

# Junior 'Riggers on Junior National VB Team

By Brad Lawson

Outrigger volleyball was well represented at this year's NORCECA U-21 Men's Continental Championship; very well represented. Tri Bourne, Brad Lawson, and Erik Shoji made up a quarter of this year's USA Men's Junior National Team which traveled to El Salvador in late June.

The trio helped the USA team to a third-place finish over Mexico which placed them in contention for a berth in next year's U-21 World Championships.

Although winning the bronze medal was an exciting accomplishment for the Men's Junior National Team, Erik Shoji provided some excitement of his own by capturing three individual awards. With his amazingly consistent serve-receive and superb defensive ability, Erik was able to garner awards for best receiver, best defender and best libero.



The 2008 USA Junior National team: Standing (from left to right):† Assistant Coach Dan Friend, Trainer Julie Chuan, Team Director Tom Pingel, Kyle Caldwell, Brad Lawson, Srdjan Nadazdin, Austin "Gus" Ellis, Tyler Jaynes, Murphy Troy, Joe Sunder, Assistant Coach Craig Dyer, Head Coach Shawn Patchell. Kneeling (from left to right):† Erik Shoji, Kasey Crider, Tri Bourne, Joe Kauliakamoa, Brian Muesenfechter