

Volleyball



Here are Coach John Lowell's statements concerning the Nationals and the A.A.U. playoffs held in April in Detroit. The last issue of the FORECAST carried the results and some side lines but here are the coach's very own words regarding the team and its outstanding performance.

Our team journeyed to Detroit on April 28 to play in the National A.A.U. Volleyball Championships. In this tournament we played Fresno, Olympic Club of San Francisco and finally beat West Side Jewish Center of Los Angeles in a double final to win the National A.A.U. Championship. This was the first Hawaiian team ever to win a National A.A.U. team title. Needless to say, we were all very happy. Particularly outstanding in this tournament were our young players i.e., Dodge Parker and Mike Holmes. They both showed that they have "arrived" as national level players.

Three days later we played in the U.S.V.B.A. Championships and met Fresno (the eventual winner) in our second match, we lost in three very close games thus entering the losers' bracket. In a tournament with 36 teams, this meant playing long and often to reach the title. We won five more matches before losing another three-game thriller to Los Angeles Y.M.C.A. Our final standing was fifth in this tournament.

We proved that our team could play and defeat any team of normal size. However, it is obvious that volleyball is now a game of giants and we must get some big players if we hope to win consistently on a national level. The very fact that we were able to beat the top two teams while playing in the A.A.U. tournament in spite of our lack of size shows how brilliantly our players performed.

Honors won by the team this year:

1. Hawaii State Champions
2. National A.A.U. Champions
3. Tom Haine and Pedro Velasco selected to the Pan American Games Squad. Velasco, First Team All-American; Haine, Honorable Mention
4. Coach John Lowell appointed manager of the Pan American Games Team
5. Carl McGown selected by the State Department to study volleyball in Poland this summer

In conclusion, I would like to say that this is a team the Club can well be proud of. It is our first National Champions. Also, I want to go on record as saying the men on the team were outstanding examples of all that the Outrigger Club stands for in good sportsmanship and giving their all to the team. I am proud to have been able to coach them.