Water Polo on Surfboards?

By Doug Jocelyn

With the recent announcement that the Club is forming a Water Polo team, some of our real oldtimers may be asking whether they will be playing on surfboards.

Surfboards?

Right, surfboards. In his Oral History interview in February of 1979, long-time Club member Albert E. "Toots" Minvielle, Jr. tells of water polo matches on surfboards being played in front of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in the mid-twenties.

It was the Outrigger Canoe Club versus their old rivals, Hui Nalu.

The game was similar to regular water polo, according to Toots, with six men and a goal keeper on a side. The ball was the size of a regular water polo ball which the players would toss back and forth as they paddled about.