

The Nationals: 1-2-3

By Tom Reiner

The Outrigger Canoe Club teams won a first, a second and a third on the final day of the 53rd U.S. Volleyball Association nationals at Memphis, Tenn.

The Masters, (35 years and older) led by Jon Stanley, (most valuable player) and defending national champions, defeated Legends of San Diego; (5-15, 15-8, 15-7). The Masters All-American selections for First Team were Tom Madison, Jon Stanley (MVP) and Dave Shoji. Honorable Mention All-American: Tom Selleck.

The Outrigger men's open team won their pool. OCC defeated Ultimate Sports (13-11, 12-15, 15-5), and South Bay (11-15, 15-11, 15-8). Then it happened—Nautilus Pacifica defeated

OCC (15-11, 15-6) and Outrigger was in the losers' bracket. OCC defeated Malibu Volleyball Club (15-7, 2-15, 14-8) and Converse (15-6, 15-10).

The next day the OCC open team defeated Texas Stars (15-9, 15-8) in the final of the losers' bracket to meet the winners of the winners' bracket, Nautilus Pacifica. The Championship was won by Nautilus Pacifica (9-15, 11-11, 15-4)—OCC was second. The Rookie of the Year was men's open team member John Hanley, Men's open All-American 1st Team was Mark Rigg and Craig Buck.

OCC's Golden Masters (45 and older), the defending National Champions, won their pool but later lost one

match to place them in the losers' bracket. The final four teams were Ringwood, New Jersey; Virginia Beach, VA, OCC and Kansas City. Ringwood beat Virginia Beach for 1st place; Virginia Beach was 2nd place. OCC beat Kansas City, the team that had put OCC in the losers' bracket for 3rd place.

The games were split up between the Memphis State gym and the Naval Air Station gym. This made it hard for the players to watch the other games, as they were either playing or in a car traveling to another location.

It must be noted that all of the Outrigger teams were the favorites of the spectators.