



KEEPING SCORE *Bob Hogue*

Still Giving Tiny Spikers An Early Start

Imagine earning All-American honors in your sport. Imagine being good enough to make it more than once. Now imagine making it 50 times — or more!

"After 50, I stopped counting," Hawaii Kai's Jon Stanley tells me, laughing. He earned All-American honors at every level he's played — more than anyone else in history — from high school through college and as a two-time Olympian through virtually every age group level in Master's competition, and was fittingly elected to National and International Volleyball Halls of Fame, and Hawaii Sports Hall of Fame.

At age 72, Stanley hasn't



Jon and sons Wil (17) and jumping Jon (15) Stanley

PHOTO COURTESY JON STANLEY
slowed down. He continues to serve as head coach for Kaiser High boys volleyball, and as director of Hawaii Junior Volleyball Club.



Jon, Wil and Jon in 'MidWeek' 2005
FILE PHOTO

And he may not be done with competition yet. "This past year was the first year I didn't play in the World Games," he says, "but I'm thinking about possibly making a comeback next year. We'll see."

And then there's his family. His eldest son Clay is a three-

time Olympian, a former gold medalist and MVP, and is hoping for a spot on the U.S. team for a fourth time in the 2016 Olympics. His daughter Taeya is a former club volleyball star who now works as a nurse at Straub. And his two youngest sons, Wil and Jon, are up-and-coming local high school stars. Wil is a senior all-state setter at Punahou who already has committed to play collegiately at BYU. And young Jon is a sophomore outside hitter for his dad's team at Kaiser, already having earned all-conference honors last season as a freshman.

The last time we saw Wil and young Jon, they were featured

in my *MidWeek* story ("Giving Tiny Spikers An Early Start") in 2005 as tiny competitors in a weekly clinic that Stanley had started in Hawaii Kai. That clinic is still going strong each Sunday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 in Kaiser High School's gym.

"We started this when they were little, and the clinic really has grown," Stanley says. Nearly a dozen years ago, Stanley and his staff of volunteer coaches picked up on a modified game idea known as mini-volleyball that allows the very youngest volleyball enthusiasts to learn to play the game.

"We have participants as young as 3 years old (up to age 14), with most between the ages

of 7 and 12," he says. "They want to dig, they want to spike, they want to learn to slide along the floor. They want to play the game like what they see on TV. And to do so, we have to bring the game down to them."

The modified game idea allows nets to be at a much lower level than the traditional height.

"(Young kids) can't do these things on a 7-foot-4-inch net, so we lower the nets accordingly (as low as 3 feet for the youngest competitors). We have trampolines and smaller balls — everything to make it fun."

For more information, call Jon Stanley at 220-1528 or visit his website at hawaiijuniiorvolleyball.org.

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