

He's getting a kick out of volleyball

Volleyball is not Owen McKibbin's first sports love.

"All I thought about was playing in the World Cup," said McKibbin, the three-time state soccer scoring leading while at Punahou. "I thought I was the best soccer player in the world. I only took up volleyball because I wanted to hang out with my friends who were all playing volleyball."

Currently the only Hawaii-born player on the pro tour, McKibbin played volleyball well enough to walk on as a freshman at Southern Cal. His four-year Trojan career included three second-place finishes in three final four appearances.

McKibbin hasn't giv-



Name: Owen McKibbin.
Age: 26.
Hometown: Honolulu/Santa Monica, Calif.
Education: Punahou, Southern Cal ('87).
Occupation: West coast sales rep for Jams clothing.
Goal: Finish in the big money in this weekend's Miller Life Pro Beach Tournament.

en up his dream of playing pro soccer—the center-forward did well at a recent tryout for the California Kickers of the Western Soccer League—but his more immediate goal is to move up, with partner Brian Lewis, on the pro volleyball tour. The duo is currently ranked No. 30.

His second season on the tour started with two straight ninth-place finishes in March, but a bout with the chicken pox in April slowed him down. McKibbin was knocked out early enough on the Venice Beach stop that he flew to Honolulu a day later and was part of the winning four-man team at the Memorial Day event at Waimea Bay.

McKibbin has been trying to slowly regain the 25 pounds he lost while sick. Some of his workout includes:

Weightlifting six times a week. Daily 40-minute sand sprints. Daily running hills with ankle weights and extensive stairs. Volleyball three hours, four days a week.

"And if I know I'll be playing in hot weather, I do calisthenics in a steam room," he said.

Cindy Luis, Star-Bulletin

The Sporting Life is a Wednesday feature of the Star-Bulletin focusing on recreational and participant sports. To submit schedules or story ideas, please write: The Sporting Life, c/o Cindy Luis, Honolulu Star-Bulletin Sports, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, 96802; or call 525-8600 after 6 p.m., Sunday through Friday.