

Volleyball News

Junior 'Riggers Win AVP First Event



Gold medal winners Cassidy Chun and Emi Erickson.

Outrigger's junior girls competed in the AVP First event in June and took Gold in the 14's, 16's and 18's division. Cassidy Chun and Emi Erickson won the 14's, Alyssa Muraoka and Tayli Ikenaga won the 16's and Cecelia Fenton and Kamalani Kekoolani won the 18's division.

OCC sent five teams to the mainland to compete in the AAU Junior Olympics and the BVCA Invitational both in Hermosa Beach in July.

The OCC boys took Gold and Silver in the same tournament in the 14's Division with

Aidan Tune and Xander Pink taking the title and Teke Bower and Keegan Ah Yuen taking second.

OCC sent three teams to the mainland to compete in the AVP First Championships in Hermosa in July. Noa Haine, Riley Haine, Aidan Tune, Xander Pink and Luke Biondi were among the juniors traveling.

Members Nikki Taylor and James Ka won the local AVP Next bid to play directly into the main draw of the Manhattan Beach Open in August. With their partners, they had the best finishes in the four local events here and get to play among the pros in the most coveted event of the beach season.

Member Taylor Crabb won his third AVP Title with partner Jake Gibb at the Seattle AVP Tournament. Taylor and Jake beat Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena in the finals. Phil and Nick are currently the number one team in the world and won the last two events.

Taylor Crabb has been to the finals of all three of the AVP events so far in 2018 and this was his first break through for the title. Members Riley McKibbin, Maddison McKibbin and James Ka all competed in the AVP as well, with the McKibbin Brothers battling out of a tough qualifier and getting a ninth overall.

The Outrigger Boys 18s traveled to the USA Boy's Junior National Championships in Phoenix, Arizona last month to compete in the 18

Open division which is the highest level of junior volleyball in the country.

Outrigger's presence in the Open division restores a proud history of the Club with USA Volleyball. Several generations of Outrigger athletes have competed in the Open division and the Club was always known as a force.

Because of the success of the 18s team, the Committee intends to field at least three more teams next season. There are also possibilities of more teams but the Volleyball Committee intends to move strategically in its expansion.

The Volleyball Committee hosted the USA Men's Olympic team for a dinner on July 23.. The team was in Hawaii for a week at the end of July culminating in two intra-squad scrimmages on July 27 and 28. There are five Outrigger members on the training team including Erik and Kawika Shoji, Micah Christensen, Larry Tuileta and Micah Maa.

Reading 'Riggers

By Gerry DeBenedetti

All members are invited to join the Senior 'Riggers Book Club which meets on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Duke Room. Guests are welcome.

All books are available at the Hawaii State Public Library.

For more information contact Gerry DeBenedetti at gerthebear@hawaiiintel.net.

Books to be discussed over the next few months are:

August 3: *The Heart of Being Hawaiian* by Sally-Jo Keala-o-Anuenue Bowman. The presenter will be Kaili Chun.

September 7: *Lord of the Haao Rain* by Irving Jenkins. The author will be present.

October 5: *Remembering Shanghai: A Memoir of Socialites, Scholars and Scoundrels* by Isabel and Claire Chao. The authors will be present.

November 2: *Curve of the Hook* by Yoshihiko Sinto. The presenter will be Eric Komori of Bishop Museum.

December 7: *Kauai Kids in Peace and War, Hawaii in War and Peace and Rainbows Over Kapa'a* by OCC member Bill Fernandez. The author will be present.