

SB 10/17/60

Waikiki Surf Paddlers Win Molokai-Oahu Race

(Related Story Page 21)

By CARL MACHADO
Teamwork, condition and the desire to win!

That's the combination that meant victory and \$500 for the Waikiki Surf Club yesterday in the ninth annual Molokai-to-Oahu Outrigger Canoe Race in which eight of the 40 crews bettered the record of five hours, 55 minutes set by Kai Oni in 1957.

Blue Makua, captain of the winning crew which established a record of five hours, 29 minutes, said: "All of the crews were good. Could be, though, we worked a little harder with our grand canoe Malia (Calm Water).

"There were no herops in my crew during the 37 1/2-mile grind. We started with the six who finished, making substitutions about every 20 minutes. (The rules prescribe a nine-man roster, with only six in the boat at any time.)

"Whether the boys were

tired or not, they came out and were replaced without breaking the stroke rhythm."

Other members of the winning crew: Moke Perkins, Joe Gilman, Chris Bode, Manny Cervantes, Tom Schroeder, Jeff Chee and Randy Chun.

It was the third straight win for Waikiki Surf and its fifth in the classic.

The Outrigger Canoe Club, coached by George Downing, was second, only three minutes behind, and won \$300.

The others finished in the following order:

Lanikai in 5:35, won \$125; Santa Monica, California, in 5:42, won \$75; Balboa in 5:43, unofficial entry; Kai Oni in 5:45; Outrigger Beach Services in 5:50, and Doheny, California, in 5:51, all smashing the record.

Ninth and 10th were Hui Nalu in 6:00 and Healanj in 6:13, respectively. They failed to better the record.

Paul Jones, general chairman of the classic which

opened Aloha Week festivities, said many veteran surf enthusiasts couldn't understand the speed with which the boats drove to the finish line at Hawaiian Village Hotel's Duke Kahanamoku Beach.

"The seas were calm, too calm, we thought, for fast canoeing. The clear, nice water had no white caps, no surf to speak of to push the canoes along. It certainly puzzled the officials," Jones said.

However Downing, a veteran along Waikiki's waters, had this to say:

"The sea was calm, yet it was a following sea, the kind that shows no swells, only enough currents to surf the boats along."

Makua, who has participated in eight of the nine races, and Dutchy Keeno, a veteran of all nine grinds, said they set the course straight to Diamond Head. They led all the way.

Keeno, No. 1 and stroke,

said the Outrigger Canoe crew "had us pushing hard from the start. We really had to be in good condition."

All 10 crews were superbly trained. There was no collapsing at the finish line as in previous years.

Thousands lined the beaches from Diamond Head to Duke's Beach, to watch the sport which generations ago was routine transportation for Hawaiians.

The much discussed fiberglass canoe from Balboa, California, an unofficial entry which finished fifth, had little trouble with the calm sea.

The other Cal crews — Santa Monica and Doheny — used Hawaiian canoes loaned them by local men and were also happy about breaking the record.

Johnson, a fireman in Balboa, echoed the sentiments of the Californians when he said, "We're catching on fast and are ready for next year."