

OCC 12 & Under Boys Win Bronze

By Peter Ehrman

In early July, Outrigger's 12 & under boys volleyball team finished third in the prestigious gold division of the U.S. Volleyball Junior National Championships. The tournament was held at the gigantic New Orleans Convention Center in Louisiana.

During the three day event OCC defeated teams from Colorado, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio. OCC narrowly lost to three outstanding teams from Puerto Rico. The highlight of the tournament came in the semifinals when OCC lost a close and hard fought match with Torrimar of Puerto Rico (the eventual tournament

champion) by scores of 15-13, 15-11. During the match OCC's boys raised their level of play to new heights, playing virtually even with a taller, older and much more experienced opponent.

Throughout the championships Outrigger's boys made up for their lack of height and tournament experience with superior ball handling, tenacious defense and great team spirit.

Members of the bronze medal winning team were setters Kawika Shoji, Mikey Cote, and Erik Shoji, outside hitters Jordan Inafuku, Will Ehrman, Jacob Jenkins and Austin Kino and middle blockers Stanley Nihipali, Landon Nakata and

Spencer McLachlin. The team was coached by head coach Dave Shoji and assistants Mike Cote, Charlie Jenkins and Mary Shoji. The boys returned to Honolulu filled with Gumbo, Shrimp Creole, lots of pride and a strong desire to bring home the gold in 2000!



The Boys 12 volleyball team is, front, Jacob Jenkins, Spencer McLachlin, Jordan Inafuku and Will Ehrman. Back, Mikey Cote, Erik Shoji, Landon Nakata, Kawika Shoji and Stanley Nihipali.