

# The Honolulu Advertiser

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## 5 Grabs 4th Canoe Title

### High Seas, Rain Slow Paddlers

By KENNY HAINA

In an exciting close finish, Waikiki Surf Club copped its fourth straight Molokai-Oahu canoe championship yesterday, ending a gruelling race marked by high winds, 20-foot waves and blinding rain squalls.

The winning time was 7 hours and 47 minutes, the longest it has ever taken a victor in the traditional Aloha Week event. But the crews yesterday had to spend nearly half of their time bailing water. The shortest time on record is 5½ hours, set last year.

THE WEATHER was so bad that two canoes — the Kamehameha of Hilo and Maile Sons — were swamped. One Maile crewman swallowed a lot of water and was given artificial respiration aboard an escort craft.

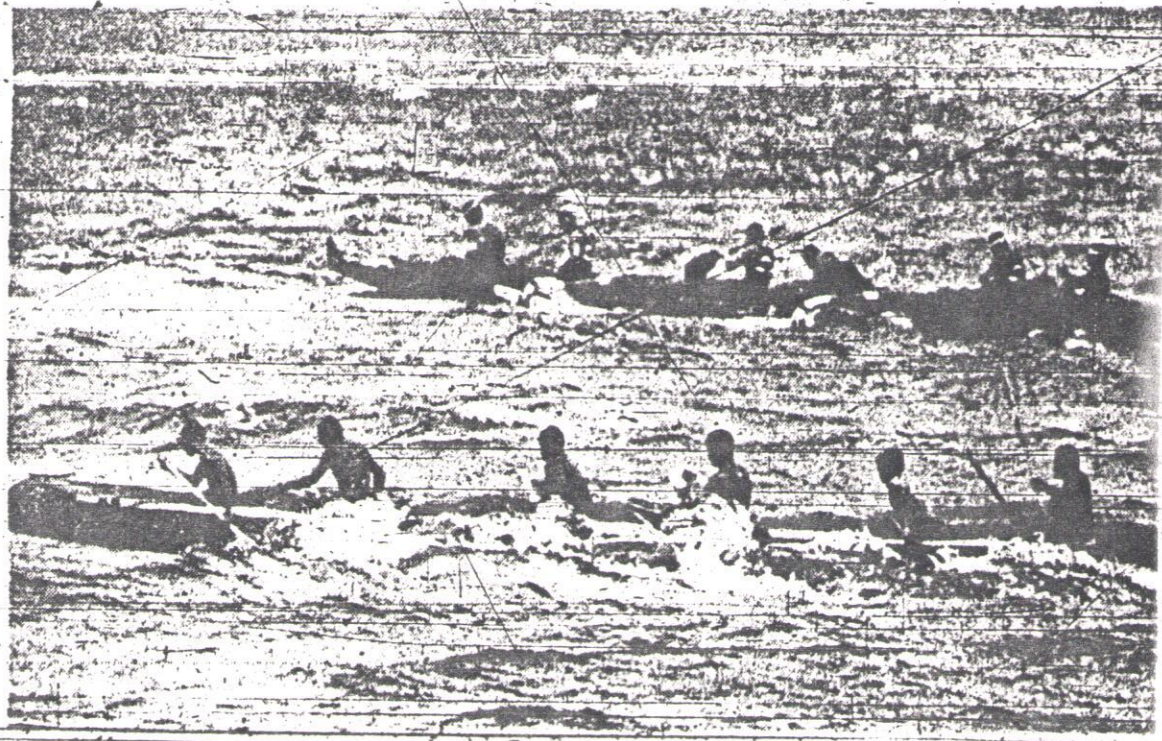
When the storm was at its worst, the crews had to navigate by the seats of their pants. Neither Oahu nor Molokai could be seen.

White foam blew into the

See CANOE on A-6 Col. 4



Molokai channel squall tosses escort craft dangerously near Waikiki Surf Club crew.



Gordon Morse Photos

Neck and neck battle for first place rages between Waikiki Surf and Lanikai Canoe Clubs.

# Lanikai Close 2nd In Molokai Race

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lead. First one canoe was ahead, then the other.

Escort crews began cheering for their favorites.

Lanikai led by about 150 yards, when the Waikiki Surf coach and steersman Baldwin (Blue) Makua pulled a skillful maneuver. He steered straight for shore, seemingly giving away the race.

When the surfers were about 100 yards from shore, they caught a Honolulu-bound current that swept them around the point and into a half-mile lead that they maintained to the finish line.

**MAKUA'S SURFERS** thus won their sixth of the 10 Molokai-Oahu canoe crowns.

Skipper Guy Rothwell of the escort boat Mele, who has convoyed in all 10 races, commented, "this was the most amazing bit of maneuvering I've seen in the history of the channel race."

Makua said later that "Lanikai put up a terrific race. They were with us all the way."

In addition to Makua, the nine-man Waikiki crew was composed of Joseph Napoleon Jr., Randy Chun, James Koko, Jeffrey Chee, Chris Bode, Francis Soares, Leonard Hiu and Clement Enoka.

**MAKUA**, WHO has paddled in all 10 races, said "I've just about had it. I'm ready to retire and let the younger boys take over."

The 37-year-old foreman for Centex Construction Corp. said this was the roughest race he's experienced.

Bode, who crossed the finish line in No. 4 position, also said he's planning to quit racing. This was his eighth race.

Waldron Henderson, WSC president who followed his team on the Mele, observed:

"LANIKAI PASSED us off Koko Head, taking their own course. I think they caught a bad current or something because for awhile they stood still. We caught favorable water and then moved into the lead to hold to the end. I think Blue did a tremendous job because Lanikai was right on top of us."

The race started off Kawakiu Beach at 8:08 a.m., one hour and eight minutes late, because of high waves estimated at 15 feet. The waves completely blocked the bay's entrance.

"WE HAD A VERY difficult time getting paddlers and officials out from shore to convoy boats," said race

chairman Paul W. K. Jones.

All paddlers and officials were honored at the annual awards luau last night at Ala Moana Park. Waikiki Surf won a cash prize of \$500, the Alfred Shaheen perpetual trophy and one from Aloha Week, Inc., sponsors of the annual race. Second, third and fourth place crews got \$300, \$125 and \$75, respectively.