

# Outrigger 18 Boys Participate in Junior Olympics

By Bill Johnson

Temperatures of 119 degrees greeted our boys upon their arrival in the Arizona desert for the Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in Phoenix. After a day of practice, registration and acclimation, we started our competitive journey against the top players in the country.

On day one, we blew past two mid-eastern teams, Premier and Classic, with relative ease and then faced west coast power, Seaside of San Diego. We jostled with them pretty equally but they squeaked two close games on us, 25-23 and 25-22.

No damage, however, as we progressed to day two still in the top bracket where we breezed past Fresno in two straight and then faced a surprisingly tough Cactus team with one incredibly unstoppable hitter. What a match.

This was a very big team that no one knew much about. We traded blows in game one and lost a squeaker, 25-27, and then battled hard in game two to a marathon 28-26 win, riding the spikes of our hammer, Kaimi Guerreiro. Then in the pivotal third game, we kept it close and in an emotional finish we lost 15-12.

We fought gamely against Balboa to stay in the gold Division, but lost both games. It turned out we had the toughest pool on day two with two top four finishers overall.

We started day three in the Bronze bracket. We started off with a tall team from Canada, White Rock, and showing renewed fervor, we trounced them in two straight games. Next, we played another big team from Pacific Palisades, the Crusaders, whose setter played at St. Louis High School this past year with several of our players. This added to our determination and we surprisingly had little trouble with them in a 2-1 win and cleared our bench. Day three was a big success and we were back.

Day four is always the toughest day with its 8 a.m. start and its single elimination. All three of our matches went three games.

We cruised in game one, 25-17, over Team Alberta, stumbled in game two, 25-27, and outlasted them in game three, 15-11.

Then we played a match against San Diego, the 6th ranked team coming to the tournament. We lost the first game in a squeaker, 25-27, then squeezed past them in the second, 25-23, as setter Gary Johnson continually set quick 5s and Ds to Brian Zodrow, often isolating him as he hit about .800 in the match.

Game three was just as thrilling with Kaione Scott making several spectacular digs as we won, 15-13, and moved into the Bronze Division final against, Santa Barbara.



The Boys 18s

Riding the arms of Guerreio and Will Reppun on the outside, the quick hits of Kea Kometani and Justin Harris in the middle and Clint Torres and Zodrow on the right side, we played another thriller, trading 27-25 scores in the first two games.

Game three was even right up to 11-11, then Santa Barbara pulled away to win 15-12. We finished second in the Bronze Division and a respectable 14th out of the 36 teams in the country.

This team shoed their true character on the last day as they kept fighting and clawing, never giving up as they played nine close games as an exhausting finish to this great tournament. Team members were outside hitters Daniel Lam, Will Reppun and Kaimi Guerreio; middle blockers Aka Beaumont, Justin Harris and Kea Kometani; right side hitters Brian Zodrow, Clint Torres and Arist deWolff; liberos Kaione Scott and Kekane Yuen; setter Gary Johnson and serving specialist Tamahere McCabe.

We were superbly guided by coaches Peter Balding Jr., Alike Williams and Lyman Lacro. Team parents who assisted the boys on the trip were Steve and Jackie Scott, Maile Lam, Marilyn Reppun, Rich and Jill Zodrow, Clint and Kapua Torres and cousin John and Bill Johnson.

The players and parents would like to thank the Outrigger Canoe Club for their financial and inspirational support and specifically Alan Lau, Coordinating Director for Athletics; Club Captian Bill Danford, Volleyball Committee Chair Chris Crabb, and Club Manager John Rader.

**Sizzle sizzle sizzle  
sizzle sizzle sizzle sizzle.**

(Our steaks made us a legendary restaurant,  
so we decided to let them do the talking.)



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