

The Battle Without a Canoe Paddle

By Jim Gaddis

It was a new experience for OCC and Hui Lanakila Canoe Club. There were no paddles, no canoes and there was no ocean. Instead there were bats, balls, gloves, a softball field full of happy faces and picnic tables full of food fit for alii.

Nearly 100 friends and family gathered on April 10 for a softball doubleheader featuring a 1 p.m. coed game, followed by a men's only contest.

The coed game proved to be the feature presentation. A loud, boisterous crowd, led by kumu hula Leinaala Heine, saw one of the best games of their lives. There were lots of great plays and constant lead changes. Third baseman Joe Muller led



Jim Gaddis, Kimo McVay, Dennis Alexio and Henry Ayau at game.

OCC with three hits.

New mother Janice Harrer led a sixth inning rally that put OCC ahead 4-3. A botched fly ball allowed Hui Lanakila to tie the game 4-4 in the last inning and that's the way it ended. Everyone was happy with the tie so there were absolutely no losers.

All of the OCC ladies played well. Lisa Livingston, Kaili Chun and Laurie Lawson hit the ball hard. Dana Kiner and Kisi Haine not only crushed the ball at the plate but played like pros on the field. Norma Santiago, whose brother Chris Santiago coaches the Hui Lanakila men's team, played well for the Hui Lanakila coed team. After the game, all the OCC ladies expressed interest in playing regularly on an OCC coed team.

John Kiner pitched the entire game and contributed at the plate. Byron Ho, Clayton Chee and Paki Vaughan made nice catches in the outfield, while Jim McAluney swept up every grounder hit his way at shortstop.

In the men's game, OCC started strong and never looked back. The team pounded out 18 hits and played great defense in winning, 9-1. John Akana and Tom Harrer joined Paki, Clayton, Jim, Joe and Byron in collecting two hits apiece. Bill Lawson made some great plays at third base while Jim Cavanah and Jon Bryan hauled in some long fly balls in the outfield.

Henry Ayau organized and coordinated this very special event. He also managed to coach the coed game and bat designated hitter where he collected two hits. Other contributing players included Dave Puder, Rick Piper and Billy Lawson Jr. who pinch ran for Henry.

OCC is hoping to work out a similar softball/picnic with Kamehameha Canoe Club. Check the Bulletin Board in the Tunnel for softball updates.



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