and Jerome Freeman—lead the Rainbows to a 23-5 record while capturing the program's first Rainbow Classic crown. UH defeats Oklahoma in double overtime in its NIT opener before falling to St. Bonaventure in the quarterfinals.

1971-72

The "Fab Five" finishes the season with a 24-3 record and qualifies for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's history. The team ends the season with a No. 12 national ranking, its highest ever, and defeats eventual national runner-up Florida State, twice, along the way. Nash is the program's first All-American and the school's first NBA Draft first-round pick (9th overall). The team sells out every game at the Blaisdell Arena and creates hoops hysteria throughout the state.

1972

Future Rainbow Tom Henderson is a member of the silver-medal-winning U.S. Olympic team during the 1972 Munich games. Henderson later stars for the Rainbows for two seasons (1973-74) and is a two-time All-American.



1973-74

Behind Henderson, who averaged 20.2 points per game, the Rainbows win its first 11 games and advance to the quarterfinals of the NIT in New York City. Following the season, Henderson is the program's highest NBA Draft pick, selected seventh overall by the Atlanta Hawks.

1975-76

Head coach Bruce O'Neil is fired in February and replaced by assistant coach Rick Pitino, who serves as interim coach, and is 2-4 in the final six games. An NCAA investigation finds numerous rule violations committed by the program. A year later, the school is placed on a two-year probation.

1977-78

UH finishes with its worst season in the program's history, 1-26. After posting an 85-68 victory over South Dakota State, Dec. 9, the Rainbows finish the year by losing its final 22 games.

1979-80

UH joins the Western Athletic Conference. The Rainbows conclude their inaugural season in the WAC with a 4-10 league record and a sixth-place finish.

1980-81

Under fifth-year head coach Larry Little, the Rainbows upset sixth-ranked Utah, 83-74, in Honolulu, O'ahu, en route to a 14-13 campaign.

1985-86, '86-87

Frank Arnold, the former head coach at Brigham Young, takes the helm for two seasons at UH and recruits Chris Gaines, who would go on to become the school's all-time leading scorer.

1987-88

Riley Wallace becomes the program's 17th head coach. His inaugural squad finishes 4-25. One of its wins was a 79-76 upset victory over 18th-ranked New Mexico in Honolulu, O'ahu.

1988-89

After a remarkable one-year turnaround, Wallace leads the Rainbows to a 17-13 record and fourth-place WAC finish. UH earns a spot in the NIT and Wallace is named WAC Coach of the Year.

1989-90

Chris Gaines becomes the school's all-time leading scorer, surpassing John Penebacker. Gaines leads the team to a school-record 25 victories and a third-round appearance in the NIT.

1990-91

UH defeats 11th-ranked Pittsburgh to claim the 27th Rainbow Classic championship. Guard Ray Reed, who becomes the first UH player to lead the WAC in scoring, scores 35 points in the victory.

1993-94

The Rainbows capture their first WAC Tournament and advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 22 years. Guard Trevor Ruffin sets the single-season UH scoring record with 625 points and earns all-WAC first-team honors. UH drops its NCAA first-round game to Syracuse.

1994

The Stan Sheriff Center opens and becomes the new home of Rainbow basketball. The 10,300-seat arena also serves as home to the UH men's and women's volleyball and women's basketball teams.

1996-97

UH captures its first-ever WAC regular-season championship with a 12-4 record in the Pacific Division. Led by the "Dynamic Duo" of Anthony Carter and Alika Smith, the 'Bows finish with a 21-8 mark and qualify for the NIT. Carter is named WAC Pacific Division Player of the Year.

1997-98

Carter and Smith lead UH to another 21-win season and a spot in the NIT third round. UH opens the season by defeating Bob Knight's Indiana squad and later records the school's biggest upset, a 76-65 victory over second-ranked Kansas in the championship game of the Rainbow Classic.

2000-01

UH makes a remarkable run in the WAC Tournament, defeating three of the tourney's top four seeds, including host Tulsa, 78-72, in overtime. The 'Bows fall to Syracuse in the NCAA Tournament first round.

2001-02

The 'Bows win both the WAC regular-season and tournament titles after finishing with a school-record 27 victories. That squad, which posted a 15-3 league mark, loses in the NCAA Tournament first round to Xavier. Guard Predrag Savovic is named an honorable mention All-American.

2003-04

The 'Bows secure their first-ever victory on the road over a nationally ranked team after upsetting No. 25 Utah State, 85-74, in the first round of the NIT. UH, which qualified for the postseason for the fourth consecutive year, advances to the NIT third round. All-WAC guard Michael Kuebler becomes the program's first-ever first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American.

2005-06

UH opened the season with an 84-62 upset of No. 4 Michigan State, a team with three future NBA draft picks, at the Stan Sheriff Center, giving head coach Riley Wallace his 300th victory at the school.

2006-07

The Riley Wallace era came to a close. The winningest coach in UH history finished his career with a 334-265 record. In 20 years, his teams advanced to postseason play nine times, were WAC Tournament champions three times, and posted winning seasons 16 times.

2007-08

Bob Nash, the program's first-ever All-American and NBA draft pick, and a member of the famed "Fab Five," takes over as the school's 18th head coach.

2008-09

UH improves by three wins in Bob Nash's second season, including two nationally televised wins. After 45 years, the Rainbow Classic plays its final tournament as an eight-team format.

2009-10

Hawai'i hosts the inaugural Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic, an eight-team holiday tournament.

2010-11

First-year head coach Gib Arnold leads UH to a turnaround season, including a 19-13 record and a berth in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament.

2011-12

UH finishes in a tie for fifth place in the regular season and advances to the conference tournament semifinals for the first time in nearly a decade in its 33rd and final season in the Western Athletic Conference.

2012-13

Hawai'i finishes in fifth place and has its first winning league record in seven years during its inaugural season in the Big West Conference. UH earns a bid to the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament for the second time in three years.

Additional Source: Dan Cisco, Hawai'i Sports