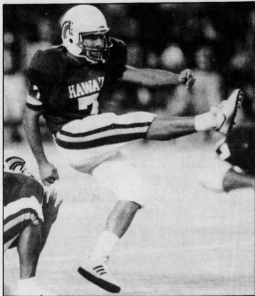


# FOOT SOLDIERS



Special to the Free Press

Jason Elam can kick everything but over the rainbow for Hawaii.

## A who's who . . .

Who are the best college kickers from yesteryear and this year? Sports writer Jack Saylor rates the all-time greats; Greg Stoda ranks the best from the 1982 crop.

### All-time best punters

■ **1. REGGIE ROBY, Iowa:** Averaged 45.6 yards for his career, 1979-82.

His cloud-scrapers were like no-deposit bottles: no returns.

■ **2. RAY GUY, Southern Mississippi:**

Thunderfoot made smooth transition from best in college in 1970-72 to best in pros with Raiders.

■ **3. GLENN DOBBS, Tulsa:** Few in '40s could match him for length and height.

■ **4. JOHNNY PINGEL, MICHIGAN STATE:** Won NCAA punting title as junior in '37, then set record of 4,138 yards, on 99 punts, in '38. Great punter, but a genuine triple-threat man.

■ **5. ERIC TIPTON, Duke:** In days of quick kicks and punting for position, Tipton was a Duke demon and such an outstanding athlete, he played major league baseball with the Philadelphia A's and Cincinnati Reds in the early 1940s.

■ **6. RUSSELL ERXLEBEN, Texas:** Averaged 46.6 yards in winning NCAA title as sophomore in '78 and also booted long-range field goals.

■ **7. HARRY KIPKE, Michigan:** The Wolverines have had some dandies — Tom Harmon, Chuck Ortmann, Don Bracken and others — but Old Blues say Kipke, 1921-23, was a magician with the ball and U-M's best ever.

■ **8. MARY BATEMAN, Utah:** Averaged 45.7 yards in winning title in '70, then improved it to 48.1 and repeated the next season.

■ **9. GREG MONTGOMERY, MSU:** Second only to Roby on career average list at 45.4 yards and belted an 86-yarder in 1986.

■ **10. PAT BRADY, Nevada-Reno:** Never led NCAA punters, although he was the NFL's leader with the Steelers in 1953-54. He earns his niche with his record 99-yard punt against Loyola of California in 1950.

### All-time best placekickers

■ **1. JOHN LEE, UCLA:** Had a percentage of .859 in 1982-85, an NCAA record, and produced 10 game-winning kicks during the season.



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Johnny Pingel did more than punt for MSU in the late '30s.

Honolulu, but the Rainbows are glad he made the trip. He has made 84 percent of his career field-goal attempts (63 of 75).

■ **2. DAN EICHLIFF, senior, Kansas:** The wind gets to whippin' out there on the Big Eight plains, but he hit 18 of 24 field goals and averaged 42.3 yards a punt last season.

■ **3. PETE RAETHER, junior, Arkansas:** He was 5-0 with a 3.00 ERA for the Razorbacks' baseball team in 1989 before arm trouble set in. You don't punt with your arm . . . he carries a 41.9-yard average for two seasons.

■ **4. DOUG O'BRIEN, junior, California:** Walked on and led the nation in field goals per game (1.73) last year. His kicks beat Arizona (23-21 as time ran out) and UCLA (27-24 in the last minute) on consecutive weekends.

■ **5. SHAYNE EDGE, sophomore, Florida:** The Gators are strong everywhere, and now they don't have to worry about punts for three more seasons. Edge averaged 43.3 yards a kick last year.

■ **6. DAVID LAWRENCE, senior,**