

# Outrigger Mountainball Team places fourth in 16-team Kona Tourney

by Dave Pierson

The Kona Eagles Invitational Mountainball Tournament, a three day, 16 team, double elimination classic, featured some of Hawaii's best teams from Oahu, Kauai, Maui and the Big Island. It was the first entry of an Outrigger team in a large tournament of class A teams.

Coach Archie Kaaua headed a squad of twelve players, mostly veterans of ten and fifteen years of mountainball play. The hot sun melted that experience down to size as the OCC posted four wins and two losses for a fourth place finish, losing to eventual first and second place teams, Mauna Kea Electric and The Friends of Kauai, respectively.

The opening game, which was played under lights in a Fenway Park-type field at Captain Cook, saw the OCC erupt with five big home runs to devastate the Kona Bullets, 13-7. Bill Kilcoyne, with three hits including a home run, and Roger Cundall with a home run and a double, paced the fourteen-hit attack. Guy Jennings, Bill Breeden and Dan West also smacked long homers out of the friendly ball park.

Bill Head's fine pitching got the team rolling early the next morning with two victories. First, a solid team effort over the Sons of Keaukaha, 14-4. Hank Ayau homered and Roger Cundall smacked three singles, with Breeden, Kilcoyne and West adding two hits apiece. The second game of the day saw pitcher Head in total control as the team rolled over the Hilo Good Times, 8-1. Big Roger Cundall hit a round-tripper.

Sunday's games found Outrigger matched first against the eventual champion, Mauna Kea Electric. Three snappy double plays by the Big Island team kept the OCC team off the scoreboard after a two-run homer by Bill Breeden in the first inning. Dan West, Dave Pierson and Hank Ayau each had two hits!

It was down to the losers bracket for an immediate game with our old foes, the Kona Bullets, and again the results were nearly identical to game

one as the OCC cruised, 15-7, behind the lusty hitting of Bill Kilcoyne, Dan West, Bill Breeden and Guy Jennings. The win was costly, however as Cundall, Breeden and Ayau all came up with pulled muscles.

So we met our Waterloo in the form of the tourney's M V P, pitcher Rosy Rosenthal of the Friends of Kauai. Rosenthal shackled the OCC team on nine hits as his thirty-foot pitch was frustratingly accurate, and Kauai won 10-3. Colin Chock and Dave Pierson had two hits each and Dan West and Mike Rodrigues tripled.

The Kona Eagles hosted an ono luau with all the favorite Hawaiian foods, plenty of cold beer and an awards ceremony which totally astonished coach Kaaua and the Outrigger team.

Seven OCC teammates were named to the twelve-man All-Star Team and received individual trophies, an unheard of number for a fourth place team in a sixteen team tourney. Named were Shortstop Danny West; Second Baseman Dave Pierson; First Baseman Roger Cundall; Catcher Mike Rodrigues, and Outfielders Bill Breeden, Bill Kilcoyne and Colin Chock. Breeden led the OCC hitters with a .526 tournament average, closely followed by Kilcoyne, West and Cundall.

Coaches Kaaua, Mike McMahon and Jay Pease kept the team in good spirits before and after the games, but once again, appealed to the younger club members for participation.

The team is looking forward to an invitation to the Statewide tournament in Hilo late in the Summer. Leave a message for Coach Archie Kaaua if you wish to play in the Surveyors League which starts in April.

