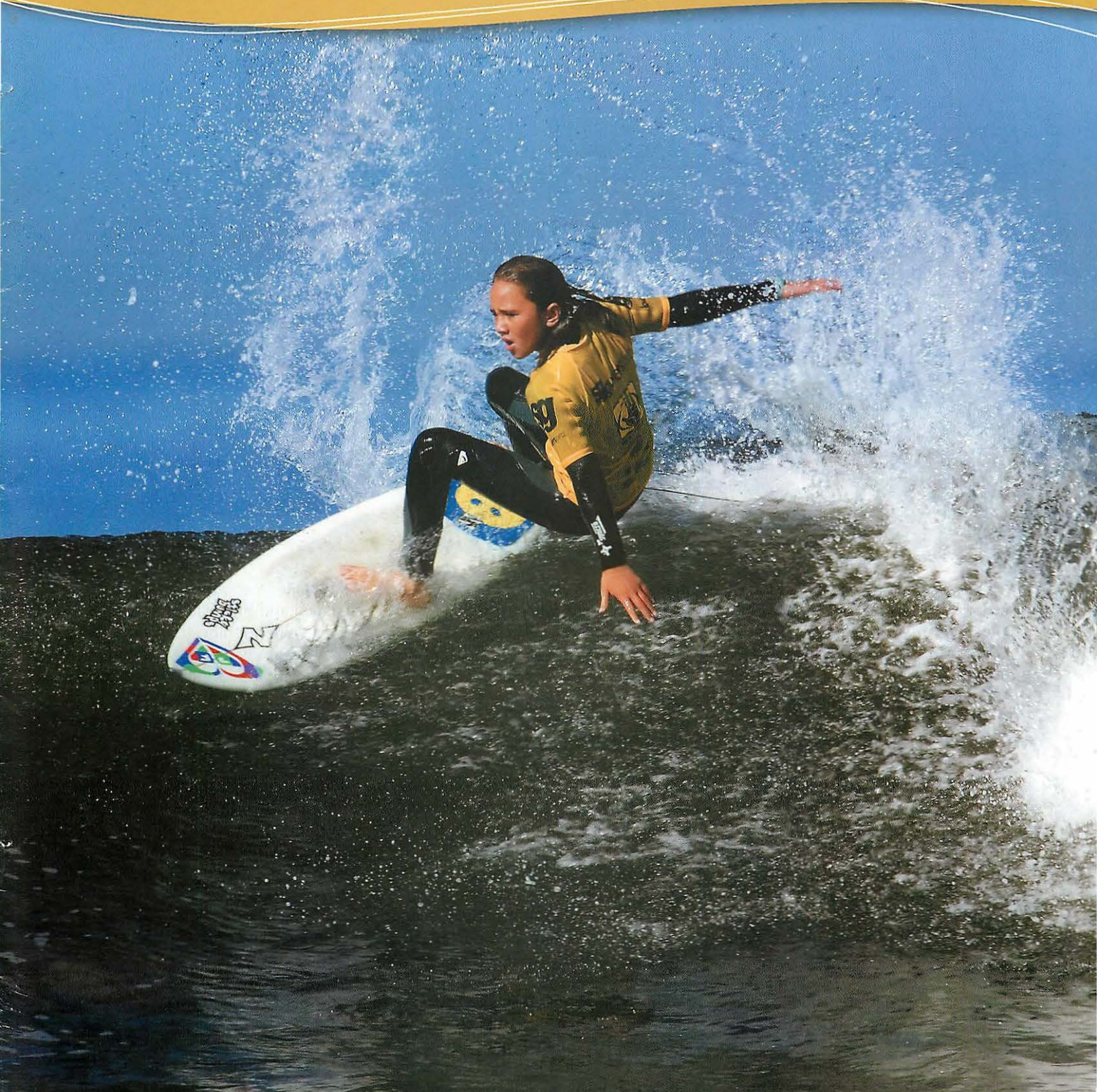
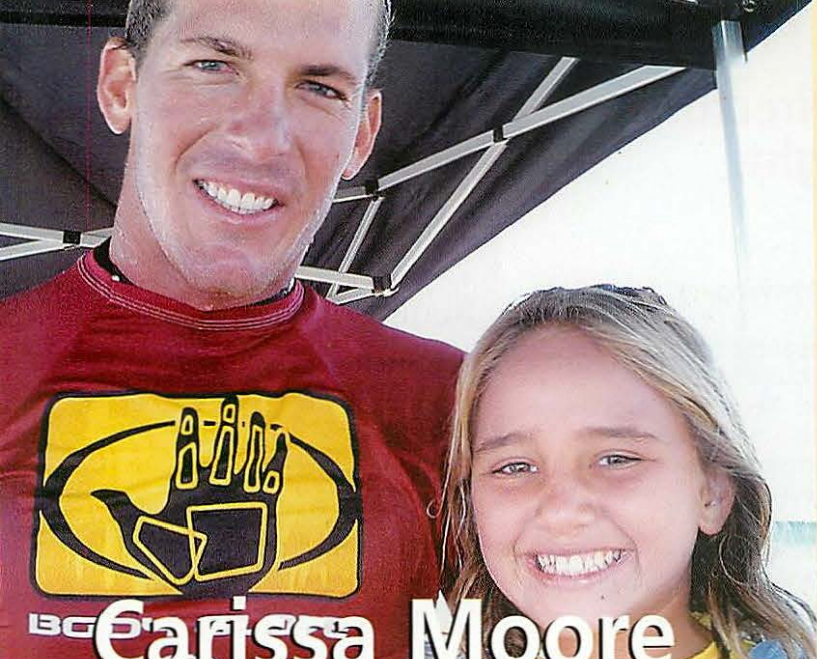


