

Waikiki Surf Club Wins

By CARL MACHADO
"Mayor" Eddie Tam of Maui County must have angered the Hawaiian sea god yesterday morning at Kawakiu Bay, Molokai, when he set off a blast of dynamite which started the seventh annual Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race.

For, reported Blue Makua,

coach and steersman of the winning Waikiki Surf Club crew, the canoes encountered the roughest seas in the history of the classic.

The 32-year-old Makua, who has paddled in all seven races, said some of the waves reached a height of 15 feet before breaking over the boat.

The victory, the third for Waikiki, was accomplished in 6:32 as against the record time of 5:58 set last year by Kai Oni, which finished second yesterday in 6:44, three-quarters of a mile behind.

The treacherous seas claimed two boats—the Hui O Lanakila O Molokai, which was split on one side mid-

way in the race, and the Holomua. Both canoes had to be towed in.

Other finishers and their times:

Hui Nalu, 7:03; Healani, 7:20; Hui Kalia, 7:24, and Kamehameha of Hilo in 8:09.

Race chairman Paul Jones reported the race started at 6:23 a.m. and the Waikiki

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Molokai Channel Race

Surfers led throughout.

Captain Makua said his crew, which consisted of Dutchy Kino, Randolph Chun, Barron Postmus, Joe Napoleon, Ruben Makua, Conrad Canha, Archie Kaawa and James Koko, was in terrific shape.

"They had to be. We pulled at the rate of about

42 strokes a minute and kept that tempo all the way."

The veteran paddler made three substitutions halfway through the race. He started with himself as steersman and Kino as stroke, Chun No. 2, Postmus No. 3 and Ruben Makua No. 4.

At the 18-mile mark, he called for Canha, Kaawa and

Koko. A few miles from the finish Blue went back to his original six. He rowed the complete 37-mile grind himself.

The estimated 3,000 people who lined the beaches from Kuhio to the Hawaiian Village finish line caught a glimpse of the winning boat at 12:15 p.m. as she rounded

a point near the Elks Club.

According to John Lind, Waikiki Surf Club president, the canoes were beached and convoy boats ready the night before at Kawakiu.

He said that about 5,000 people from Maui, Molokai and Honojulu were at the Molokai beach where plenty of Hawaiian entertainment was on tap.

The participants slept on the beach huddled alongside their canoes. And at the crack of dawn the paddlers prepared to hit the ocean for their long grind.

The Waikiki Surf, Kai Oni and Hui Nalu kept that order all the way during the race.

While the Surfers won handily, the Nalus and the Kai Onis staged a nip and tuck battle.

James Lindo of the tough-luck Molokai crew reported the zipper used to close the canvas on the boat ripped in the middle, causing water to rush into the boat.

"We were one hour out and rowing smoothly when the zipper broke," Lindo said.

"For about an hour we tried to get the water out, but it kept pouring in. We had to give up when the side split from the sheer weight of the water."

Waikiki Surf captured the first prize of \$500. Kai Oni got \$300, Hui Nalu, \$125 and Healani \$75.

The winning Waikiki Surf Club crew huddle to say a prayer after battling treacherous seas for more than six hours.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Jack Matsu-moto.