

OCC Volleyballers Bring Home Gold

By Bill Breeden

From June 13-18, 1988 in Salt Lake City, Utah, our OCC men's volleyball teams competed in the United States Volleyball Association National Championships with our Masters team (ages 35-44) taking first place among 28 teams.



Chris Crabb, MVP Masters

Taking Most Valuable Player honors was Chris Crabb who had a spectacular performance during the six day tournament.

Jon Stanley was named to the first team and Charlie Jenkins and Randy Shaw both received honorable mention.

The first place finish for the Masters was truly a "Cinderella" performance. The favorite to win the tournament was definitely Billauer Chiropractic, a team filled with top notch players from Southern California, who, by the way, were much younger than our boys who are pushing the upper limits of the Masters age bracket.

This was a double elimination tournament and our guys were a bit concerned after going undefeated in pool play just to be beaten quite easily by

Billauer in the finals of the winner's bracket, 10-6, 15-7. Our men went on into the losers bracket where they met a team from Colorado with the shortest starting player being 6'4". The OCC Masters came through, however, playing three very tough games to escape with a victory and give them one more chance at Billauer.

When the championship game began, it looked like the Masters were going to be humiliated once again by Billauer. They were behind 13-0 in the first game but they were able to regain their composure and came back to lose by a 15-7 margin. The second and third games were won by OCC, 15-11 and 15-7, which forced the two teams into a sudden death game to determine the champion. This time, however, OCC prevailed and whitewashed the Billauer team, 15-4, to take the title.

In addition to Crabb, Stanley, Jenkins and Shaw, our first place Masters team members were Rob Durand (who according to his teammates should have been named to the first team), Chris McLachlin, Bill Johnson and Ilmar Tarikas. Tom Madison, who had trained with the team all year, was ill and couldn't make the trip.

Along with our Masters team, OCC fielded two other teams with both teams finishing high in the standings. Our Golden Masters (ages 45+) finished second overall among 19 teams. The Golden Masters went undefeated in pool play which advanced them into the eight-team double-elimination bracket in the number two seeded position behind the Legends of California.

After winning their first two matches, the Golden Masters were finally beaten by the Legends in a hotly contested three-game match. Dropping down into the losers bracket, our Golden men defeated Ohio Valley which put them face to face again with the Legends in the finals. It should be noted that the win against Ohio Valley was "sweet revenge" as this was the team that put OCC out of the tournament last year.

In the finals, it was another see-saw



Rich Riffero, MVP Golden Masters

battle with the Legends, with the California team ending up the victor. Taking into consideration, however, the fact that five of the Golden Masters team members were in the training room due to injuries before and after each match, the second place finish was more than respectable.

Members of the Golden Masters included Coach Dennis Berg (All American first team), Captain Tom Haine, Bill Baird, Bob Kashare, Linzey Hotz, Fred Hiapo (honorable mention honors), Dave Hendrickson, Butch May (All American first team), Fred Chuckovich (honorable mention honors), Peter Balding Sr., Wayne Kekina and Rich Riffero (Most Valuable Player honors).

The third team that OCC sent to Salt Lake City was our Open team. The competition in this division was fierce and our boys were able to finish in a very respectable 9th place out of 42 teams. The team members were Jon Andersen, Marc Haine, Kimo Brown, Ralph Smith, Jim Kalaukoa, Todd Harrison, Trevor Schirman, R.D. Gray and John Zabriskie.

All of the members of the OCC teams would like to thank the OCC for their continued support. Knowing that they have that support helps each player to "dig deep" and come through with that extra special performance.

Last year, our teams placed second (Masters), 4th (Golden Masters) and 7th (Open). This year we placed, 1st, 2nd and 9th. Next year, will be even better. ☺

Volleyball Schedule

July 30-31	Club Championships
August 5-6	Men's Masters
August 7	Women's State Championships
August 13-14	Waimea Bay Open
August 20-21	Kane-Wahine
August 27-28	Men's State Championships
September 3-4	4-Man Calcutta