the Outrigger



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Carissa Moore Surfs Into History

Outrigger surf team member, Carissa Moore, 11, recently competed in the Bodyglove Surfboat, a professional surfing event which is part of the World Qualifying Series, in San Clemente, California on April 20-24, 2004, as well as the National Scholastic Surfing Association's (NSSA) National Championships in late June, also at San Clemente.

Both events turned into record-breaking performances for Carissa.

As the youngest competitor in each event, Carissa made it to the finals of the women's open division of the Bodyglove pro event, and she was awarded the Governor's Cup as the outstanding female surfer in the NSSA championships as she captured three championships: the open women's, middle school girls and explorer women.

She was the first woman ever to win three NSSA championships.

Carissa and her dad Chris Moore flew into Los Angeles two days before the Bodyglove event began to get some practice before the event. "One problem with surfing Trestles is the crowd," Chris said. "The peak is usually congested with other surfers and when you're an 11-year-old girl, a wave to yourself is hard to come by, especially when some of the best surfers in the world are in town."

One way to handle the crowd was to wake up early. "On the second day of the trip we woke up at 2 a.m. (Hawaiian

Time) so we could beat the crowd. And that we did. Of course uncrowded Trestles can still be a challenge at 5:30 a.m. because it's freezing, even in a full wetsuit," he added.

Carissa's first heat was held on Thursday. A small northwest swell was making for slow mushy rights but the lefts were walling up better. Carissa controlled much of her heat and took advantage of the few rights that lined up by making several radical top turns, floaters and cutbacks.

The women's quarter-finals were held early on Saturday, the final day of the contest. The surf was head high, from a more favorable southerly direction, and with light winds it was perfect for Carissa. The rest of the pros didn't seem to mind either.

Carissa started her heat off slowly, and trailed through most of the heat before finding a good scoring left in the final four minutes to advance.

Her semi-final was tough as both 2004 NSSA National Women's Champions were in the heat in addition to one of California's top pros.

Carissa and Chris sat down before the heat and decided for her to advance she was going to have to go for it and take some chances. Carissa did just that. On her first wave, Carissa made three consecutive straight up off-the-lips, on the last one disappearing briefly in the whitewater to the delight of the crowd.

Carissa led through most of the heat and was helped by Mother Nature as the waves disappeared in the final minutes of the heat. Her heat win put her in the final, and set a record for the youngest competitor, male or female, to advance to an Association of Surfing Professionals final. At 11 she's the youngest by three years!

One bonus of surfing on the final day of the contest was that Carissa got to watch some of the world's best male surfers. Immediately after Carissa's semi final, Andy Irons, Rob Machado and Tom Curren took to the water to decide who was going to advance to the men's final.

For Carissa's final, the pressure was off. It was time for her to have some fun! One of Carissa's goals was to pull a front side 360 in a contest before the NSSA Nationals. Her strategy was to get two solid scoring waves before she attempted the move.

That strategy went out the window on her first wave. After making a big forehand snap, she went straight into her first successful contest 360, then straight for a few more solid moves which placed her into the lead.

Midway through the final, Julia Christian, a competitor on last year's World Championship Tour, took the lead by surfing a few strong rights. With less than a minute to go Carissa had one last chance but the wave didn't stand up long enough for her to get the score she needed to overtake Julia. She did manage to pull another 360 at the end of her ride as the horn sounded.

Carissa then got to relax and watch Andy Irons win the men's division in a close heat over California's Rob Machado. When Andy got in, Carissa got to take a picture in their contest jerseys before the awards ceremony. Something I'm sure she'll never forget.


Then during the last weekend of June, Carissa entered the NSSA Championships which were also held at Trestles. This is considered the most prestigious event in the country for student surfers.

Carissa was the youngest in the open women's division, which is open to contestants through high school and college age. She scored 8.5 (out of 10 points) and 7.5 on her rides to beat 23 others in that division.

Carissa also placed third in the middle school Longboard Division, meaning she surfed in four final NSSA heats.

Congratulations to Carissa for continuing Outrigger's legacy of outstanding surfers.

Photo Top: Andy Irons and Carissa Moore at Body Glove contest



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