

Outrigger Wins Mol

Close Finish Thrills; 12 Expected in '57

By JACK FRASER

Harder training meant victory and \$500 for the Outrigger Canoe Club yesterday in the Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race.

George Downing, coach and member of the winning crew, said:

"Canoe teams can't get too much training—and that's why we won."

He said he thought his boys had worked out harder than the other paddlers over the past year, citing Saturday night's trial run out into the channel while other teams relaxed on the beach at Molokai.

The Malia, skippered by Blue Makua, crossed the finish line six minutes behind the winners to win \$300.

In one last, desperate attempt to revive themselves, the Malia paddlers had dropped out of their outrigger to take a brief dip off Aina Haina.

STARTLES ONLOOKERS

The tactic startled persons in the flotilla of escort boats, who thought the Malia had overturned or had given up.

For one 10-minute interlude off Koko Head, observers thought the Surf Club's Malia was a winning threat as it poured it on to lead the Leilani.

But evidently the Malia crew had burned itself out and gave up its temporary lead.

Ten minutes separated the four winning entries in the race.

Thousands of persons lined the shore from Sandy Beach to Ala Wai yacht harbor to watch the Leilani come in first.

The Outriggers's six-man team had swept past second place Waikiki Surf Club's canoe off Koko Head after the two outriggers had run neck and neck over the 37-mile course.

The winners' time was 7 hours and 54 minutes.

LEILANI TAKES OVER

The Leilani stole the lead from the Waikiki Surf Canoe two hours out of the Kanaku Bay, Molokai, starting line but held to it only tenuously until it reached the finish marker at Duke Kahanamoku Beach at 1:54 p.m.

Hale Au Au's Niuhi and Kai Oni's Manuwa were third and fourth place winners from the field of nine teams, competing in the opening event in the Territory-wide celebration of Aloha Week.

The Niuhi came in only minutes behind the Malia after a thrilling battle off Diamond Head and took \$100.

The Kai Oni outrigger made the beach by 2:04 p.m.—short a scant two minutes from the Niuhi—to garner \$75 and become, as one judge put it, "a three-year-old club with a great future."

Hui Nalu, which holds the race's record winning time of 6 hours and 5 minutes, finished fifth, followed by Healani, Kamehameha from Hilo—the only entry not from Oahu—and Kai Olapa.

The ninth starter, Holomua from Kaneohe, conceded off Kahala after its crew, bothered by cramps, called it quits.

Holomua's Pahonua broke its outrigger parts off the Diamond Head reef to complete the club's misfortune.

HONEY HOLDS THEM

Honey, water, hot tea and pep talks sustained the paddlers over the exhausting course—often called one of the world's toughest physical endurance tests.

This year's races proceeded on the theory that the shortest distance between the two Islands is a straight line and did not head for Molokai's Ilio Point to Makapuu as in past years.

Good weather indicated the straight line assumption was safer this time than the "trough" reasoning, in which teams would head for Oahu's Makapuu Point hoping to catch a variable current sweeping them to Diamond Head, coaches agreed.

The extra mile added to the course by shifting the finish line from Outrigger Canoe Club property to the Hawaiian Village Hotel doesn't mean much more additional strain, competitors said last night.

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NEXT YEAR PROGNOSIS

Next year's race will probably see a dozen entries, with some from other Islands, John M. Lynde, master of ceremonies at the race awards banquet at the Hawaiian Village last night, predicted.

Goldmedals were presented to the Outrigger racers, Robert J. Daniels, Douglas Carr, Mark Auerback, Dennis E. W. Robert O'Connor, Archie Kaaua, George Downing, William F. Baird, and Meryn E. Lyons.

Pointing to the winners, John D. Kaupiko, coach of the Hui Nalu team, said "They can beat us anytime but I am very glad to see these young clubs come in.

"We are the oldtimers that kept up canoe racers. We are Hawaiian boys who love this water sport—Duke Kahanamoku and "Dad" Center; all the people who love this sport would want to see it built," he concluded.

"BIG BOY" DOWNCAST

Over on Molokai, Albert "Big Boy" Kahi-nu, race chairman for the Friendly Isle, lamented that his host Island had no entry.

He vowed there would be one next year, saying, "There's plenty of material here but the boys are lazy and leadership is lacking. All our outrigger paddlers haven't gone to Honolulu; we will make a good showing yet."

The 65 paddlers in this year's run had bedded down Saturday night after 2,100 persons, at the Bay to see the dawn starting, had sung, danced and held a luau.

The King and Queen of Aloha Week blessed "These our boys who cross the seas with their bare hands."