

Waikiki Surf Wins Molokai Outrigger Race

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By SANFORD ZALBURG

Six men of Iron paddling the Waikiki Surf club No. 1 entry, "Malia," yesterday won the 36-mile Molokai-Oahu outrigger canoe race in seven hours and nine minutes.

In second place was Hale Au Au's entry, "Niuhi." Time was seven hours and 23 minutes. In third place came Hui Nalu's entry, "Malolo," in seven hours and 33 minutes.

Outrigger Canoe club finished fourth, Waikiki Surf club No. 2 fifth, Koolaupoko sixth; Hui Kalia seventh and Kukui O Lanikaula of Molokai eighth.

It was the closest race in the four-year history of the classic. All three prize-winners came in within 49 minutes of each other. Eight canoes started the race and all of them finished.

THE WINNING CLUB won a \$500 prize. Runner-up club took \$300 and third-place club won \$100. Finish line was the beach in front of the Moana hotel. At least two thousand persons watched.

The winning team led from the start. They had been favorites to win and they showed their class all the way. Hui Nalu won the race last year.

It was not too good a day for the race. The Molokai channel alternately was smooth, then fairly choppy. A cold, wet rain fell steadily. Only off Diamond Head did the sun come out. From the south, throughout the day, came a steady Kona wind that pushed the canoes off course.

KOOLAUPOKO Canoe club's entry, "Pahonu," turned turtle off Molokai at 9:22 a.m. The officials' boat Mana was close by, but the six crewmen of the Pahonu got out of their up-turned canoe, righted the 40-foot, 400-pound outrigger, bailed out with a yellow bucket, and were on their way again within six minutes.

Only once did a rival seriously challenge the Waikiki Surf. About five miles off Koko Head the Hui Nalu team paddled steadily and

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Gordon Morse

Rescuers rescue the Hale Auau surf rescue boat from a wave on Molokai. A launch was used to ferry passengers out to waiting boats through 12-

Canoe Race

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cut the Waikiki Surf's lead to about 400 yards.

Then the Surf's great steersman, Blue Makua, settled his boys down. First, they took turns flexing their aching muscles and cramped arms and legs. They had a swig or two of water, ate some honey for energy and went back to work. Soon they returned to their old cadence of 35 strokes per minute and lengthened their lead to half a mile.

THE PACE was set by the No. 1 man, Dutchy Kino. Even counting the periods they took for rest, the five lead paddlers stroked some 14,000 times, proving that the Molokai channel race is one of the most taxing sports in the world.

The Waikiki Surf outrigger almost didn't start at all. All crewmen have to take thorough physical exams to prove they can take it. The examining doctor was supposed to send a letter qualifying the crewman to the race committee officials. Crewman Blackie Makaenā's doctor forgot to send his letter.

So at 5:30 a.m., a phone call from Molokai roused Blackie's physician out of bed and he gave his okay by telephone.

A crowd of at least 1,000 persons watched the start of the races at Kawakui beach on northwest Molokai. Some 500 camped on the beach all night. At 6 a.m. came prayer, and they were most surely needed.

FOR THERE were 10 and 15-foot breakers rolling into the launching beach. They came in spells of three and four giant waves, then a period of quiet. The trick was to launch your canoe when it was peaceful.

It was a test of boat-handling ability and nerve. At about 6:20 a.m. six teams launched their canoes. Four made it to the starting line about a quarter of a mile out. But the Hui Nalu's entry was swamped and driven back to the beach. A 10-foot breaker buffeted the Molokai Kukui O Lanikaula's entry, "Pa-

lanimo. The canoe shot up like a log going over a dam, and it, too, was driven back to the beach.

But crew members bailed their canoes out, then re-launched successfully. Official starting time was 8:04 a.m. when the Mana tooted its whistle.

RIGHT AWAY, the canoes began to take separate tacks. Soon they were spread out in a rough arc. Inside of ten minutes they couldn't see each other. In an hour they were spread out over a five-mile zone.

Behind each canoe came its convoy boat. The Luiki, skippered by Bob Rothwell, escorted the Waikiki Surf. Aboard the Luiki was Buddy Young, the team's coach.

Between Koko Head and Diamond Head the Hale Au Au crew made a nice run and overtook the Hui Nalu. The Waikiki Surf made the turn at Diamond Head alone and the crewmen padded along between a welcoming fleet of motor launches, sailing ships, surf boards, and even two other outrigger canoes.

The outrigger swept in up to the beach, helped by a couple of small waves it could ride in on. It reached the finish point and the crewmen slumped over in their seats. The crowd roared.

THE CREWMEN were helped out, given a quart of milk to drink, then lay down on the sand for a rest.

Charles Kramer presented to the winning crew an Outrigger Club trophy of a Hawaiian Warrior Helmet and a chief's trophy.

The crew of the three winning canoes were as follows:

WAIKIKI SURF NO. 1—(In the order of positions).

Dutchy Kino, Moki Perkins, Sam (Steamboat) Mokuahi Jr., Jammer Kekai, Blackie Makaena, and Blue Makua.

HALE AU AU—

Edwin Beckly, Mel Carr, Stanley White, Chris Bode, Lloyd Kellet and Eugene Kaulpiko.

HUI NALU—

Harry Johnson, John K. Apo, Alexander K. Apo, Richard Tom, Richard McKeague and Rabbit Kekai.