

OCC Girls Win State Championship

By Bill Johnson

The OCC girls volleyball team recently won the USAV State 16s Championship at McKinley High School. Competing against 10 other teams statewide, they lost only one game en route to the playoffs where they beat the Asics Rainbow volleyball team in the final match two games to none.

After two weeks of intensive training, the girls departed for Northern California where they competed in the Kaepa Volleyball Festival, the largest women's sporting event in America consisting of 800 teams and more than 8,000 girls between the ages of 12 and 18.

Participating in the largest division, the girls 16s, the OCC team competed for five days, playing at least three matches per day. They played a total of 16 matches, winning 13 and losing only three. They finished 21st out of 340 teams.

Their most exciting match was against a huge Nevada Jr.'s team (four girls over 6'1"), the 10th seed of the tournament, where we took them to a double final. Matching our ball handling against their hitting and blocking provided a spirited competition of six games where the Nevada team eked out a win in the double final.

Our successful trip to California capped a wonderful inaugural season highlighted by a high finish at the Las Vegas Invitational in February, a second place finish in the Women's B at the Haili Tournament in March and winning the State's in June.

This group of hard working athletes included Kia Ostrem, setter; Lesley Johnson, Brandy Mailer, Annie Rosa, middle blockers; Mahealani Lum, Marisa Whalen, Amy Gamble, Kiana Henry, outside hitters; and BJ Yoshino and Reiko Schoenfeld, opposite hitters.

The team was guided patiently and effectively throughout the long season by Coach Kisi Haine who had to sacrifice many paddling and personal activities for the volleyball court.

We want to extend a big mahalo to team moms Rosie Lum who watched over the girls and gave them late night massages in the dorms at the Kaepa tournament and Maile Ostrem who washed and washed team uniforms late into the night, and Team Dad Bill Johnson who chauffeured the team around

the greater Sacramento area and only got lost three times.

We also want to thank the other family members for their season long support with fundraising, potlucks and cheering at the games.

And finally, all the girls and their families would like to thank the Club for their financial support and especially thank the following individuals who continuously supported us all season long—John Rader, Stevie and Ron Li, Doug Ostrem and godfather Dennis Berg. ☺

*Photo by Maile Ostrem
The Girls 16s waiting to enter opening ceremonies at Davis Festival—Amy Gamble, Brandy Mailer, Mekia Ostrem, Annie Rosa, Mahealani Lum, Lesley Johnson, Marisa Whalen, BJ Yoshino, Bill Johnson and Kisi Haine.*

