

# the Outrigger

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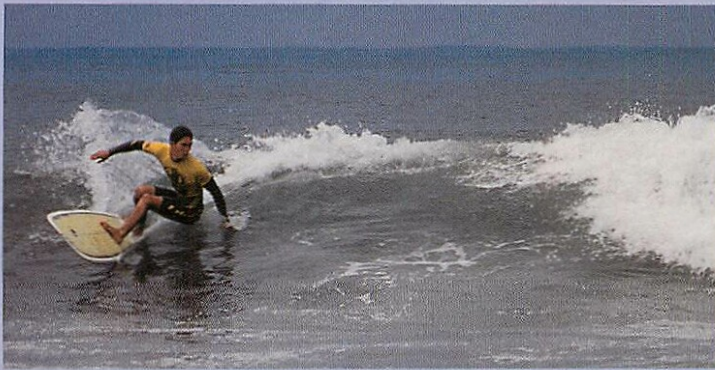
# Keegan Edwards and Geodee Clark: Outstanding Male and Female Surfers for 2001

By Terri Needles

The Surfing Committee is pleased to announce that Keegan Edwards and Geodee Clark have been given the awards for the Outstanding Female and Male Surfers of the Year.

Keegan extended his wins to the national arena, where he took first place in the National Amateur Surfing Championships sponsored by the United States Surfing Federation (USSF) and the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA). Keegan, 19, earned an invitation to the USSF Nationals by winning the 2001 Hawaii Amateur Surfing Association (HASA) state competition in the Men's Longboard Division. He earned an invitation to the NSSA Championship by placing third in the regional contest in the Explorer Longboard Division.

The NSSA championships were held in June at the surf spot known as "Trestles" in Southern California, in 2-3-foot waves. Keegan battled his way through four heats before triumphing overall. He was the only competitor in the finals from Hawaii.



Keegan Edwards

The USSF nationals were held in July at the surf spot known as "North Jetty" at the Oceanside Harbor in Southern California, in 3-4-foot waves. He fought long and hard to get to the finals, as he initially did not make it out of his first heat in the Men's Longboard Division.

He then switched to the Open Men's Longboard category, which is considered to have the toughest competition. This division was composed of 32 regional winners. After progressing through four heats and outsurfing finalists from Kauai, California, and South Carolina, he was finally proclaimed National Champion.

After taking the top honors at the national amateur level, Keegan has decided to continue to challenge himself by turning professional. He plans to surf the Longboard World Professional Circuit and various professional longboard competitions.

He traveled to Puerto Escondido, Mexico, in September for the Longboard Professional Tube riding Contest, and he is entered in the Haleiwa "Bear" Invitational Professional Contest in the fall.

He is currently competing in the Pro division of the Steinlager Longboard Series, here in Hawaii. He placed fourth in the first event, held at Queen's Beach, and he earned an impressive second place in the second event, held at Kewalo's. While in California for the nationals, he competed in the U.S. Open/Huntington Beach Pro and took ninth.

It is clear that Keegan is more than ready for the Professional Circuit after his incredible national championships and multiple wins at the Pro level. We wish Keegan the best as he takes on his goal of being World Champion!

Geodee, an athletic 13-year-old, is an eighth grader at The Kamehameha Schools and has competed and placed in many prestigious local surfing meets. In China Uemura's Annual Wahine Surfing Classic, Geodee has captured first in Menchune Longboard for five consecutive years; she won Rell Sunn's Menchune Surfing Championship for Girls 10-12 years Longboard for three consecutive years and the North Shore Menchune Surfing Championships in her age division for four consecutive years.

She finds it a challenge to compete with older surfers and placed fourth in the 2000-2001 Hawaii Amateur Surfing Association (HASA) State Championship held

this past June in the Girls 17-years-and-under division.

Geodee also competed in the Hawaii Longboard Federation (HLF) for her second year in the Girls 19 years and under and has consistently made the finals and placed in the top six.

Geodee Clark has a lot of "surfing roots" in her 'ohana. Her favorite surfing spot is Queen's Surf. It was also the favorite spot of her great-grandfather, renowned Hawaiian musician Daniel Poepoe, a former Outrigger Canoe Club member; her grandfather Charlie Brown, a well-known Waikiki Beach boy and a standout volleyball setter; and her uncle Kimo Brown, OCC paddler and Volleyball All American.

Her sister Maka'ala is an OCC member along with her cousins Kale, Kaleinani, Keoni Kowalski, Danlynn and Kapono Brown, Keala and Kahikolu Brown, who are tennis and volleyball players, canoe paddlers and surfers, too.

Her mother Dede, father George, sisters Anuhe and Maka'ala and ohana can be found surfing at Queen's on weekends and holidays. At 5 a.m. on weekday mornings, Geodee can be seen catching waves with her dad at Queen's, Canoes, Pops, or Paradise. When the surf's up, Geodee's there!

Academically, Geodee earned a GPA of 3.6; is a member of Kilohana Volleyball Club and enjoys tennis, body boarding, skate boarding and canoe paddling. She also plays the ukulele and her great-grandfather's upright bass instrument.

Geodee admits that it is difficult to concentrate on her studies when she can see the high surf from The Kamehameha Schools campus.

Geodee's idol is Rell Sunn because she was always helping young surfers improve their surfing techniques and encouraging them to be the best they can be. Geodee's immediate goals are to paddle canoe and play volleyball in the junior girls divisions to help promote the Club. She said, "I'm grateful for all the support that the Club has shared with me. I'm proud to be a member of the Outrigger Canoe Club."

Congratulations, we are so proud of you, Geodee!!



Geodee Clark

## State Championships

Several OCC Surf Team members were invited to participate in the Hawaii Amateur Surfing Association State Championships, held in June 2001 at various south-shore breaks. Keegan Edwards, Geodee Clark, and Amy Lawson qualified for the State invitational on the basis of their consistent wins in the monthly HASA meets. Keegan Edwards placed first in the Men's Longboard Division; Amy Lawson placed second in the Longboard Girls Division; and Geodee Clark placed 4th in the 17 and under Girls Division. Way to go!

OCC surfers continued their winning streaks in the 3rd Annual Christian Surfing Competition, held July 21-22 at Queen's surf break. Geodee Clark placed first in both the Short and Longboard Girls 11-14 year old divisions. Amy Lawson placed second in the Short board Girls 11-14 division and third in the Longboard Girls 11-14 division. Carissa Moore placed third in both the Short and Longboard Peewee 10 & under divisions (boys and girls combined). Congratulations on all the wins!

*On the Cover: OCC's Keegan Edwards won the National Amateur Surfing Championship and the National Scholastic Surfing Association Championship this summer. See story on page 8. Photo by Joss. [www.hawaiiphotosessions.com](http://www.hawaiiphotosessions.com)*