

Makua Pilots Waikiki to

By MARTYN CHASE

Blue Makua, who "retired" at the end of last year's Molokai-Oahu canoe race, was just plain "tired" yesterday.

Makua steered the Waikiki Surf Club's canoe—Malia— from Molokai to Koko Head getting the paddlers off to a fast start toward their fifth straight victory and seventh win in the 11-year history of the event.

But Makua, bothered by severe cramps, had to get relief on the last leg of the grueling 37½-mile journey from Dutchy Kino, another veteran of 10 years in the annual Aloha Week race.

The winning Waikiki Surf Club covered the distance from Kawakiu Beach on Molokai to the finish line at Duke Kahanamoku Beach at Waikiki in seven hours and four minutes; faster than last year's winning time of seven hours, 47 minutes but considerably slower than their 1960 record of five hours, 29 minutes.

A young group of paddlers from Lanikai, captained by Tay Perry, rallied in the later stages of the race and finished second 15 minutes behind W.S.C. but ahead of Healani and the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Makua, back at his favorite Waikiki hangout, soon after the race, said he was much too tired to talk. "I'm tired, really tired," said the 38-year-old rowing veteran.

"You'd better talk to Dutchy. He should get the credit. He brought the boat in."

"I don't know whether I'll race next year or not," the team captain added. "I guess I'm getting to be an old man. I'm tired, really tired. . . ."

After steering W.S.C. to

victory last fall, Blue announced his retirement.

But, as Kino said later, retired canoe racers have a habit of reappearing on the scene when the date of the big Molokai-Oahu race draws near.

Kino, who relieved Makua when the going got slow off Koko Head, said he didn't expect the water to be so rough in the area off Portlock road.

"We had smooth sailing until around 9:30 in the morning," Kino said. "We had passed the halfway point, and the boys were all enthused about breaking the record we set two years ago."

But then the Malia ran into unfavorable currents and its crew had a real struggle all the way home.

"It was a very hard pull this year," the personable Kino continued. "The wind was a southerly and we had to buck it most of the way."

"When the tradewinds are behind you (like they were in 1960), you can ride the surf across the channel and you don't have to paddle quite so hard. This time we couldn't do that."

The Waikiki Surfers set a "point-to-point" course and tried to follow the shortest route possible between the two islands.

Kino said the crew comprised of six regulars, three relief paddlers and three helpers trained for over a month and a half preparing for the race by working out in the ocean one day and in the calmer Ala Wai Canal waters the next.

Along with Makua and Kino, members of the winning team were Randy and Jeff Chee, Joseph Gilman, Moki Perkins, Chris Bode, Jerome Kalama, Archie Kaaua, Fred Mendoza, Wally

Froiseth and 18-year-old Blue Makua, Jr.

Waikiki Surf Club jumped off to an early lead as the race began on Molokai at 7:30 a.m. Soon the defending champs had spurred into a lead of a mile which they maintained all the way.

Lanikai crossed the Molokai Channel in seven hours and 19 minutes to take second place away from Healani (seven hours, 25 minutes) and the Outrigger Canoe Club (seven hours, 30 minutes).

Fifth place went to Hui Nalu in seven hours, 40 minutes; Balboa, using the first fiberglass canoe in the race's history, was sixth in eight hours, seven minutes; Kai Ono finished seventh in eight hours, 30 minutes; and Mail Sons, swamped only half an hour off Molokai, wound up eighth in eight hours, 57 minutes.

The Santa Monica club actually finished sixth in eight hours, three minutes, but they were disqualified for using a paddler who had not registered with tournament officials when the entries closed last Wednesday.

The gala ceremonies in front of the Hawaiian Village Hotel were dedicated to Duke Kahanamoku who was on hand to congratulate the winning team.

The race itself was dedicated to the memory of Dad Center and John D. Kaupiko, two long-time water sports enthusiasts who died earlier this year.

Members of the Paradise Water Ski Club gave exhibitions during the morning and by the time the winning W.S.C. boat crossed the finish line an estimated 10,000 people had lined the beach from the Yacht Harbor to Fort DeRussy to catch a glimpse of the race.



Duke Kahanamoku (left) congratulates members of near collapse after they crossed the finish line as captain Blue Makua (center) and Archie Kaaua