

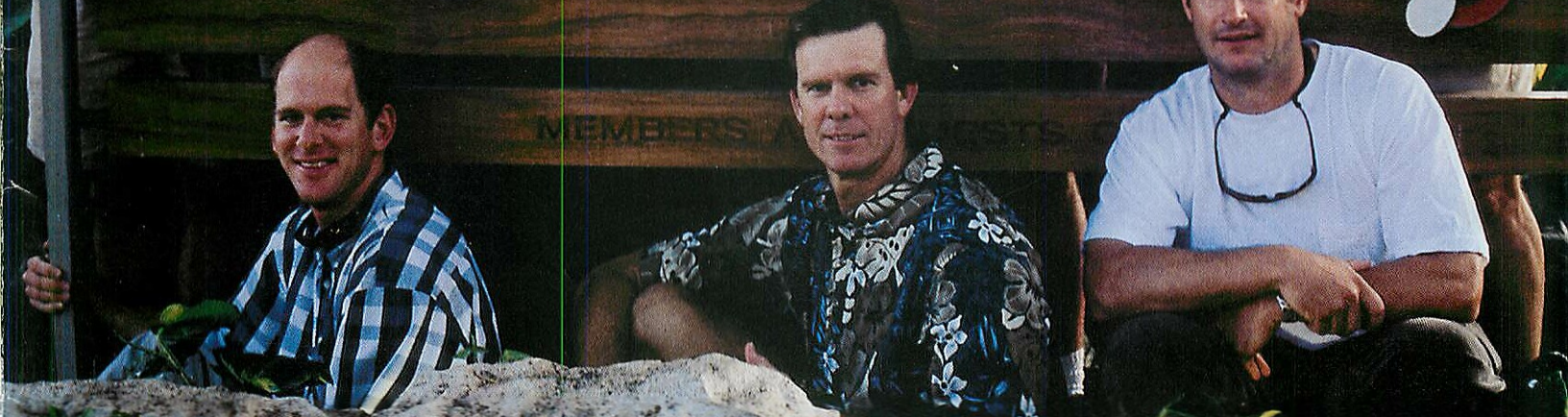
the Outrigger

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Outrigger Canoe Club

MEMBERS



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Outrigger Spikers Dominate USA National Volleyball Tournament

By Alan Lau

In an unprecedented display of dominance, all three Outrigger teams sent to compete in the USA Volleyball National Tournament won National Championships in their respective divisions. The tournament was held in San Jose, California from May 29 through June 5, 1999.

Outrigger teams entered in the Men's Masters 30 and over division, 35 and over division, and 50 and over division, and each overcame extremely tough competition to accomplish the unprecedented achievement.

In four decades that the Club has sent volleyball teams to national competition, never have all teams sent won championships at the same tournament.

Making the accomplishment even more impressive is that the success of the Outrigger teams comes at a time when participation in the nationals is at an all time high. The Outrigger teams won through total commitment and team work by all team members. The showing of the three teams confirmed the Club's position as the pre-eminent volleyball club program in the nation. A recap of the tournament is set forth below.



Masters 30

Front— Adam Lockwood, Ralph Smith, Leon Devaney, Jon Andersen. Back— Gary Van Sickle, Tim Wilson, Tony McInerny, Darren Holt, Marc Haine, Doug Rigg

Masters 35

Front— Jon Stanley, Alan Lau, Todd Harrison. Back— Ralph Smith, Tom Harrer, Marc Haine, Jon Andersen, T.C. Gray, Matt Rigg.



MEN'S MASTERS 30'S

The 30's successfully defended their 1998 National Championship by defeating perennial rival the L.A. Film Company 15-11 in an exciting final. The victory was particularly gratifying since the team lost handily to L.A. Film 15-5, 15-5 in the match which set up the one game final. L.A. Film featured three players 6'7" or taller and former Pepperdine All-American and National team member Rod Wilde setting. Despite that loss, the 30's mustered up all of their resources and clawed out of the final victory with mistake free play down the stretch.

The 30's were led by First Team All-Americans Adam Lockwood and Doug Rigg. Other members of the 30's were Marc Haine, Leon Devaney, Jon Andersen, Ralph Smith, Tony McInerny, Gary Van Sickle, Tim Walston, Todd Harrison and Darren Holt.

MEN'S MASTERS 35'S

The Masters 35's won its championship in a thrilling double final match against Transbrasil of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Led by the hitting by 35's "rookie" and tournament Most Outstanding Player Matt Rigg, the 35's defeated Transbrasil 15-12 in the gut-wrenching one game final match (Transbrasil had beaten the 35's 13-15, 16-14, 15-12 to set up the final game).

Transbrasil featured several former Olympic team members including 6'7" opposite hitter, Jose Amodim, a member of the 1992 Gold Medal team, currently playing in the Spanish professional league who flew in from Spain for the tournament. Despite the seemingly long odds facing the 35's, the team persevered and scratched out the final victory in one of the most memorable matches in Outrigger volleyball history. In six individual games against Transbrasil, the three point differential in the final match was the largest margin of victory by either team.

In addition to the stellar play of Rigg, the 35's got outstanding hitting and blocking efforts from Marc Haine, Todd Harrison and Tom Harrer. Jon Andersen and Jon Stanley blocked the middle superbly with Stanley contributing a match saving "save" with his foot against Transbrasil in an early play-off match. It should be noted that Stanley's brilliance in the 35's winning effort came against players who are up to 20 years his junior. In addition, Ralph Smith, Alan Lau and T.C. Gray contributed precise setting and back row play for the 35's. For their efforts, Stanley, Smith and Haine were named as First Team All-Americans in addition to Rigg's outstanding performance.

MEN'S MASTERS 50'S

After contributing to the 35's victory over Transbrasil, Jon Stanley spent the second half of the week leading the 50's team to its National Championship. The 50's dominated their competition with-

out losing a single match and defeated King's Mountain Fog of Northern California 15-12, 15-4 in the final match. In reaching the finals, the 50's defeated the Legends team of California which included Rudy Suwara, Ernie Suwara and Miles Pabst, all former Olympians.

The 50's team featured the hitting and blocking of Chris Crabb, Tony Crabb, Randy Shaw, Bill Johnson, Robin Durand and Stanley. Jim Hueman shored up the serving and backrow duties and Tom Madison set the entire tournament for the 50's in a performance that deserved, but unjustly did not garner, All American recognition. Stanley was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 50's tournament. Shaw, Tony Crabb and Chris Crabb were honored as First Team All Americans.

The Outrigger victories at the Nationals can be attributed not only to the hard work, training and dedication of the individual team members but to the support of the entire Club. The accomplishment of the three teams sets a lofty standard for future Outrigger teams. However, with the Club's wealth of talent at all levels, future success is virtually certain.



Masters 50

Front- Tom Madison. Back- Tony Crabb, Chris Crabb, Bill Johnson, Randy Shaw, T.C. Gray, Jon Stanley

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On the Cover:

Outrigger's masters volleyball teams won the U.S. Volleyball Association's national championship in the 30, 35 and 50 year old divisions. Pictured, front, Doug Rigg, Jon Andersen and Adam Lockwood. Standing, Tony McInerney, TC Gray, Alan Lau, Marc Haine, Tony Crabb and Randy Shaw. Story and photos on pages 6-7. Photo by Marilyn Kali.