

Newport Canoe Swamped

# Waikiki Surf Club Captures Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race

By CARL MACHADO

An outrigger canoe built for smooth water racing survived one of the roughest crossings in the eight-year history of the Molokai-Oahu Race yesterday to capture the classic in six hours, nine minutes.

An estimated 10,000 persons, many of them tourists, watched the finish on Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Waikiki.

They saw Coach Dutchy Kino bring the canoe, Malie, onto the sand ahead of the pack.

Flying the colors of the Waikiki Surf Club, the Malie's crew captured the top purse of \$500. The Malie was captained by Blue Makua.

Outrigger, Kai Oni, Lanikai and Hui Nalu finished in that order behind Waikiki Surf. Their times were one minute behind each other, with Outrigger five minutes off Waikiki's winning mark.

Molokai was seventh and Hilo eighth.

The course record is 5:56 set by Kai Oni in 1957.

The Newport Dunes, Cali-

fornia, crew failed to finish, swamping 10 miles from the finish line.

The elated Kino, patting the Malie at the finish, said: "This boat was built for smooth water racing, but she behaved like a champion in one of the roughest crossings we've had."

The veteran canoe enthusiast, who has paddled in all eight Molokai races, praised the members of his

crew — Randy Chun, James Koko, Jeff Chee, Conrad Cunha, Lee McGrean, Rubin Makua and steersman Makua.

He then added:

"After the officials found it was too rough to start the race from Kawakii Beach, the nine canoes were moved to about a mile from shore, the delay causing the race to start at 7:14 a.m., instead of the scheduled 6 a.m. start.

"I was talking with one of my boys when Eddie Tam, Maui County board chairman, set off the dynamite blast, signifying the start of the race.

"This gave us a slow start as the other canoes were off with the 'bang.' However, we regained our composure and rowed neck-and-neck with the Hui Nalu, Lanikai, Outrigger and the Kai Oni crews.

"I knew that if we could keep pace with the others until we got to Koko Head, we'd have a good chance of winning.

"The five canoes stayed close until we hit Portlock, near Koko Head. I knew we had it then as my boys started to really push the Malie over that stretch of smooth water to Duke's beach."

The Waikikians' smooth-water paddling from Portlock enabled them to pull away and finish about a quarter-mile ahead for their fourth victory.

An estimated 2,000 people watched the start at Kawakii, after spending the night on the beach where an entertaining program, headed by Al Kahinu, ran into the

wee hours of the morning.

Governor Quinn, grand marshal of the race, flew over to Molokai Saturday morning and was on hand at the Duke Kahanamoku Beach to welcome the paddlers.

Newport crew captain Lorrain Harrison said the canoe Niuhi was being pulled along smoothly by his crew, and for 10 miles they were in fifth place, when suddenly a huge swell hit the boat and tore off the canvas and the gunwale.

"We tried for nearly two hours to get back in the race, but it was no use as more water was coming in than we could get out. The boat finally swamped and we had to quit."

Paul Jones was chairman of the event. He was assisted by Kahinu, Boniface Aiu, Peppi Cooke, Toots Mineville, David Nottage, Art Otremba and Mary K. Robinson.

The order of finish:

Waikiki Surf in 6:09 won \$500; Outrigger in 6:16 won \$125; Kai Oni in 6:17 won \$75; Hui Nalu in 6:10; Healani in 6:51; Hilo in 7:10, and Molokai in 7:31.