

Hey, Guys, Move Over!

By Barbara Del Piano



Outrigger's first women's volleyball team in 1951. Front: May Borthwick, Anita Berg, Anne Ackerman, Barbara Dorsam Del Piano. Standing: Pat Barker, Jane Wylie, Coach Jack Ackerman, Eva Hunter and Carol Muirhead.



Melva Snider and Eva Hunter, right, won the 1958 Women's Club Doubles title over Alice Cross and Billie Baird.

They don't get on the volleyball courts anymore but the friendships that developed on the "baby court" at the old Outrigger have endured for more than 60 years. Now they play bridge instead of volleyball. The group was originally much larger, but over the years it has diminished. Most recently they lost their pal Billie Baird.

However, every Tuesday Marilyn Haine, May Balding, and

Leslie Mattice gather in the Ka Mo'i Lounge, and between hands, there is usually a lot of pleasant reminiscing.

Volleyball at the Club was once a sport for men only, but women soon caught on and began to participate. The first wahine to actually compete were selected by men to partner with them in the Kane-Wahine tournaments which first began in 1949. At times there were husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, even brothers and sisters. The first tournament was won by Jim and Cissy Beardmore.

When the courts were first built at the "Old Club, the "baby court," intended for children, was frequently occupied by girls and young women. They got the younger boys to join them while they were waiting for a chance to take on the men on the regular courts.

Pat Wyman, Tommy Haine, the O'Conner brothers, Johnny "Mongoose" Crites, Hank and Mark Auerbach, are names that come to mind. (Many of them went on to become outstanding players, particularly Tommy Haine, an Olympian, considered the best volleyball player of his era.) Women were rare on the regular courts but occasionally on weekends, were invited to join the men.

The first official Outrigger wahine volleyball team, formed in 1951, competed in an indoor tournament sponsored by Hui Hauoli, a women's organization active in the 50s and 60s. The team, coached by Jack Ackerman, consisted of May Borthwick, Anita Berg, Anne Ackerman, Barbara Dorsam, Pat Barker, Jane Wylie, Eva Hunter and Carol Muirhead; they came in fifth. The tournament was played on the hard court so the team practiced at the courts behind the Waikiki Fire Station.

Another team took to the courts the following year, entering the Kui Kahi tournament. The 1952 team, coached by Bill Barnhart, included Eva Hunter, Anne Ackerman, and Anita Berg from the previous year, and first-timers, Billie Neal, Gwen Davis, Melva Johnson, Rusty Thomas and Cissy Watt.

Back again in 1953, Barbara Cook, Billy Neal, Gwen Davis, Melva Johnson, Ginger Charlock, Rusty Thomas, Anne Ackerman, Cissy Beardmore, Yvonne (Blondie) Boyd, Pat Barker, Jane Wylie, Eva Hunter, Ivanelle Mountcastle and May Borthwick made up the team.

One of the longest-playing wahine, Eva Hunter, along with Dick Muirhead won the Kane-Wahine tournament in 1964.

Brighten Your Smile, At Any Age.



Hi Smile

With options available for speeding up treatment, growth modification and less visible treatment, orthodontics can be considered at any age.






Malia K. Pietsch Kamisugi DDS, MSD

1060 Young Street, Suite 201 Honolulu, HI 96814
Call: (808) 523-2402 Visit: www.HiSmile.com



Marilyn Haine played on three Hawaii teams that played in the nationals, along with Miki McFadden and Billie Baird.



Rusty Thomas and Bill Capp, right, defeated Dick Muirhead and Eva Hunter for the 1951 Kane-Wahine title.

In 1957, two young brides, Marilyn Haine and May Balding, both from different parts of California, appeared on the courts. They aspired to learn the game their husbands excelled in, and in time, achieved their goal. In the 1960s, both had competed in the Woman's State Volleyball Championship and came in winners. Marilyn won for four consecutive years, twice partnering with Billie Baird, and twice with future Olympian Miki McFadden.

In the early sixties, as part of the Central YMCA team, Marilyn Haine, Miki McFadden, and Billie Baird made three trips to the mainland to compete in the U.S. Women's Volleyball championship. They came in third the first two years before making it to the finals.

Outrigger entered a novice team in a citywide hard-court Parks League tournament in 1959. Coached by Tom Haine, the players were Lynn Heilbron, Ruth Campbell, Billie Baird, Cynthia Hemmings, Alice "Baby" Cross, May Balding and Aggie Quigg; they took third place.

Later, Outrigger wahine competed in the Haili Volleyball Tournaments in Hilo, a major annual volleyball event. In the '50s and '60s, more mixed teams participated in inter-Club tournaments, including mixed four and six-man.

After college at USC, Miki McFadden represented the

United States in the World Championships, Pan-Am Games, and in 1968, made it to the Olympics held in Mexico that year. For more than 40 years, Miki (Briggs) has been a volleyball coach

Despite their success in competitions, the young women played primarily for their own pleasure. Even when the couples blossomed into families, some of the wahine played while pregnant and later, placed their babies under the coconut trees on the lawn opposite the courts to nap while the mammas tossed the ball around. Is it any wonder that the kids took up the sport too?

Kisi Haine, Tom and Marilyn's daughter, won the 1996 Outrigger Kane-Wahine tournament with her brother, Marc. In 1997, she and Tracy Phillips came in first in the Woman's State Volleyball Championship.

Many wahine have participated in the number-one land sport at the Outrigger for both pleasure and competition.

It's a game they play with their spouses, their girlfriends, and their children. It's a sport that brings families together and bonding between friends. It was a great day when "Dad" Center set up the first court on Club grounds and beach volleyball was invented. Many of our men have gone on to become national champions and even Olympians, but the women have certainly done their part to contribute to the sport. Go wahine!