

# Daddy Haine Volleyball Tournament

By Max Clini



ABOVE: The finalists for the Daddy Haine Tournament title were: Joe Hodick, Jim Hughman, DJ McInerney, Max Clini, Kawika Shoji, Ryan Wilcox, Erik Shoji and Shea Suzumoto.

RIGHT: Erik Shoji sets for Shea Suzumoto. Photo by Twain Newhart.



This summer began with great excitement in anticipation of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, Brazil. How fitting that two of our very own Outrigger players would return to the Club proudly displaying their Bronze Olympic Medals to play in the storied Daddy Haine Tournament.

Kawika and Erik Shoji, members of the U.S. National Team exemplify the essence of Hawaii volleyball: skilled, tough and humble. They have been great ambassadors of the game for years and their participation in the Daddy is just another way for them to share their knowledge and passion for the game with old and young players alike.

The day started off as is tradition with a prayer of inspiration given by Kisi Haine and the presentation of the Ambassador Award to Dennis Berg, father of Lindsey Berg, an Olympian herself and now Assistant Coach to Dave Shoji at the University of Hawaii.

Competition commenced early with absolutely gorgeous weather, despite of the threat of impending floods and high winds looming just a few hundred miles offshore courtesy of Tropical Storms Lester and Madeline. Thirteen talented teams squared off to start the day. Teams are made up of four players picked randomly from the Open, A, B and Setter 'buckets'.

The level of intensity and quality of play continued to

improve as the day progressed with epic battles among teams made up of both very young talented players still attending high school and not so young but very experienced veterans who have walked this journey on many occasions before.

In the end, the story book finals was set. The Shoji brothers and Olympic medalists once again squared off to compete for the much coveted Daddy Haine title and the opportunity to immortalize their name on the plaque affixed at the sand courts for generations to see.

Erik Shoji's squad jumped out to an early 3-1 start with the help of its young outside gun Ryan Wilcox. To say this team had good ball control would be a great understatement and getting the ball past their defense proved to be a very difficult task for most. Shea Suzumoto and DJ McInerney, both still in high school completed this young, explosive and extremely efficient team.

Kawika Shoji was not going to be rattled by a slow start however. His focus and willingness to win was palpable and his teammates fed off the energy. Through a series of imposing and experienced plays Kawika positioned his team to take a lead late in the game and never looked back. Kawika's support cast included Joe Hodick, Jim Hughman and Max Clini.



ABOVE: The Haine family celebrates Tom “Daddy” Haine every year with the Labor Day weekend tournament: Marc, Noa, Aria McComber, Kisi, Marilyn, Riley, Natasha Haine. Missing: Tom and Marilyn’s other grandchildren, Reese Haine, Clay Stanley and Taeya Brown.

RIGHT: Kawika Shoji hits against the block of Ryan Wilcox. Photo by Twain Newhart.

