

Jensens do OCC proud in 14th Annual Billfish Tournament

Contributed by Peggy Field

This year's Outrigger Canoe Club representatives in the 14th Annual Billfish Tournament at Kailua-Kona, Mardi and Ed Jensen and their son, turned out to be as strong a competitive deep sea fishing team as any club could want.

On Monday, August 7, at 8 a.m., 59 boats manned by fishing teams from all over the world put out to sea to begin one of the most exciting tournaments of the past several years. By 9:30 that morning, Ed Jensen got his first strike . . . a fighting 133-lb. ahi. With good team work, the Jensens had him gaffed within 12 minutes, exceptionally fast time for a big tuna. Thus Ed racked up 266 points in the ahi division for the OCC.

Tuesday was a wipeout; no action. But on Wednesday Mardi Jensen, a veteran deep sea fisherwoman, exhibited her skill by boating a 164-lb. marlin in 23 action-packed minutes,

giving our Club another 328 points to move the OCC into 18th place.

On the fourth day of the meet, the Jensens caught a "his" and "hers" marlin, both on the 50-pound test line which they used exclusively throughout the tournament. The fighting time on each of the big fish—148 and 139 pounds respectively—was 55 minutes, and together they added 574 points to the Club's score.

At the Awards Banquet on Saturday, August 12, the Jensens received individual trophies for the three marlin they had caught, while Mardi Jensen received the award for Highest Individual Woman's Score.

Final official standings showed the Outrigger Club in 5th place in the marlin division—59 teams competing, while Ed Jensen held 4th place in a field of 235 in the ahi division, and Mardi Jensen placed first in the woman's division against a field of 20.



Mardi and Ed Jensen with "His" and "Her" marlin