

# Trojans Spike 'Bows; OCC Wins Tourney

By Cindy Luis  
Star-Bulletin Writer

Owen McKibbin doesn't like to lose. With his composed court presence, you wonder if the 18-year-old even knows how to do it.

While at Punahou School, McKibbin and his Buffanblu teammates won two straight State volleyball championships. Last night, he and his Southern California courtmates dropped two straight games only to rally in the final three to defeat the University of Hawaii, 9-15, 11-15, 16-14, 15-8, 15-10, in the league opener for both teams at Klum Gym.

"No way. I never thought we'd lose even after losing the first two," said the 6-foot-1 freshman outside hitter. "We like to play in clutch situations. We do it in practice so we can apply it to game situations. It was nice to come home this way."

THE CROWD OF 800-PLUS who stayed through Outrigger Canoe Club's win over Waseda University in the first game of the Bud Light Classic's final night didn't give McKibbin such a warm welcome, however. After spiking one over 6-3 UH freshman Pono Maa's block in the middle of the fifth game, McKibbin started celebrating a little too enthusiastically for the pro-UH crowd's taste. But it didn't bother him in the least.

"Actually it got me fired up when the crowd started booing," the Trojan rookie said. "It was the first time I've started this year and I was already pretty high from that. When the crowd starts getting behind the other team, it just makes me want to beat them even more."

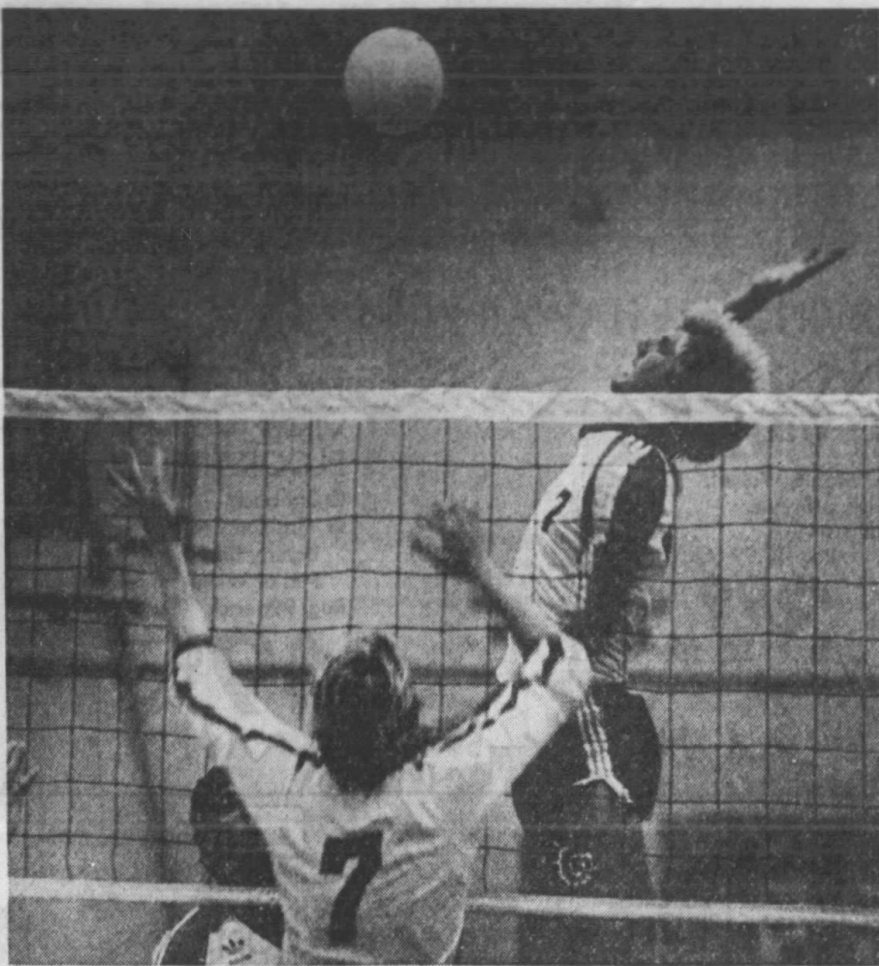
McKibbin had help in battering the 'Bows from the unstoppable Bill Yardley (22 kills), Doug Killian (20 kills) and Steve Rottman, who came up with seven of his 18 spikes in the final set, including the one that gave SC match point at 14-10.

But the Trojans didn't do it all on their own; they got a lot of help from an error-prone Rainbow squad which "just lost our composure," according to UH Coach Dave Shoji.

"Our defense broke down in the backcourt and we spent the last two games watching SC play volleyball," he said. "We had them and lost control. That's one problem we need to overcome."

IT APPEARED THE 'BOWS had overcome all their problems in the first two games and most of the third. With UH running its offense well, especially on "X" plays where the first hitter fakes and the second makes the hit, the 'Bows crossed up the Trojans impressively.

After allowing SC to take a 12-9 lead in



**HIGH FIVE**—Hawaii's Brad Peirce goes up for a kill against Wes Welch (7) of USC in last night's Klum Gym volleyball match, won by the Trojans in a five-game struggle.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Dean Sensui.

Game 3, UH got kills from Brad Peirce and Maa and three from John Hanley to give Aukai Gonsalves a chance to serve the "aloha" ball at 14-12. But, reminiscent of last year's regional finals which saw the 'Bows eliminated by a Trojan rally in the fourth and fifth games, SC pulled out another comeback win behind spikes by Yardley and a game-winning block by Rudy Dvorak.

"We just couldn't find the right combination," admitted Shoji, who got encouraging outings from freshmen Maa and starter Bill Via. "We just haven't found the right balance yet and we need work in our passing. Our backrow play is what lost us the game."

Shoji hopes to have his lineup a little more stable tomorrow night in the 7:30 rematch at Klum, which may mean more action for All-American Tom Pestolesi. The 6-2 senior hitter, out with an injured shoulder the past two weeks, was rusty but showed signs of returning quickly to form with six kills in limited playing time.

Hanley led all UH players in spikes with 24, followed by Peirce's 21 and Jamie Plummer's 18.

IN THE OPENING game of the night, OCC defeated a tiring Waseda team, 15-10, 11-15, 15-8, 15-9, to win the tourney title with a 2-1 mark. SC also finished 2-1 but OCC had a higher win-percentage.

It was 7-all in the fourth game when an OCC non-starter leaned back in his seat with a smile and said, "We're going to win this one."

Sure enough, a left-handed slam by Randy Shaw, a spike by Mike Cote and a block by Shaw and Cote gave OCC a 13-9 lead. All that was left was for Marc Haine to hammer home the final two points for the match win.

When being congratulated on a good game, Haine replied, "And the best part is we won." OCC did it behind Cote's 20 kills, 15 by Anderson and another good showing by the Rigg brothers Mark (12 kills) and Matt (10).