

Waikiki Wins Molokai

By CARL MACHADO

Some canoe club other than Waikiki Surf stands a chance of winning the annual Molokai-to-Oahu race next year; Blue Makua, 38, announced his retirement from outrigger racing yesterday.

But not before he steered the Waikiki Surf Club to its fourth straight victory in the Aloha Week Classic in seven hours, 47 minutes "in the roughest swells in the 10-year history of the race."

A crowd estimated at 20,000—from Diamond Head to Waikiki—watched the finish of the gruelling race.

The rough seas, which sent the surf to heights of 12 to 15 feet, the rain squalls and fog all played a part in the

slow time, compared to the record of 5:29 set last year by Makua and his W.S.C. crew.

The ruggedness of yesterday's surf held four crews in the sea for more than nine hours with one paddling for 10 before finishing. Two boats, the Hilo and Maile Sons entries, swamped and did not finish.

Last year, in calm, flat water nine crews finished under six hours and one in 6:13.

Lanikai, captained by Bill Vickery, finished second in 7:52 yesterday. And therein lies a tale—the strategy of Blue Makua, the construction foreman.

"Makua outfoxed us," one of the members of the well-conditioned Lanikai crew said.

"He couldn't shake us as both boats were even until we approached Koko Head. Makua then caught one current and the Lanikai crew another. That was it."

"When we sighted the Waikiki canoe again it was nearly one-half mile ahead of us and we couldn't catch up."

The modest canoe paddler, who has rowed in all 10 Aloha Week canoe races and won six of them, said: "I had to do something. That Lanikai crew was in great shape and was becoming real threat."

With prompting, Makua admitted he was the only paddler in his crew to row the entire 37 miles from Molokai without relief; "because three of my boys got sick." But he wouldn't name names.

In addition to Makua, Chris Bode, another veteran member of the Waikiki Surf team, said he had enough. "My job as City-County fireman is keeping me too busy."

The winning canoe, the 400-pound Matia, is 20 years old. Its convoy boat was the Mele, skippered by Guy Rothwell.

The heaping surf at Ka-

waiu Bay on the Friendly Isle held up the start of the race for one hour and six minutes, forcing the canoes inshore until 8:06 a.m. when the race got under way.

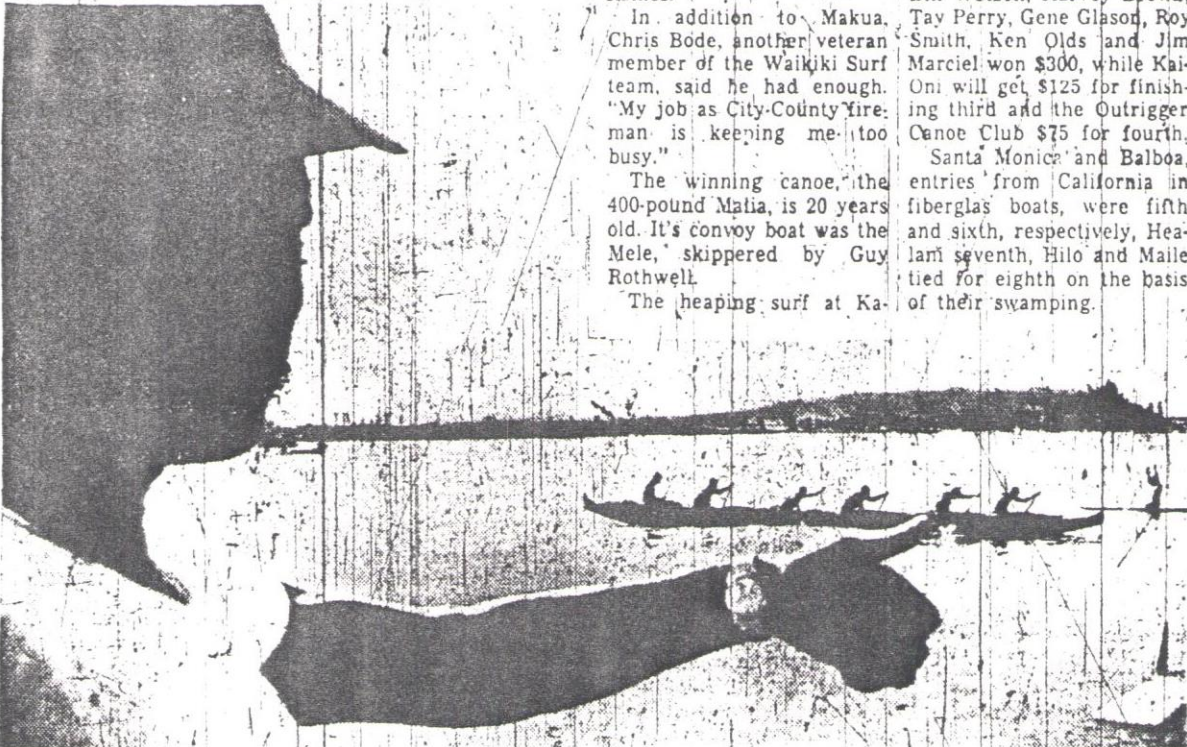
The Kamehameha canoe from Hilo swamped shortly after start and was towed back to Molokai while the Maile Sons' boat got into trouble one-third of the way out.

Besides Makua and Bode, the members of the winning crew were:

Joseph Napoleon Jr., Randy Chun, James Koko, Jeff Chee, Francis Soares, Leonard Hiu and Clement Enoka. The winners will receive a cash award of \$500, medals and several trophies.

The second-place Lanikai team, which consisted of Mike Singlehurst, Vickery, Bill Watson, Harvey Brown, Tay Perry, Gene Glasco, Roy Smith, Ken Olds and Jim Marciel won \$300, while Kai-Oni will get \$125 for finishing third and the Outrigger Canoe Club \$75 for fourth.

Santa Monica and Balboa, entries from California in fiberglass boats, were fifth and sixth, respectively, Healan seventh, Hilo and Maile tied for eighth on the basis of their swamping.



The second-place Lanikai crew is timed by Alex Kahalepuna Sr. as it crosses the finish line.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Jack Titchen.