

Dan West's Clutch Hits Give OCC Mountainball Title

by Dave Pierson

Dan West, who broke a long batting slump the previous week with a solid single his last time at bat, saved his most productive performance for the Surveyors League Championship game.

Pitcher-coach Hank Fordham of Punahou, one of the OCC's favorite rivals, was rolling along with a 5-0 lead into the fourth inning. Jim Doule, former Punahou baseball coach, and a great minor league pitcher in the New York Yankee farm system, smacked a big triple which sparked the Buff and Blue to what seemed to be an insurmountable lead.

Henry Ayau, with a long double and Peter Balding with several sensational fielding gems, suddenly woke up the Outrigger in the fourth. Ayau's double and two singles set the stage for West's dramatic, base-clearing smash to left center field, which tied the game. Then with the lead run on third base and one out in the sixth, West lofted a long sacrifice fly, and Outrigger had the ball game and the championship, 6-5.

Coach Bill Head had praise for his entire squad, which played together as a unit the entire season and finished with a 14-2 record.

Head, Ayau, Ken Wood, Archie Kaaua, Bill Erickson, Guy Jennings, Bill Kilcoyne, Peter Balding, Dave Shoji, and West did the job in this most exciting win of a fine season. Praise must also go to regulars Roger Cundall, Dave Pierson, and Colin Chock, who were unable to play in the championship game. Levi Stanley, now squashing enemy ball-carriers with the Hawaiians, Mike McCormack, "Mr. Real Estate," and that dashing dentist, Fred Chuckovich, whose line drives found many an outfield cavity (Ow!), Jay "Flying Beaver" Pease and Mike "The Big Fisherman" Buck all were instrumental in retaining the trophy for another year.