

OCC VOLLEYBALL TEAM- SEVENTH AT NATIONALS



Outrigger vollyballers at their departure from Honolulu International Airport; left to right: Lange, Baird, Balding, Heilbron, Haine, Velasco, Sorrell, Wyman, Daniels Auerbach Coach Beardmore Cross.

The Outrigger Canoe Club's highly regarded volleyball team returned home from the National AAU Championships in Dallas with a hard won seventh place among the 34 entries.

The OCC team dropped series to the Hollywood Stars and the Hollywood Comets, both of which played in first division, to put them out of the championship bracket.

The National title went to the west side Jewish community squad of Los Angeles followed by the Hollywood Stars; Stockton, California; the Air Force Champions; the Ukrainian team from New York; and the Comets.

The Central YMCA, official state representatives from Hawaii, placed eighth behind the OCC.

The Outrigger opened the tourney at the Southern Methodist University Coliseum with a 15-2, 15-4 victory over the Oklahoma City Y in the morning. That evening they walloped the Armed Service Champions from the 6th Army 15-2, 15-4.

Coach Jim Beardmore of the Outrigger team cited the Army game as their best in the series. "I think we would have reached the finals if we had played that kind of ball through the tourney. The brand of ball played by the top teams was like nothing we have ever seen... absolutely perfect volleyball.

The second night of the three day eliminations saw the Outrigger losing their first series to the Hollywood Stars. The first game was nip and tuck with the Hollywood team emerging on the long end of a 15-12 count. Hollywood went on to win the second and deciding game 15-7.

In their doldrums, the Outrigger nearly lost their second game and series to the Des Moines, Iowa, representatives, but finally won 8-5; 15-0; 15-4.

Meeting the Hollywood Comets on the final tourney day saw the Outrigger on the losing end of a 12-15, 15-7, 12-14 series, putting them out of the running.

The finals matched the West End team with the Hollywood Stars in what might be termed "the most perfect series ever played." West End, emerging from the losers bracket, nipped the Hollywood six to gain the finals and another series that proved their mettle. The final series lasted nearly four hours into the early morning.

Particular interest was paid the Outrigger squad as co-representatives of the newest state.

Crowds thronged into the huge coliseum, which featured four courts in action at one time, to watch the Hawaiians.

In facing the Hollywood team, the OCC met six starters who averaged better than 6'4" in height and have been named to all American teams in past years.

The club directors and those who assisted financially in sending the team should be complimented on a wonderful public relations job in placing the Outrigger in the National spotlight.