Now in his seventh year as the head coach of the University of Hawai‘i Rainbow baseball program, Mike Trapasso has raised the standard for UH success. His Rainbows have posted six-straight winning seasons and have turned themselves into yearly contenders in the Western Athletic Conference.

The 2007 season saw the Rainbows post 34 wins, their fourth 30-plus win season in the past five years. The ‘Bows also had one of their best offensive seasons under Trapasso, hitting .305 with 129 doubles and a .427 slugging percentage, all highs under his tenure. Senior Kris Sanchez led the offensive charge that saw seven Rainbows hit over the .300 mark. Sanchez batted .362 with 10 home runs, 23 doubles, 66 RBI and a .633 slugging percentage, all ranking in the top five in the WAC standings.

In 2006, Trapasso guided the team to a 45-17 record, going to its first NCAA Regional in 13 years. The team advanced to the regional final before falling to eventual national champion Oregon State. He pushed the team to a second-place finish in the WAC, losing the regular-season title by just a half a game. He also guided UH to a 16-5 record on the road, posting the most road wins in UH history and the third-highest winning percentage.

And Trapasso got his share of recognition for the great season. He was named National Coach of the Year by the National Baseball Foundation and was a finalist for the College Baseball Insider National Coach of the Year award. He also earned his second WAC Coach of the Year honor in the past three seasons.

The 2006 season was the breakthrough season Trapasso was looking for, but success didn’t come overnight. After a challenging first season in 2002 while adjusting to his new surroundings coaching an inherited team, the St. Louis, Mo., native has posted five straight winning seasons, pushing his overall record to 184-159.

In 2004, Trapasso was named the WAC Coach of the Year after guiding UH to its second straight 30-win season that included a big series win over No. 3 Rice.

Following that successful season, he joined Team USA that summer as an assistant coach. He accompanied the team all over the world, helping them to win the gold medal at the World University Baseball Games in Tainan, Taiwan.

In 2003, the Oklahoma State graduate guided Hawai‘i to the program’s biggest turnaround to date, winning 14 more games than in 2002. The 2003 season is now the second-largest turnaround in school history as the 2006 team won 17 more games than they did the year before.

Trapasso became just the second full-time Division I head baseball coach at Hawai‘i in 2001 after a successful seven-year run as an assistant coach at Georgia Tech. While with the Yellow Jackets, he became known as the top collegiate baseball assistant/recruiter in the country, as noted by Baseball America in January 2001.
During his seven years at Georgia Tech, Trapasso was responsible for assembling some of the top recruiting classes in the nation. His classes were ranked fourth, 18th, seventh, first, 14th, 11th and 12th by Collegiate Baseball.

Four players in his 1999 recruiting class were ranked among the nation’s top 50 prep players by Baseball America, which touted the Yellow Jackets’ class as best of the draft era.

In his first year there, he built a pitching staff virtually from the ground up, tutoring a freshman-dominated staff that earned 25 of Tech’s 38 wins and helped to develop them into a unit that won 46 games in 1997, giving the Jackets their first of two ACC titles while he was there.

Trapasso got his start in coaching as an assistant at Missouri where he had a three-year stint from 1989-91 that ended with a 41-20 record in 1991, and an appearance in the NCAA South Regional. After Mizzou, the former pitcher spent three years at South Florida, helping them to a conference title in 1993, while his pitching staff posted the 19th-best ERA in the country.

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Trapasso was a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award in 1982 and was a member of the 1983 Team USA. He spent two years at Jefferson Junior College before going to Oklahoma State, carrying a 6-2 record with a 2.45 ERA in 1982 and a 6-1 record with a 1.64 ERA in 1983.

Trapasso was selected four times in the Major League Baseball Draft after graduating from Mehlville High School between 1982 and ‘85, before signing with the Braves after his final year of college.

He is married to the former Catherine Grieshaber of Festus, Mo., and they have two sons, Michel and Matthew.

The southpaw enjoyed a great collegiate career at Oklahoma State as one of the top pitchers from 1984-85. He was very instrumental in taking OSU to the College World Series in 1984 and ‘85. In 1984, Trapasso was the winning pitcher in the CWS opening game versus Maine, outdueling former major leaguer Billy Swift. The former Cowboy also led the Big Eight and was ranked fifth in the country with a 1.42 ERA in 1984.

He then ran into arm problems during his senior year at OSU, going 4-3 with a 5.56 ERA before signing with the Atlanta Braves in the offseason.

He played for Paluski (Va.) of the Appalachian League in 1985 and Bradenton (Fla.) of the Gulf Coast League in 1986 after having surgery on his left shoulder.

In 1987, he finished his professional playing career with Savannah (Ga.) of the South Atlantic League, playing for his hometown St. Louis Cardinals’ organization.

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