

# Club Captain Holmes takes a critical look at current Club athletics

Having competed in many of the Outrigger sports over the years, I became aware of the fact that none of the committees or their selected coaches really had any concrete objectives to strive for and that due to the committee structure of the Club the objectives changed from year to year. Since there have been no consistent objectives set forth that committees, coaches and athletes can understand, I have attempted to define them in the hope that the performance, attitudes and morale of the Outrigger athletes will improve in the coming year. We have more potential ability than any other club in the Islands, but our performances really haven't come up to our abilities in the various sports.

We have the team sports of canoe racing, volleyball, softball and mountainball. We have individual sports of tennis, golf, sailing and surfing. In each of these sports the Club's objectives are to win the State championship at the local level. If the teams involved or individuals involved are realistically considered competitive in national competition then the attempt is usually made to win the National championship.

These objectives are very general in scope. The more specific objectives of developing winning attitudes rather than the prima-donna syndrome; of teaching a younger athlete how to perform to the best of his ability; of instructing an athlete that hard work toward certain goals can be rewarding, are functions of the various coaches. Unfortunately, in some of our team sports the coaches take their win-loss record as an ego trip and never develop the individuals involved. Some of our coaches cater to the "all stars", who by virtue of their natural ability can make a starting position on a team or crew with a 50% training effort. The net result in the long run is lack of teamwork and morale. Even worse is the fact that a younger athlete interested in the sport will recognize that any hard work that he puts in will not necessarily be rewarded by participation. Luckily, many of them are intelligent enough



Outrigger Canoe Club Captain Mike Holmes

not to waste their time in that particular sport.

Our sports should be much more youth-oriented. There are no limits to what our younger athletes can learn or achieve if parents and coaches are willing to put in well-spent time with them. An example: in the last Waikiki Rough Water Swim, 14 year old Kainoa Downing finished ahead of all other OCC swimmers (some who like to swim from island to island) yet Kainoa finished behind two 12 year old boys and an 11 year old girl.

In sailing, Jay Anderson (15 year old) in a recent Hobie Cat race finished well ahead of Ted Crane and myself. With another year of sailing he may be able to do it consistently, although I hope not.

It's about time that many of our older athletes got out of the game and into developing the youth of our Club. When that happens, we can all observe with pride as the records start to fall.

If each committee, each coach and teach participant can 1) keep learning and experimenting; 2) perform to the best of their ability, then the fun will follow at the player level and we'll see an outstanding year in Club sports.

Mike Holmes

*Ed. note: The views and opinions expressed by Mr. Holmes are his own and may or may not reflect those of other members.*