

FORECAST

Outrigger Canoe Club

OUTRIGGER BEACH

APRIL/MAY 1970

HONOLULU, HAWAII

1970 Volleyball Season



by Mike McMahon

The ending of the Outrigger Canoe Club's indoor volleyball season concluded with the U.S.V.B.A. National Championships here in Honolulu in early May. It was a long and hard season for the players with many practice hours and more seasonal tournaments than ever before. Just before competing in the National Championships, the Outrigger Open Team won the State Championship the last weekend in April. Also in the State Championship was the Outrigger Masters Team (35 years and older) and they finished a very respectable third place. By virtue of winning the State Championship, and through the cooperation of the Board of Directors, the Open Team was sent to Los Angeles to compete in the National A.A.U. Championships the first weekend in May. This tournament was very beneficial, and the Open Team learned that they were certainly in contention for the National Championships. Although we were eliminated by the winning team, "The Chart House" of San Diego, all the players gained confidence and exposure to National caliber of play.

We then started play in the U.S.V.B.A. Championships on Wednesday, May 6th, and the Outrigger was represented by two teams in the Open Division. The White or Open Team and Outrigger Red Team composed of the younger and promising players in the Club.

Members of the Red Team were: Gary Vietsch, Bob Arnott, Tom Arnott, Mark Buck, Mike Holmes, Dave Hendrickson, Mike Lemes, Johnny King, Bruno McLean, and George McPheeters, and was coached by Tom Connor, who was recuperating from knee surgery. This team showed plenty of hustle and desire, and these players will all be heard from in the future because of the experience they gained from this tournament.

The White Team opened the tournament by defeating the "Wine Cellar" Team from Stockton, Calif. This team, the weekend before, had won the A.A.U. Masters Championship. It was a good match for us because on Thursday we faced the Kenneth Allen Team from Chicago (who eventually took third place) in a very exciting three-game match in which the Outrigger came out on top. This match was particularly important one for us, and all the players performed very effectively. Tony Crabb was exceptionally outstanding in this match with his tremendous blocking and spiking. Also Paul MacLaughlin did some fine hitting, along with Chris Crabb. Tommy Haine and Mike McMahon made some good defensive plays in the back court, and Colin Chock and Jon Haneberg were very effective with their blocking.

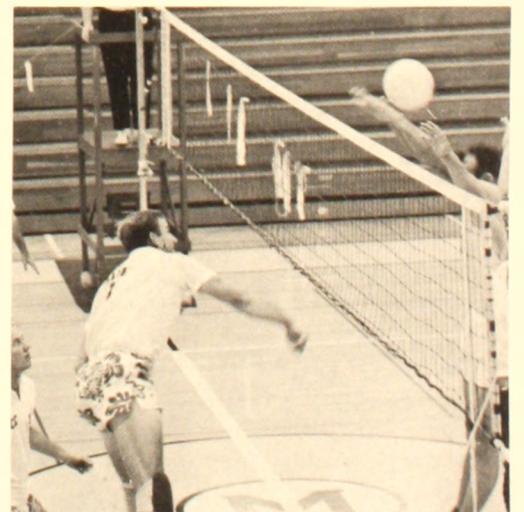
On Friday we faced again "The Chart House" of San Diego, and this team, composed entirely of former Olympic and Pan American team members, was the eventual winner of the tournament. "The Chart House" used a very fast offensive system as employed by the Japanese and have a truly outstanding setter in a boy from Japan named Toshi Toyota. The Outrigger gave this team a truly hard-fought battle and actually was ahead in the early parts of both games,

but were overtaken and beaten in two close games. Tony Crabb again was outstanding, and brother Chris, Tom Haine, Mike McMahon, Paul MacLaughlin, Colin Chock, Jon Haneberg, and Freddie Hiapo all gave fine performances in a losing cause.

We then dropped into the loser's bracket and played a team from Portland, Oregon, coached by and playing against us was Carl McGowan, a former Outrigger player. The Outrigger defeated this team in two games with superior blocking and spiking. At around midnight, Friday, we played our next match against the newly crowned Collegiate Champions, the U.C.L.A. Bruins, one of the finest young teams in the country. It had been a long and tiring day for some team members, especially Tom Haine, Colin Chock and Bill Baird, because they were competing also in the Masters Division. The U.C.L.A. team was really fired-up and defeated us in two games but not without a struggle. Tony and Chris Crabb were doing their best to keep us in the tournament and got help from Mike McMahon, Paul MacLaughlin, Jon Haneberg, and Fred Hiapo but just couldn't put down the fired-up Bruins. So the Outrigger finished in a tie for seventh place in the Open out of a field of sixty teams.

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Photos: Ron Haworth



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The Outrigger Masters Team finished in fourth place in a truly outstanding Masters' field. The Masters advanced to the semi-finals of the winners' bracket only to be defeated by the eventual second place finisher, Long Beach, Calif. In the losers' bracket, the Masters had a tough time and lost to the "Wind-jammers" of Los Angeles, Calif. The Masters Team was composed of **Bill Baird, Ron Sorrell, Al Lemes, Tom Haine, Bill Heilbron, Jere Smith, Colin Chock, Roger Clissold, and Fred Noa.**

At the conclusion of the final match of the championships, a team was selected to tryout for the forthcoming World Games in Bulgaria in September. The Outrigger placed two men on this tryout team, **Tony Crabb** and **Jon Haneberg**. Also an Outrigger member, **Dodge Parker**, was selected for his play with the Long Beach State College team. We are all mighty proud of Tony and Jon, and sincerely wish them the best in the tryouts. Also the Outrigger gained one more honor in that member, **Virginia Vandling**, playing for the Nuuanu "Y" girls' team, was named to the tournament's "Rookie Team," an honor she truly deserved.

So, with the season over and many memories to talk about, this writer would like to thank the Board of Directors, and all the members, who faithfully supported us during the year. It was a real pleasure to represent the Outrigger. Also, it is hoped that all the younger players will keep on playing and working so they can keep the Outrigger Canoe Club among the nation's volleyball powers.