

Jr. 'Riggers Compete in Junior VB Nationals

By Pat Daily

Outrigger Canoe Club's Boys' 16 and 18 volleyball teams journeyed to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the week long Junior National Tournament that began June 28.

The 16s were a young team where all but two members were only 15 years old. They competed against a very competitive field of 27 teams from around the country. Each match was decided by the best two out of three games. OCC played nine matches, winning six of them and finished a very respectable 12th, their pre-tourney seeding.

This year's tournament players were Ryan Avery, Daniel Chong, Ivan Gale, Jesse Hunt, Brian Kilcoyne, Mike Lambert, Richard Reicker and Alika Williams. The head coach was Kefa Cummings and assistant coach was Tony Crabb.

"This was a fairly young team who gained a lot of valuable experience and maturity," Cummings said. "This was good preparation for 1991."

Bob Riley, head coach for the Boys 18 team, knew the national tournament was going to be tough. Yet, Bob and assistant coach Kanoa Ostrem, had brought a tough team, too.

This year's 18s were Brant Chillingworth, Laya Clark, Brandon Flores, Josh Helbling, Ricky Humphreys, Charlie Mattson, Stein Metzger, Allen Pang, Michael Scott, Brian Wells, Kevin Wong and Mitchell Yap.

They entered the tournament seeded ninth out of 58 teams from around the country. They moved through the first pool play number one and undefeated.

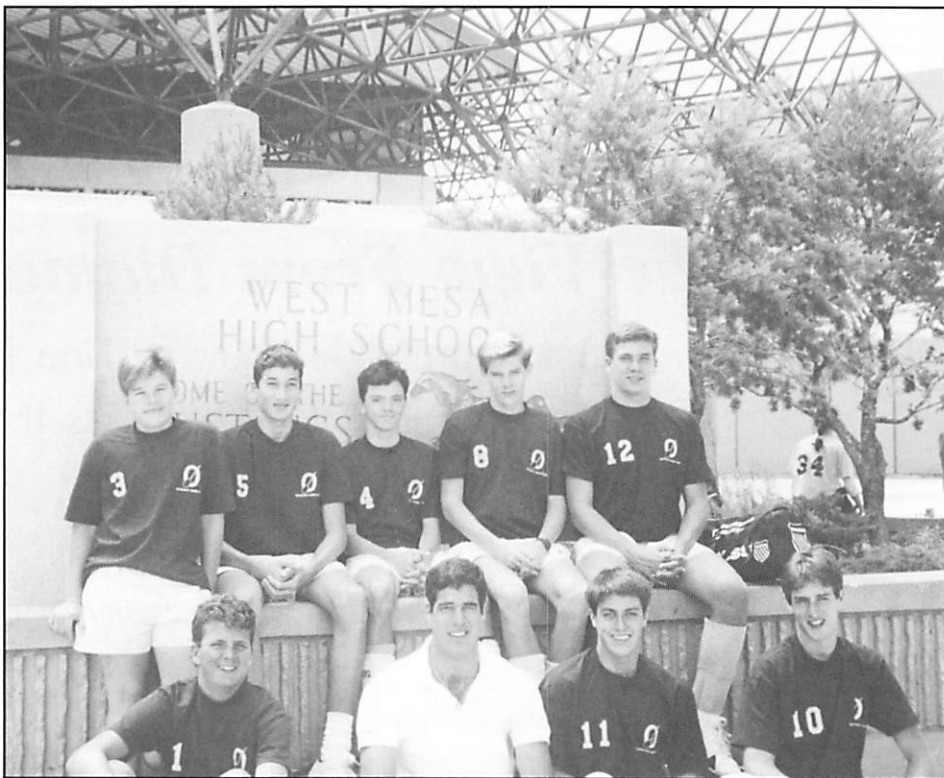
Next was the power pool where OCC again passed undefeated. Finally, in the double elimination power bracket consisting of 16 teams, OCC was seeded sixth.

Our boys lost their first match of the tournament to Tulsa, came back and beat Fresno, and then (in their second match up) lost to a powerful L'Abri California team. L'Abri went on to a fourth place finish with our 18s finishing at their pre-tournament seeding of ninth.

Each match consisted of the best in two out of three games and Outrigger's 18s played nine matches, winning seven of them.

It should be especially noted that three members of this team were honored with the invitation to try out with the U.S. Junior National Team in Colorado Springs. This team is a respected feeder for the U.S. Olympic teams. Josh Helbling, Rick Humphreys and Kevin Wong all tried out and Kevin went on to make the team.

All in all, a good time and a valuable experience for all.



The Boys 16 Volleyball team included Alika Williams, Coach Kefa Cummings, Ryan Avery, Ivan Gale, front. Back, Richard Reicker, Mike Lambert, Daniel Chong, Jesse Hunt, Brian Kilcoyne.