



BOB HOGUE

# A Doc Who Can Play A Little Too

Kan, 39, has seen his share of bad knees, shoulders, ankles, arms and fingers since becoming the university's orthopedic specialist in 1993. His duties cover most of the

whole process," he says. Later he received a fellowship in sports medicine with the well-respected Kerlan-Jobe Orthopedic Clinic in Los Angeles. That's the clinic which takes care of the Lakers and the Dodgers, among many other sports teams.

ter get myself together because this was the real thing."

Kan says he played well during camp, where he backed up Joe Montana and current Hawaii Hammerheads Head Coach Guy Benjamin, but was cut on the next-to-last cut. A year later, while going to med school, he was also cut on the second-to-last cut by the San Diego Chargers.

"No regrets," he says. "It was a dream come true just being there."

And being there has helped his relationship with the Rainbow Warriors. "Everyone has their own style," he says. "I try to approach the athletes like a coach. It's not so much 'I'm the doctor, you're the patient' kind of thing. I really try to tell them like it is, more like a teacher."

As the second half of the season gets under way, UH fans are hoping Kan plays more of an instructive role than an operating one.

Among the many reasons for the successful 4-and-2 start for this year's Rainbow Warrior football team is a lack of injuries. With the 'Bows coming off a bye week before they resume their season Saturday on the road at Tulsa, they can be thankful that not nearly as many players have been laid up with serious injuries as in past years.

"Usually by the midpoint of the season, you can count on three or four surgeries," says the team's orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Darryl Kan. "Besides that, we usually have about 10 to 12 significant injuries by this time. When I say significant, I mean players being out four to six weeks."

This season, the 'Bows have had exactly zero surgeries and only a few nagging injuries — nothing that might be termed in the four- to six-week category.

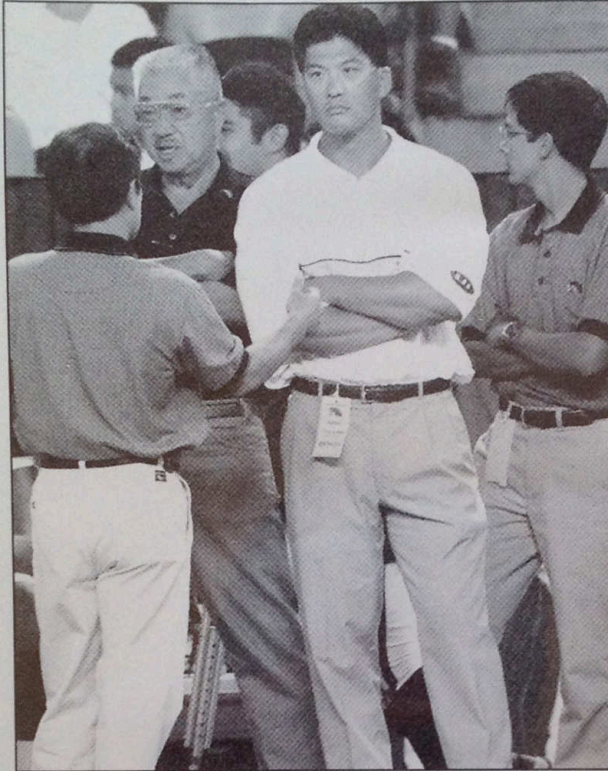
"So far, so good," says Kan, who works with Hawaii's team doctor, Dr. Andrew Nichols, in covering just about all that ails the Rainbow Warrior football team.

Kan credits the coaching staff for this turnaround in the injury department.

"They run it almost like an NFL camp with not as much hitting," he says. "They've also worked well in areas of technique and balance."

Those things really help, especially in specific places like the offensive line.

"That's where we've seen the biggest improvement," Kan says.



Dr. Kan patrols the sideline during a recent UH game at Aloha Stadium

Byron Lee photo

"Year in and year out, most of the serious injuries occur among the offensive linemen. But this year, we've been able to keep them healthy. We're keeping our fingers crossed that it stays that way."

men's sports, with his partner, Dr. Allen Richardson, covering the women's sports.

"Probably the worst injury I saw was last year with [defensive end] Joe Correia," he says. "Joe had an open-fracture dislocation of his finger in the UTEP game. When we went out on the field, he had two bones sticking out of his skin, and it was very bloody. We took him off the field and had to do mini-surgery right there."

UH Trainer Eric Okasaki says that Kan has instant credibility with the athletes, partly because he played the game.

"Dr. Kan's football background makes everything just go smoother," says Okasaki. "He just understands what it takes to play at this level."

Kan was an all-star high school quarterback in San Francisco and turned down scholarship offers at places like Stanford in order to get into the premed program at Dartmouth. At the Ivy League school, Kan was used primarily as a backup to Jeff Kemp and David Shula.

Ticketed to start as a senior, Kan injured his knee in the first game, an injury that may have led to his career in sports medicine.

"I got interested while going through rehab, going through the

## IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore



Embarrassing moments with 2-year-olds.

To Doc Kan,  
 What a  
 great season  
 in '99!  
 Go Bows,  
 Bob Hogue