

OCC Wins 2 USVBA Championships

By Dean Nowack

Four OCC volleyball teams traveled to the land of tornados and thunderstorms to compete in the 1991 U.S. Volleyball Association national championships, May 25-31 in Kansas City, Mo.

The tournament consisted of 268 teams from all over the country. The tournament format for all matches was two out of three games to 15 points, with the third game rally scoring format (that is, a point scored for every serve or side out, just like ping pong). The first two games also are limited by time allotment.

I'll start with the Golden Masters team (50 years of age or older). Well, on second thought, I'll start with the Open team.

This was the first year since 1987 that we could field a strong Open team. It was hard to gauge how good we were since there were no local open tournaments this Spring.

However, we qualified for the Gold Division (top 8 of 48 teams). This was quite a feat for the first tournament in four years and our first of the Spring. Although we went out of the tournament at seventh place, we found that we could definitely compete at this level.

Earlier in the week, we defeated the tournament's second place team (Off-

shore) by scores of 15-12, 8-14, 15-8. And the team that put us out of the tournament, Slide Systems, barely beat us 15-13, 15-13.

All the players contributed to our team effort and Matt Rigg was recognized as a third team All-American.

And how about those Golden Masters? Well, I'll talk about them later.

This year's format in the age group category was such that the age group teams could compete in more than one division. That is, the 40 and older division was held Saturday through Tuesday and the 35 and older division was held Wednesday through Friday.

The only problem is that the number of matches played is crammed into a

short amount of time. If you are to play in two divisions, you must be in top shape.

The nucleus of six players--Jon Stanley, Randy Shaw, Chris Crabb, Tom Madison, Charlie Jenkins



The USVBA 40's champions are Charlie Jenkins, Tom Madison, Ilmar Tarikas, Jon Stanley, Chris Crabb, Randy Shaw, Jim Bukes, Dennis Berg. Not pictured: Coach Kimo Brown.

and Ilmar Tarikas--played in both divisions. In the 40's, they added Jim Bukes and Dennis Berg, for the 35's, they added Ralph Smith and Jon Andersen.

Twenty-two teams competed in the 40's division. And the OCC team found themselves in the finals without even losing a single game, let alone a match. They beat Lucchesi from Colorado, 16-14, 15-5 to win the division.

Something to note is that Chris Crabb had to be at work Wednesday in Honolulu. So Dennis Berg (at 48) stepped in for Chris and had an excellent match.

The players receiving national recognition were Chris Crabb, 2nd team All American; Randy Shaw, Charlie Jenkins, 1st team, and Jon Stanley (at 47 years of age) the tourney MVP.

The 40 division ended at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night and the OCC 35's began pool play at 8 a.m. Wednesday morning with four matches scheduled throughout the day with a total of 30 teams.

To compound matters, Charlie Jenkins pulled a leg muscle in the 40 finals and was unable to compete in this division. That left Ralph Smith as the setter for the team--a position he hadn't practiced all season because he was needed as an outside hitter.

In addition, Chris Crabb was scheduled to arrive on Thursday after teaching all day Wednesday and flying all



The Outrigger Open team included, front, John McDermott, Tony McInerney, Stein Metzger. Standing, R. D. Gray, Matt Rigg, Doug Rigg, Arne Lamberg, Mike Lambert and Kevin Shepard. Not pictured: Coaches Ralph Smith and Dean Nowack.

night to get back to the tournament. But the team showed its toughness by going through the tournament again without a match lost, 10-0.

After the winner's bracket finals and 18 matches (38 games) of volleyball in 6 1/2 days, coach Kimo Brown insisted that our dog-tired outside hitter Randy Shaw get a massage.

About 20 minutes later, I went to Randy to tell him the time schedule for the finals. I talked to him for a minute or so before I realized he was completely asleep with his eyes open!

So, refreshed and ready, the team again rose to the occasion and beat B Jammin' for the 35 championship.

To help put this in perspective, the nucleus of this team was the same team that won the 1984 35 year division. No team had won two divisions in one tournament and no team even competed in the same division seven years later.

So, after a total of 19 matches and 41 games in seven days, the OCC brought back two national titles.

Recognized for their achievements were: Jon Stanley, 2nd team All-American; Ralph Smith and Chris Crabb, 1st team All-American and Jon Andersen, tournament MVP.

Well, that's it from Kansas City. Sorry, I almost forgot--the Golden Masters (50 and older). To put it mildly, are there any tall, athletic 49 year old males who want to learn volleyball?

