

# Boys Win National AAU Championships

*By Patrick Daily*

In the first-ever national 12-year-old AAU Volleyball Tournament, held in Chicago, Outrigger Canoe Club came away with all the gold.

Twenty teams with nearly 200 boys representing New Jersey, St. Louis, Chicago, Great Lakes region, Kansas City and Honolulu played in as many as 18 games in three brackets.

The nine members of the OCC team that traveled and played were Nai'a Blankenfeld, Kaione Crabb, Kevin Crabb, Dylan Fern, Craig Gamble, Chris Johnstone, Jeff Lee, Koa Ostrem and Clayton Stanley.

The head coach was Tony Crabb and the assistant coaches were Bruce Blankenfeld,

Denny Fern and Hoagie Gamble.

In winning the tournament, OCC won all five games in the first round-robin bracket, split two games in the semis, and won all 11 games in the single-elimination finals where our team was top-seeded.

Out of seven members on the tournament's All-America team, two are from OCC: Nai'a and Dylan.

Finally, to top off their champion efforts, the tournament's Most Valuable Player was our own Kaione Crabb.

**A LEARNING EXPERIENCE  
THAT LASTS A LIFETIME!**

