

# Youth Paddling Season Wrapup

By Mark Sandvold, Youth Coach

Tropical Storm Darby may have ended our regatta season early but by no means did it take away from a season of success!! At the end of our regular paddling season OCC had several crews primed to go into States ranked number one! The Girls 12,13,14,16!

Arguably some of the strongest female paddlers in the State were all near favorites to win or place. My heart goes out to all my coaches, parent volunteers, boat holders, trailer canoe operators (a rare bread willing to haul priceless canoes) and everyone else who has contributed your time and talent..

This "No Ending - Ending" of the season leaves a slightly bitter taste as the day goes on but I am reminded as a trained professional pilot that sometimes decisions need to be made at the very top, with the overall safety picture for all in mind.

At the end of the day we should all remember and be proud of what our keiki accomplished all season long, and the bright future they hold for next season.. Keep the kids fired up for more racing, and winning! The best compliment that continues to come my way is "Hey Coach Mark my kid is having a blast and begs me to take them to practice. Love that!

All about the kids! Time to give back!



Winners of the Bob Fischer Memorial Trophy as Outstanding Junior Paddlers were Jason Palafax and Leana Dickhens. With them are coaches Tom Robinson, left, and Andrew Glatzel, right.



The Girls 14 crew were the winners of the Waikiki Cup: Coach Andrew Glatzel, Leana Dickhens, GG Thomas, Makana Shipman, Mimi Moody, Dillyn Lietzke, Madi Williams, Tasia Gentry-Balding.

## Bob Fischer Memorial Trophy

At the end of season Paddler's Banquet on August 1, Jason Palafax and Leana Dickhens were named recipients of the Bob Fischer Memorial Trophy as the outstanding junior paddlers of the year.

"Jason is a humble, hardworking, dedicated paddler who has been a team leader for our boy's crew for the past two seasons. He always approached practice and race days with a great attitude and consistently worked to become a better paddler and stronger waterman. Throughout the season he raced in just about every seat in the canoe and gave it his all to help the boat move fast!" said his Coach Tom Robinson.

"Leana is a fiery competitor who has a passion for paddling. She has developed into a top paddler as a result of having a positive attitude and always wanting to improve. She shows up with a smile and gives encouragement to her teammates," said her Coach Andrew Glatzel.

## Waikiki Cup

The Girls 14 crew was awarded the Waikiki Cup as the outstanding youth crew for 2016.

"The Girls 14's coach Andrew Glatzel has coached this group for the last three years," Sandvold said. "They have grown into a group of strong young paddlers. The Girls 14's helped out other girl's crews all season long. They made contributions by paddling in the Girls 15's, 16's, and 18's when called upon.

"Racing with the older girls was intimidating at first but they proved to be up to the challenge. They stepped up and filled in for seats in other crews that did not have enough paddlers to race. In doing so they were the number one seed going into the state championships and they helped the other crews get a number one seed for States also."

Members of the Girls 14 crew were: Hayden Brown, Leana Dickhens, Tasia Gentry-Balding, Maia Knox, Dillyn Lietzke, Mimi Moody, Caroline Oyster, Raiatea Reynolds, Makana Shipman, GG Thomas, Yael Van Delden, Madison Williams, Kiani Yost.

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