According to a popular legend, the basketball team of the University’s predecessor, Hillyer College, was called the “Flying Hawks” because the gymnasium was located on the top floor of the Hillyer College building, among the rafters. However, information provided by the Hillyer College newspaper, *The Hillyer Callboard*, suggests the Hawk mascot’s original name, Harry, may have been coined by Hillyer College Bursar C. Richard Ericson in 1947.

During the 1970s, the Hawk was revived as UHart mascot and was renamed “Manny.” The name stuck and “Howie” was known as “Manny” as late as 1976.

At some point, “Manny” went back to “Harry” before finally evolving into “Howie” after Howie Kassman, who wore the Hawk costume from 1985 to 1990.