

Waikiki Club Wins \$800 In Canoe Race

By SARAH PARK

The Waikiki Surf Club's treasury was boosted \$800 Saturday when its two canoes won first and second place in the Aloha Week Molokai-Oahu outrigger canoe race in six hours 53 minutes and seven hours three minutes respectively.

The club's first crew lopped off almost two hours from the record set last year, the first mass channel race to be held in more than 100 years.

Elated paddlers attribute their Herculean time to the tight-fitting canvas coverings that were tacked over the top of the canoes.

"Boy, we would have swamped many times without those darned things," Wallace Froiseth grinned after the race.

"Especially one time around Koko Head. A really big one crashed over us, but because of the coverings we were saved," the Waikiki Surf Club's head coach said.

HAD TO BAIL SOME

Even with the kayak coverings, one paddler had to bail occasionally across the channel, as huge swells and the choppy waters off Oahu heaved the Pacific Ocean into the uncovered back end of the canoe. The coverings are authorized in race rules.

The winning crew paddled a strong, steady 35 strokes a minute, set by George Downing.

Paddlers were Moki Perkins, a driver for Pacific Laundry, Blackie Makaena, a heavy equipment operator for Lacy Manufacturing Company and who pulled across the channel like an automatic machine, Dutchie Kino, a pipelayer, number five, Baldwin Makua, a life guard and steering was Froiseth. Makua had a violent attack of cramps shortly off Oahu and was replaced by Hartwell Freitas.

The second Surf Club crew, organized by Rudy Choy, was steered by Rabbit Kekai who assists John D. Kaupiko in coaching Hui Nalu's racing crews. Stroke was George McCarthy. Others paddling were Herbert Bessa, David Kapahulehua, Edward Whaley and Choy.

Number three boat in the race was Hui Kalia, which led Waikiki Surf Club's number two boat for a good stretch of the race and finished in seven hours 18 minutes.

The Kalia and Surf Club number two boat took a more northerly course than Froiseth's boat. The two canoes were within shouting distance of each other almost all the way, until Hui Kalia's boat, the Kaulani, swamped in the cross-currents off Koko Head.

The swamping cost Kalia at least one and a half miles.

The Kaulani also had a canvas covering on it, however, it covered only the front one-third of the boat, and did not fit tightly around paddlers like the Surf Club's "girdle-like" fittings.

"We would have surely been in the running if we had put the canvas all the way on the boat," said Joseph Pang, captain and steersman of the Kalia boat.

The Kalia paddlers won \$100 for having placed third.

Joe, whose paddlers could have given Froiseth's crew serious competition for first place had they not swamped, says he thinks Kalia will enter the race again next year. "The sport of the thing, you know," he grinned.

His paddlers were Herman Apo, stroke, a Pan American Airways clerk; Harry Johnson, a plumber; Jose Veracruz, a boilermaker; Robert Tom, pipefitter; Adrian McPherson, machinist, and alternates Clarence Soong and Walter Pomroy.

MOLOKAI SWAMPS TWICE

Molokai's Kukul O Lanikaula crew finished the race in eight hours 12 minutes, 43 minutes better than their victorious time of last year. It was swamped twice.

Charles Titcomb, steersman, said the club's boat, the Palamimo was too long for the rough, choppy channel waters. Last year, Molokai used the Doris Duke, canoe belonging to the tobacco heiress, which was used in Saturday's race by the Hawaiian Surf Club.

The Doris Duke swamped and was cracked about one hour and 45 minutes after the race began at 6:10 a.m. at Kaukiu Beach near Ilio Point, Molokai.

It was towed to Waikiki by its escort boat, the Helen H., skippered by Charles Hoopai.

3 ESCORT BOATS

Escort boats were the Mele, skippered by Guy Rothwell escorting the Waikiki Surf Club, the Mae T., skippered by Robert Yamanaka and escorting Kalia, and the Blanche M., skippered by Duke Kahanamoku, which cruised along with the race.