

About Tonight's Game

Spunky Westerners Return for 6th Test

Football teams tend to have things in common, especially when it comes to facing the season opener. University of Hawaii and visiting U.S. International are two teams with much in common tonight.

Both lost outstanding quarterbacks and will be eager to learn just how far along their replacements have come. Both posted good records, UH 6-3-1 and International 7-3. Both have a good nucleus of veterans and both must rely on some new faces to improve on 1969.

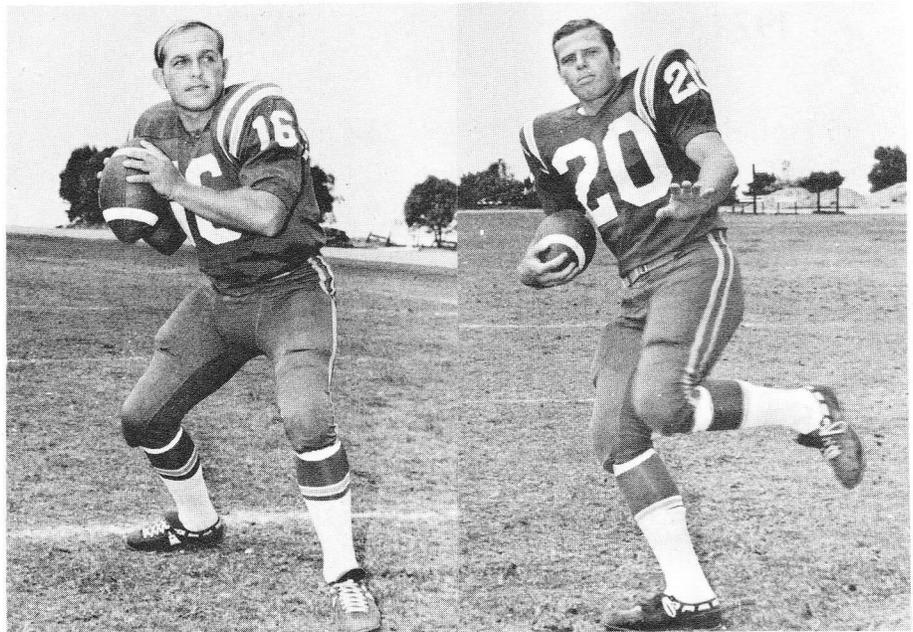
History will be on the Rainbows' side tonight as the hosts have won four of five starts in the series, which began in 1963. And the lone win for the visitors, better known as Cal Western, was in that inaugural contest, 16-13. Since then, UH has posted wins of 24-3 in 1964, 10-8 in 1965, 21-17 in 1966 and 40-14 in 1967.

But in the two seasons since that last meeting, both schools have made some changes for the better athletically, so the dilemma remains.

The Rainbows, to begin with, will be manning Larry Arnold's vacated quarterback slot with a new face. Howard Gay and Pat Oka have the edge in experience, but Mike Biscotti and darkhorse Richard Diana could fill the role or at least log plenty of playing time.

Billy Miller, who was injured last season and still looms as a question mark performer, and Doug Omer, a quarterback who played defensive back as a freshman, are the likely International quarterback replacements for departed Wayne Clark, an All-District performer in 1970.

Elsewhere, the experience log counts the 'Bows with 30 returning letterman to the Westerners' 21. The Hawaii delectables: Dale Curtis, one-armed placekicker who contributed 11 field goals and 43 conversions for 76 points last fall; Gary Miller, 230-pound center; Bill Nugent, leading ground gainer; Marv Bethea and Bob MacCubbin, a pair of defensive tackles; and Tom Raney, a defensive back.



QUARTERBACK BILL MILLER (left) and last year's leading ball carrier, Bill Nugent, key the USIU attack. Miller returns after two seasons of injury problems, while Nugent brings 8.3 yards-per-carry and 800 total yards figures to this, his senior season.

The Rainbows To Date

Sept. 19 U.S. International
Sept. 26 at Long Beach State
Oct. 3 Santa Clara
Oct. 10 Cal Poly, Pomona
Oct. 24 at Santa Barbara
Oct. 31 Los Angeles St.
(Homecoming game)
Nov. 7 at Nevada, Las Vegas
Nov. 14 Linfield
Nov. 21 U. of Pacific
Nov. 28 Fresno State
Dec. 5 N. Mexico Highlands
(All home games, 8 p.m.)

Both, of course, will be liberally sprinkled with newcomers, those from junior colleges, plus a few from other four-year colleges and a lesser number of incoming freshmen.

Thus, the battle lines are set with the usual statistics comparisons and personnel changes that are hard to measure.

And if and when the 'Bows find the measure of the Westerners, a formidable challenge will hit them smack in the face the following week. Then, it will be an away game against Leon Burns and California State College at Long Beach, Calif., on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The Forty-Niners figure to pose the major roadblock for the UH express, but that comes after tonight.

That doesn't mean that the 'Bows don't have some thoughts running through their minds; thoughts such as can Mr. Burns be stopped. The 218-pound battering ram churned to 186 yards rushing and virtually carried the visitors to their 28-14 victory.

Holmes and his lads will embark for Long Beach Friday, Sept. 25, aboard Pan American Flight No. 812, departing at 9 a.m.