



Carissa Moore

# Jr. 'Riggers

By Jim Gaddis

Punahou freshman Carissa Moore looks more like a young princess than a royal queen. But the 14-year-old wave-riding Carissa may soon be labeled 'Queen-of-the-Surf'. This follows another sensational summer of carving radical lines in every wave she challenged.

This column is reserved for exceptional high school scholar-athletes and Carissa is the most decorated competitor in the history of the National Scholastic Surfing Association. Carissa has been a student at Punahou since she was in kindergarten. She was a student of her father's surfing lessons before that. Carissa excels in the classroom but has admitted to being a touch nervous about walking the grounds as a freshman. She is as serious about her studies as she is with her surfing.

There doesn't appear to be a "nervous" problem in the water for Carissa who has recorded nine NSSA National titles, winning three divisions this summer alone. There were more than 1,000 student competitors. Carissa's nine titles rank her number one all-time as a record holder. . . and she is only 14!

Carissa's dad, Chris, put her on a surfboard when she was just a baby. She puts in 12 to 14 hours a week in the water. You might call it "surfwork". Carissa has probably discovered that she now has another 10 hours of homework each week. So while football players, volleyballers, cross-country runners, swimmers and other high school prepsters head for practice before and after school, Carissa is on the lookout for waves.

On August 8, Carissa entered the 5th Stop of the Rip Curl Grom Search Surf Meet at Kewalo Basin. The surf was a solid 4-6 feet. When Carissa paddled out for her first heat, she was the only female in the water. In fact, Carissa was the first female ever to compete against the boys in this contest series.

She ripped her way to the finals where she caught the biggest wave of the day and shredded it with mind-boggling maneuvers. Carissa scored an incredible 9.5, winning the Boys 14-under event. The crowd loved it and so did Carissa. She said it was an honor to surf against all the boys and thanked them for allowing her to compete against them.

The Outrigger Canoe Club applauds Carissa's accomplishments. We know she will continue to excel in both the classroom and in the world of surfing. It won't be long before Carissa joins the world of professional surfing where OCC members will follow her career with keen interest.

We're a water sports club full of avid surfers and paddlers who will wholeheartedly support Carissa as huge fans. Congratulations on a remarkable summer Carissa and thank you for honoring us as an exceptional Outrigger Canoe Club Scholar-Athlete.

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