

Athlete of the Month

Travis Grant

By Amy Lawson

It would be completely ridiculous to have a column that highlights some of Outrigger's best athletes without featuring Travis Grant. Travis is very likely the best all-around paddler in the world right now, and has been for a couple of years.

What makes him the best? Well, he has won three Molokai 2 Oahu ("M20") Standup World Championships. He started his string of impressive victories in 2013, when he won his first M20 SUP title. In 2015, he claimed his second world title after finishing in second place in 2014. And in 2017, he claimed his third world title (after another second-place finish in 2016). Three-time world champ? That's impressive.

But that is not where it stops for Travis. In 2016, he won the Pa'a Kaiwi Channel Solo, becoming the only person in history to win both the M20 (SUP solo) and the Pa'a Kaiwi Channel (OC-1 solo). He won his OC-1 solo in a year when most of the elite one-manners in the world showed up in top shape; and he beat not one, but two Tahitians on his way to victory (they finished second and third).

Wait--we're still not done!

In July of 2017, Travis did the unthinkable on a SUP. He broke the four-hour barrier on his way to winning his third M20 world title. His time for the 32-mile race was 3:59:52, and he obliterated the previous world record held by Kai Lenny by almost eight minutes.



Travis Grant with wife, Blair, and son, Hugo.

What is even crazier is that Travis was actually in second place with less than a mile remaining in the race. Drawing internal strength from the thought of his new son Hugo (born in late 2016), Travis channeled (pun intended) his superpowers and put an incredible four-minute gap on runner-up Connor Baxter on his way to the finish.**

As he should, Travis credits his successes to his amazing, wonderful, beautiful wife, Blair (also a phenomenal paddler), and his son Hugo. Congratulations to the Grant family, and we cannot wait to see Hugo paddling for Outrigger's Boys 12's crew in 2026.

**For those of you that don't know, the finish of the M20 is perhaps the most grueling part of the race. It has been known to make grown men cry. After paddling 31 miles across the channel, the bodies of SUP racers become like sails (catching the wind going the wrong direction!) as racers attempt to paddle the last few miles upwind to the finish at Maunalua Bay.

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