

Defending champions have easy time in Haili

By Hugh Clark

Advertiser Big Island Bureau

HILO — The defending champion men of Outrigger Canoe Club and women from University of Hawaii-Manoa each earned two convincing victories last night in their opening activity in the 25th Haili Easter Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

Today, the fifth day of the 158-match volleyball tournament, there will be play at five courts in four Hilo area gymnasiums. Matches begin at 8:30 a.m. and will run late into the evening.

The women's open teams will be at the UH-Hilo Sports Complex, and the novice women will be on the two courts at Hilo Civic this morning before the open men's matches start in early afternoon.

Novice men's matches will be played at Pihonua Gym and the men's novice and open clubs will share playing time at Hilo Armory.

The Wahines of Manoa beat A-1 Roofing of Honolulu, 15-5, 15-2, and then returned to defeat Kuuipos of Oahu, 15-0, 15-3.

That set up two outstanding women's matches for this morning at UH-Hilo.

Mid Pacific, a team comprised of past and present UHH Vulcans, will take on the Polynesian Cultural Center at 8:30 a.m. in one winners bracket match.

Then the Volley Girls, a team of UHH players, will challenge the Wahines at 10 a.m. in what might be a preview of tomorrow's title match.

The Outrigger Canoe Club No. 1 team opened with a 15-7, 15-8 victory over Kamalai No. 1 and then defeated the Sons No. 2, 15-9, 12-14, 15-6.

Outrigger's second team topped Ekahi No. 1, 15-3, 15-6.

Other top teams in the men's ranks are

the unbeaten Rap Center and Brilhante of Hilo and Sons No. 1 of Oahu.

In men's novice play, the two Big Island teams remaining in the winners bracket are Kohala and Keaukaha. Other leading teams after last night were Manoa, Reggae and the Maui Brothers. The Jokers and Brilhante No. 2 of Hilo each won important losers bracket matches in the double-elimination event.

Five strong teams are in contention in the popular women's novice division, in which 64 matches are scheduled.

Oanaewa of Hilo and Waikine of Milolii are the unbeaten Big Island teams. Reggae of Oahu, Daughters and Kamehameha School No. 1, are left from other islands.

American Samoa split its two matches yesterday.

UH routs Cornell

The University of Hawaii Rainbows had a season-high 24 hits in a 22-2 victory over Cornell University last night at the Rainbows' campus stadium.

The four-game series continues today with a doubleheader starting at 5 p.m.

The Rainbows (23-8) scored in every inning but the first en route to their most lopsided victory of the season. Randy Inaba, Kelsey Isa and Bobby Matta each had three hits in support of Ross Hayashi's sixth victory against two losses.

The loss the sixth in nine games for Cornell.