



**HUI NALU AT THE FINISH LINE**—Crowds cheer the Hui Nalu crew, champions of the 40-mile Molokai to Oahu canoe race, as they finished the grueling contest in a record time of six hours and five minutes. In the foreground is the

finish judge in white waving both arms. The canoes had to touch the beach to officially finish. They came in shortly after to receive congratulations from the King and Queen of Aloha Week.—Scoop Tsuzuki, Photo.

## Canoe Racers All Plan <sup>SB</sup> To Try Again Next Year <sub>10/25/54</sub>

By TERRY ALAUZET

Silver-haired John D. (Daddy) Kaupiko Sr., coach of the champion Hui Nalu crew, spoke the sentiments of all contenders in the 40-mile Aloha Week canoe race from Molokai to Oahu Saturday night when he said, "We're coming back again next year."

And in the words of A. E. (Toots) Minvielle Jr., father of the race: "It looks like we've got a classic on our hands."

At the award dinner, Minvielle recalled the first race three years ago.

Minvielle watched and prayed as three canoes entered the heaving, churning waters of Kauaikiu Bay and headed toward Oahu on a course taken by the old Hawaiians in war canoes.

"We didn't know what to expect," said Minvielle about that first race, "but with the help of the Almighty they made it."

### CHART STRATEGY

Saturday the scene was much different. Eight crews had charted their strategy and courses ahead of time. A flotilla of escort boats awaited the starting gun. And each crew zippered themselves into canvas kayak coverings to prevent swamping on the dangerous crossing.

MORE



Months of training and practice paid off for the hardy Hui Nalu crew as they paddled and surfed their way over eight to 15 foot swells in the record-breaking time of six hours and five minutes.

They cut last year's record crossing by the Waikiki Surf Club by 44 minutes and bettered the first year's time by nearly three hours.

That first year, Molokai's Kukul O Lanikaula won the race in eight hours 55 minutes with a borrowed canoe and only one week's practice.

### PRACTICE CONSTANTLY

The secret of Hui Nalu's success lay in the crew's practice trips every evening to Pearl Harbor from Waikiki and day-long paddling on week ends.

At the beginning, as Paul K. Jones, race chairman, said, "It was anybody's race." But Hui Nalu soon shot out in front and maintained a steady pace of from 5.5 to 6 miles an hour.

What sustained them on the way over?

"We had just honey and water ... but I guess we all remembered the pep talk Daddy gave us before we left," said Robert Kekai, steersman for the grueling contest.

Captain Kekai praised his crew which included Harry Johnson, Herman Apo, John Apo, Alex Apo, Herman Kam, John V. Cruz, Richard Makua and Richard Kano.

One of the happiest moments for the winning crew came when Kaupiko received a wrist watch as Coach of the Year.

### WARN FOLLOWERS

The leaders, in true sportsmanlike spirit, had their convoy boat warn those following of backwash and dangerous currents.

Convoy vessels received the thanks and praise of paddlers and officials for their help.

At the start, the eventual outcome was considered so much of a toss-up that Louis Kahanamoku, coach of Koolaupoko, put his two alternates on the Hui Nalu escort alternates on the Hui Nalu escort boat because he had no convoy.

During the race the Blanche M. race flagship captained by Duke Kahanamoku, had to travel from the first to the last boat transferring the alternates. The boys, Vincent Choy and Benjamin Beckley, made hazardous jumps into the turbulent seas to relieve two of their exhausted eighth-place teammates.

### SIGHT SHARKS

The journey was not without danger. Early in the race Hale Au Au reported seeing a school of sharks. And some of the paddlers who were relieved suffered cramps and exhaustion.

But all eight teams made it to Waikiki safely without swamping.

Baldwin Makua, steersman for the second-place Waikiki Surf Club, refused to be relieved.

He and George Downing, champion surfer who went in as an alternate, urged the team to win for coach Wallace Froiseth who couldn't come along this year because of a back ailment.

Waikiki paddlers were Dutchy Kino, Moki Perkins, Blacky Ma-kaena, George McCarthy, Gerome Kalama, Allen Gomes, Gilbert Kauhi, Makua and Downing.

### FIGHT FOR THIRD

Hui Kalia, captained by Joseph K. Pang, and Beach Services, led by Steamboat Mokuahi Sr., fought it out with Hui Kalia taking third.

Hui Kalia crew members included Alec Lambert, Walt Pomroy, Harry Makalena, Robert Tom, Clarence Soong, Ed Kaanaa, Francis Among, Adrian McPherson and Pang.

The Beach Services', 705-pound canoe Kamoi was the heaviest entered in the race and according to Steamboat, carried the heaviest men. Crew members included some of the older Waikiki beach boys and Steamboat's son.

Outrigger Canoe Club, the team that placed fifth, ran nip and tuck with Molokai.

"Those coast haoles did mighty fine," said Coach Minvielle, referring to the Outrigger crew.

Hale Au Au, coached by Earl K. Akana, and Koolaupoko ran their contest to within several hundred yards of Waikiki Beach with Akana's men putting on a stronger sprint to win seventh place.

"This Aloha Week race is furnishing an incentive for canoe crews throughout the Territory and is reviving the unique Hawaiian sport, said Paul K. Jones, chairman of the race.

Both he and John M. Lind, coordinating chairman of this year's race and beach activities and last year's race chairman, predict the race will become one of the biggest Aloha Week events and will bring world attention to the Islands.