

Outrigger 18's Win Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship

By John McDermott

After surviving a long cross country trip, the Outrigger Canoe Club's Boys 18 volleyball team arrived in Tampa, Florida for the 12th Annual Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships.

The tournament ran from June 19 to July 6, and 56 teams competed for the coveted crown in the 18's division. The Outrigger team met every challenge and won the tournament, defeating the first seed in an electrifying championship match.

The trip to the JO's got off to a slow start when the team's plane left Oahu an hour late. Next came a seven-hour lay-over in St. Louis, and when we finally arrived in Florida, we found that our rental van had been rented out already.

One problem led to another as we found out at the hotel—our room reservations could not be located. Eventually we got our rooms and the boys settled in, exhausted but excited about the tournament.

Our problems continued on the first day of the tournament as Stein Metzger injured his foot in the first game of the first match we played. However, Jon Haruguchi stepped in smoothly for Stein and set for the first two matches, guiding us to straight set victories over some decent teams.

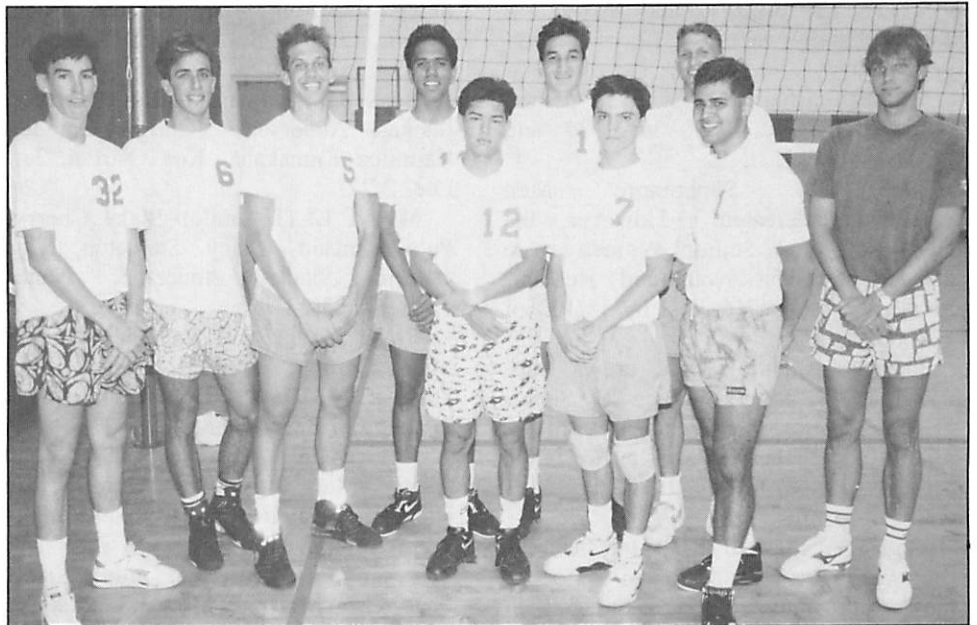
The following day Stein played, limping, and we again won two straight set matches against quality teams from California.

These victories got us to our third and toughest pool. In this pool, we faced two Balboa Bay Club teams, renowned for its volleyball and the L'abri Gold team, seeded third in the entire tournament.

At this point, the boys began playing very steady and determined volleyball. Brian Wells and Brant Chillingworth were passing the ball extremely well, enabling a still limping Stein to set an effective offense.

Mike Lambert, Sean Scott and Charlie Mattson provided the bulk of the firepower at the net and blocked well enough to slow down the opposition's big men.

Outrigger defeated L'abri Gold in a very hard fought two game match, then



Members of Outrigger's championship Boys 18 USVBA Junior Olympic team are Brant Chillingworth, Jon Aharoni, Stein Metzger, Charlie Mattson, Jon Haruguchi, Mike Lambert, Daniel Chong, Sean Scott, Bill Fannemel and coach John McDermott.

needed three games to defeat both of the Balboa Bay teams. We beat Balboa's number one team, 17-16, in the third game on Brian Wells' crosscourt spike, just as the fireworks were exploding outside to celebrate the 4th of July.

Winning our third pool put us into the Gold Championship, a double elimination draw comprised of the top 16 teams. Outrigger, seeded second, blew through its first two opponents, one of them last year's champion, Torrence Roof.

We then played Balboa's number one team again and scraped by in another close match to face Rip-It-Up in a match of undefeated teams. Rip-It-Up was the first seed in the tournament and the favorite to win the whole thing. Outrigger played its best match of the tournament and won 9-15, 16-14, 15-11.

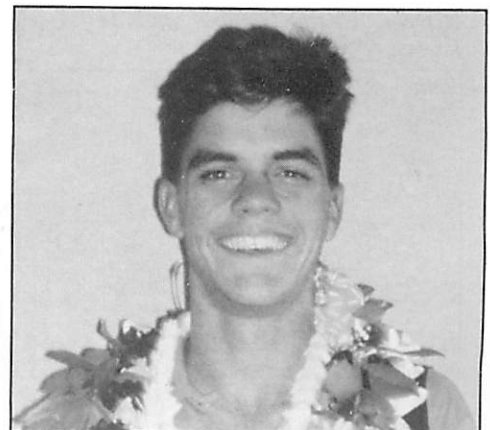
The following day we played Rip-It-Up again in the championship match. Rip-It-Up played very well and beat us 15-7, 17-15, forcing a one game winner-take-all match to 15 points.

Outrigger would not quit and eventually pulled out a 15-9 victory in front of

a stunned crowd.

Stein Metzger was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Mike Lambert was named first team All-American. Other members on the team were Daniel Chong and Bill Fannemel.

Editor's Note: This was Coach John McDermott's third trip to the Junior Olympics. He was a member of Outrigger's Boys 18 team in 1981 and 1982 which won the championship both years. 🍷



Brian Wells