

OCC Junior Volleyball

By Jane Carney

There are few people who would actually look forward to going to Phoenix in July, but the OCC Junior Boys Volleyball players can hardly wait to get there. The 13's, 14's, 17's and 18's boys teams will be competing in the USA Junior Volleyball Championship Tournament in Phoenix from July 4th to July 9th.

Each team has been having weekly practices and competing in numerous local tournaments in preparation for their trip.

Boys 18

The Boys 18's team has consistently won or placed high in all men's local tournaments entered since February of this year. All team members were starters from their respective high schools and five players were members of the All-State First Team.

The 18's team recently took first place in the A/AA Regional Tournament.

The 18's coaches are Peter Balding Jr. and Alike Williams.

Team roster: Aka Beaumont, Arist deWolff, Kaimi Guerreiro, Justin Harris, Gary Johnson, Paul Kometani, Daniel Lam, Tamahere McCabe, Will Reppun, Kaione Scott, Clint Torres, Kekane Yuen, Brian Zodrow.

Boys 17

The Boys 17's team has been a top finisher in the Men's BB division tournaments since February and is made up of mostly varsity and JV players from several ILH and OIA schools. They placed second in the BB regional tournament held in Honolulu in mid-May.

The 17's coaches are Jim Kalaukoa and Charlie Jenkins.

Team roster: Ian Alexander, Patrick Alexander, Pono Brown, Sean Carney, Max deWolff, John Freese, Nate Jenkins, Zander Schneider, Brett Service, Bronson Soares, Matt Yep, Ryan Zabriskie.

Boys 14

The Boys 14's team has performed well in the tournaments locally and has been practicing since December. The majority of the players were on last year's Junior Olympic team and bring a lot of experience to this year's tournament.

The 14's coaches are Mike Cote and Dave Shoji.

Team roster: Eric Abbott, Kaohu Berg, Kyle Bischoff, Mikey Cote, Daniel Ledesma, Stanley Nihipali, Kawika Shoji, Chris Tumaneng, T.J. Zabriskie.

Boys 13

The Boys 13's team has several members returning from the 12's team that placed second at the Junior Nationals in Reno last summer. They also have performed well this season in local tournaments and continue to improve.

The 13's coach is Peter Ehrman.

Team roster: Trey Balding, Matthew Brown, William Ehrman, Jordan Inafuku, Jacob Jenkins, Austin Kino, Riley McKibbin, Spencer McLachlin, David Pershin, Eric Shoji.

Participation in the Junior Volleyball program was summed up by 17's Coach Jimmy Kalaukoa: "It's great to see these young players improve over the years and eventually become some of the best in the state...to know that you've had a part in teaching them not only how to be good volleyball players, but also fine young men. It's that moment of 'aha' when they finally get it that makes all of the hours of practice worth it."

Good luck to all of the players and coaches in the JO's, and mahalo to OCC for supporting these young athletes in fulfilling their dreams.



Junior volleyballers will head to Junior Olympics in Phoenix this month.