



Members of the 18 Club team were front: Colan Ishii. Back: George Bukes, Jeremy Kaimikaua, Damien Pherigo, Philip White, Michael Hackler, Coach Ryan Woodward, Tyler Greenhill and Daniel Hee.



The 18 Open Team included front: Coach Mary Shoji, Taylor Akiyama, Erik Shoji, Jordon Inafuku, Beau Albrechtson, Colan Ishii, Coach Charlie Jenkins. Back: Coach Dave Shoji, Reese Haine, Tri Bourne, Riley McKibbin, Brad Lawson, Tim Harrison and Coach Ryan Woodward.

2007 JUNIOR OLYMPIC VOLLEYBALL, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

By Laurie & Brad Lawson

With high hopes and volleyball bags in hand, the Outrigger Canoe Club's 18's Open and Club teams flew over 5,000 miles to compete in this year's Junior Olympic Volleyball Tournament from July 4-7. Held at the Georgia World Congress Center in the heart of downtown Atlanta, this year's site was once home to thousands of Olympic athletes during the 1996 Olympic Games.

The 18's Open team returned to JO's with unfinished business after having to settle for the silver medal in the U-17's Open division last summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was now time to bring back the "gold", and the 18's Open Team was on a mission.

Under the direction of head coaches Dave Shoji and Charlie Jenkins, the 18's Open Team consisted of returning players Brad Lawson, Tri Bourne, Tim Harrison, Erik Shoji, Colan Ishii, Reese Haine, and Taylor Akiyama. New to this year's 18's Open team were Riley McKibbin, Beau Albrechtson, and Jordon Inafuku.

On the opening day of the tournament, the 18's Open team easily won all three of its matches—placing them first in their pool. In the second round, they continued their dominance, beating all three opponents in just three games. This winning streak continued through the final day of pool play when the OCC boys again beat both of their opponents, Santa Barbara 18's and Florida Sons VBC.

At this stage, the 18's open team hadn't lost a single match nor had it dropped a single game (a match is played the best of three games). Advancing to the elite "eight", the open team continued its streak by defeating SPVB Mizuno in two games.

Now down to the "final four" Outrigger met its nemesis, Pacific Palisades Kaepa of California ("Pali"). Not wanting to repeat their painful loss to Pali in the 2006 finals, the boys were hungry for revenge. Surprisingly, Pali came out with an excellent defense and a

strong attack. Dropping their first game 25-17, Pali was on its way to victory.

However, Outrigger would not go down without a fight. Bouncing back in the second set, the OCC boys defeated Pali 25-20 which left the match in the hands of a final and deciding third game. Although the Outrigger team made some good plays, Pali's efficient passing and hitting edged them past the OCC boys 15-10.

Dealing Outrigger their second loss in two years, the boys were heart broken. Pali would go on to play in the finals, losing to St. Louis Missouri High Performance in another tight match. Although the Outrigger 18's Open team did not finish the way they wanted, the boys took home the bronze medal and two players, Riley McKibbin and Tri Bourne were selected to the Boy's 18's All-Tournament Team.

The 18's Club team, a new entrant in the Junior Olympics, was coached by former UH Rainbow Volleyball player Ryan Woodward and assisted by Mary Shoji. The players on the 18's club team were Daniel Hee, Michael Hackler, Tyler Greenhill, Nick Costello, Philip White, George Bukes, Damien Pherigo, Blake Hixson, Simeon Ke-Paloma and Jeremy Kaimikaua.

For some of the players on the club team, this year was their first experience at the Junior Olympics. Coach Ryan Woodward (aka "Coach Woody") did a tremendous job getting the boys ready for the rigors of this competitive tournament.

As the tournament wore on, the boys began putting in some solid performances. I was able to watch several of the matches and was impressed by the consistent leadership of setter Nick Costello. Calm and collected (although he later told me he was actually quite nervous) Coach Woody urged his team to stay focused as the boys would come up victorious in all three sets. It was great to see the improve-

BOYS 16 VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS BRONZE MEDAL

By Chris Crabb

ment of this club team.

They headed into Saturday's matches a bit tired but ready to take on their opponents, Storm 181 and Riptides 18's Blue OC. However, the energy expended the night before in each of their three matches made it difficult to get recharged for the early morning games the following day. The club team lost both its Saturday matches but left with a great sense of accomplishment and the desire to return next year to improve their standings now that they are seasoned veterans!

When I asked several of the boys from each team what they thought was the most memorable experience of the tournament, they said, "The times spent together on and off the court. I enjoyed getting to know all the guys, especially the ones I hadn't known much before." As a parent, I felt honored to be a part of both teams and to get to know the parents of these fine young men. This was one of the highlights of my year!

OCC members should be proud of these boys and a heart felt thanks goes out to coaches Dave Shoji, Charlie Jenkins, Ryan Woodward and Mary Shoji for their time and dedication to the boys. A big mahalo also to the parents of the boys and the Outrigger Canoe club for their endless support!

Junior National Team

Brad Lawson (Iolani), Erik Shoji (Punahou) and Tri Bourne (recent graduate of AOP and now at USC) were selected to the USA Boy's Youth National volleyball team that began training on July 24 at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California.

Brad and Erik are returning players from last year's youth team that played in the Dominican Republic at the NORCECA tournament. The team took the silver medal in the NORCECA tournament which automatically qualified them as a participant in the FIVB World championships being held in Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico from August 15-26.

Tri Bourne was selected this year to the 18-member training team and made the final roster of 12 that comprise the traveling team. The boy's youth national team is under the coaching of Head Coach Tino Reyes (assistant men's volleyball coach, UH Manoa), Shawn Patchell (head volleyball coach BYU, Utah) and Ken Shibuya (assistant men's volleyball coach at Stanford).

Kawika Shoji and Spencer McLachlin were selected again this past summer as part of the 12 man roster on the USA Junior Men's National Volleyball Team.

They played last year (2006) in the NORCECA tournament in Monterey, Mexico. Their silver medal from last year's tournament gave the team an automatic bid in the FIVB Worlds held this summer in Morocco. Both boys were selected as captains of the junior national team. The USA Junior Men's team came in 7th overall and beat Cuba in their final match. Spencer will be heading to Stanford this fall to join Kawika who recently completed his freshman year there.

The 16 and under team began play in the Junior Olympics on July 8. The first day they had a record of 2-1, the second day 3-0 and the third day 2-1. This qualified them for the Gold Division finals made up of the top eight teams in the nation. Play began early July 8.

We were paired with the first seeded team Sports Performance from Chicago. We won the first game 25-19, lost the next 25-16 and won the third 15-10. In the semifinals we played North Shore from Milwaukee. We lost the first 25-12, won the second 25-18 and then lost a squeaker 15-13. This enabled us to finish third out of the top 36 teams in the country.

Team members were Noah Hammond, Jacob Brovelli, Taylor Crabb, Henry Cassiday, Kaiwi Crabb, Maddison McKibbin, Kaipo Lucas, Max Fujio, Shaw Richardson, Taylor Donovan and Ricky Budar. They all received bronze medals. Henry Cassiday and Maddison McKibbin were selected to the all tournament team.

Following the Junior Olympics, several of our boys went to high performance camps located throughout the country. Earlier in the year, these boys tried out for the camps and they were selected to attend the prestigious events.

Taylor Crabb went to the camp at Long Beach State University. He was selected as the camp's most valuable player and received a volleyball signed by all current USA Men's players. Rick Budar went to a camp in Colorado Springs, while Taylor Donovan was attending a high performance competition in Florida.

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