I'm just kidding. These guys have been carrying the torch for the Club for 30 years or more through all the divisions.

The team this year placed ninth out of 15 teams. They did, however, barely lose to the eventual second place team, War Ring, 7-15, 13-8, 17-16.

The team was slowed considerably by an illness to Linzy Hotz, our second setter and one of the best at ball control. Linzy was at our first game and we didn't see him again until it was time board the plane. So at 62, Bill Baird had to run down and set every ball.

The older you get as a player, the more adept you become at making excuses. And this year was simple, they blamed it on the coach!

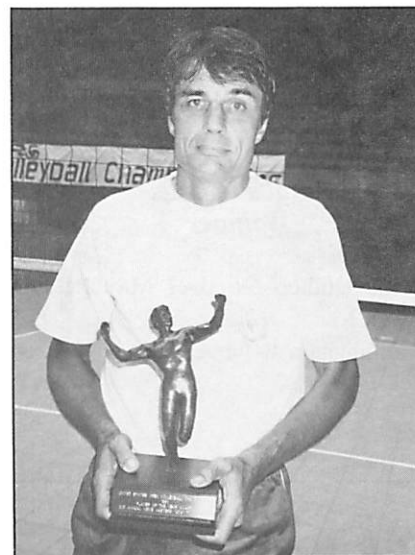
Members of the Golden Masters team were David Porteus, Bill Baird, Hugh Foster, Tom Haine, Bob Kashare, Fred Hiapo, Mark Lawson and Linzy Hotz. The coach was Dean Nowack.

It was quite a week and we look forward to Reno next year.

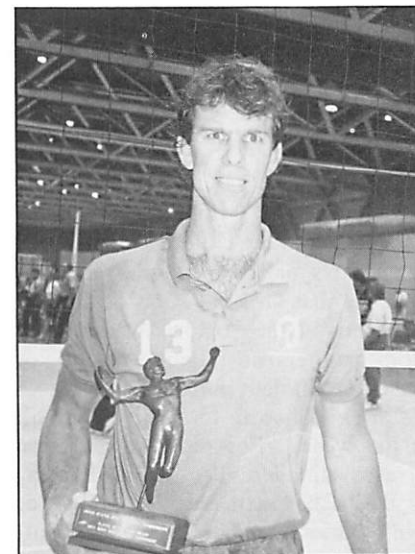
The Volleyball Committee and teams would like to extend a special thanks to Club Captain Bill Bright. It is a very thankless, tiresome job but Bill has always made time for our requests and questions. Again, Mahalo. 🍻



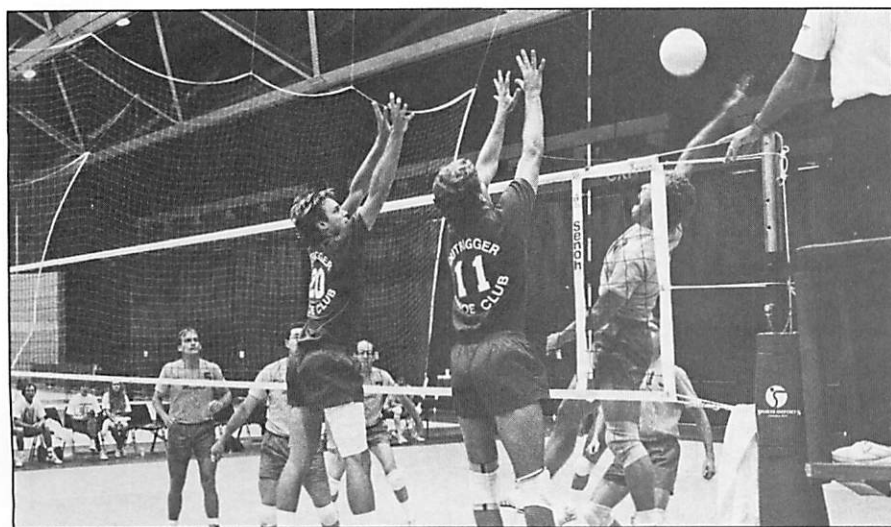
The USVBA 35's champions are Randy Shaw, Tom Madison, Jon Stanley, Jon Andersen, Ilmar Tarikas, Chris Crabb, Charlie Jenkins, Jim Bukes and Coach Kimo Brown.



Jon Stanley
... MVP 40's



Jon Andersen
... MVP 35's



John McDermott and Doug Rigg putting up the roof in Kansas City.