

### Rainbows run all day on Lobos

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giving UH a 3-1 conference record. New Mexico is 0-2. (It was) kept us in the hunt," Wagner said.

And, now it appears, the Rainbows even have a quarterback. "Well, maybe, we'll see," Wagner said with an end-to-end grin.

"Oh, yes, Walter did a good job... a very good job." Wagner said UH coaches decided to give Briggs the start earlier in the week, but held off the announcement until game time for whatever surprise value it would give them.

But when Briggs lost his footing, and couldn't come up with another, "we went with Warren Jones," Wagner said. "That put him (Briggs) into the huddle because a quarterback can't be doing things like that."

So Jones was the last man to trot onto the field for the Rainbows, and got in six plays and two first downs, before Briggs got his chance.

The (Briggs) would have gone in sooner, but I was still so tucked off at him," said Paul Johnson, the UH offensive coordinator.

Briggs carried five times for 41 yards on the drive, but his fumble on third-and-goal from the 3, and resulting eighth-year loss, forced the Rainbows to settle for a 5-0 lead on Rodrigo Valverde's 25-yard field goal.

The lead changed hands three times before Pakava gave the Rainbows a lead they would not relinquish with scoring runs of 2 and 18 yards. His 18-yarder gave UH a 24-14 advantage with 1:40 left in the first half.

New Mexico quarterback Barry Garrison (2 of 4) passed 206 yards to lead the Lobos 27 yards to cut the margin to 24-21 with 19 seconds left on a 20-yard touchdown pass to tight end John Duff.

The Rainbows seemed to be on the verge of putting the game away after two quick second-half scores — a 14-yard run by Briggs, and his 12-yard pass to Pakava. It gave Hawaii its biggest lead of the game — 38-21 with 7:30 left in the third quarter.

But the ensuing kickoff went directly to Terance Mathis, the nation's all-purpose yardage leader, and he returned it 81 yards. That, and a face-mask penalty on the return, put the ball at the UH 7. Reggie Rod-



Hawaii quarterback Walter Briggs outruns New Mexico defender Brett Heber for a gain.

### Briggs excels in 2nd chance against Lobos

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — After two years and four games of waiting, Walter Briggs thought he'd just seen his big chance pass him by.

"I couldn't believe it, they were finally going to start me (at quarterback) and I blew it," Briggs said.

He left his mouthpiece on the field during warmups and was unable to find another one, so he started Warren Jones instead.

"I said, 'Oh God, please just let me get in there,'" Briggs said. "I felt I could do the job if I got the chance, but then what happened. I thought how many mistakes he made."

But, after a six-play "disciplinary period," Briggs got his chance and made the most of it in helping the Rainbows to their 41-31 victory over New Mexico yesterday.

He ran for 180 yards on 32 carries, passed for two touchdowns and ran for another in UH's first Western Athletic Conference victory of the season. That had for a guy who has shared his first year, then

played at tailback last season. Briggs said, "I was a little nervous when I finally got in and, later on, I got a little too emotional. But once I settled down, things started clicking."

Head coach Bob Wagner was understanding. "He had his problems for awhile, but he's had how many snaps — three, four — in a Division I game before. He certainly gives us another dimension as a quarterback and he'll only get better."

Said Briggs, "I just feel pretty well, but I also missed up a bunch. I've got a long way to go."

Offensive coordinator Paul Johnson agreed. "He and I know they'd be me out for sure."

Johnson said, "In fact, that's the first thing he told me when he came off the field. 'Coach, I'm sorry I screwed up so much.' I told him, 'I know you did, but you'll get better.'"

Said Briggs, "I'm what you call a young buck. But I'm maturing... quickly."

For now, UH has found its quarterback. If only he can find his mouthpiece.

— Fred Lewis

gers ran the ball in on the first play and suddenly it was 38-28. Running back Billy Stephens' fumble at the UH 20 gave the Lobos a chance to get closer, but safety William Bell returned the favor — stopping the ball from Duff and recovering it. The Rainbows drove, and scored twice in the game away again, but Pakava couldn't handle a pitchout and fumbled the ball into the end zone, where New Mexico recovered for a touchback with 36 seconds left in the third quarter. Two series later, the Lobos cut the lead to 38-31 on a 33-yard backfield field goal, and then had an opportunity for more when they stopped the Rainbows in three down at the UH 30.

But, for the third time in five games, the Lobos had 12 men on the field on a punt. The resulting penalty gave UH the ball back at midfield with 4:07 left.

The Rainbows took advantage, driving for a 27-yard Valverde field goal.

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