

Waikiki Surf Club 1st in Canoe Race

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By CARL MACHADO

Youth and age were served in yesterday's 12th annual Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race, and the venerable koa craft is still tops in the sport of the aliis.

Koa canoes took the first four places, the eighth, ninth and 11th spots.

The fiberglass boats were fifth, sixth, seventh and 10th over-all in the 40-mile classic which started at 6:30 a.m. yesterday from Hale o Lono Point on Molokai and finished at Duke Kahanamoku Beach, off the Hilton Hawaiian Village almost seven hours later.

The Classic this year was lengthened to a 40-mile grind, 2 1/2 miles more than the previous 11 races.

The Waikiki Surf Club, paced by two veterans of Oahu's seas — Wally Froiseth, 43, and Ivan (Dutchie) Kimp, 35—was first across the finish line in six hours and 40 minutes.

Kailua Civic Club finished second in 6:42, Healanani third in 6:47 and Lanikai fourth in 6:51.

The Outrigger Canoe Club's fiberglass entry was the first of its class to cross the finish line in 6:52, for fifth place.

The Outrigger entry was skippered by the veteran Rabbit Kekai, 35, with Gil Scott, Jr., 14, pulling No. 5 oar. Youthful Gil was the youngest paddler ever to row in the gruelling race.

Balboa the lone Mainland crew in the race placed third in the fiberglass division and seventh over-all, with four boats—three koa and one fiberglass—behind them.

Headed by steersman Froiseth and Kino, who was No. 4, the other members of the victorious Waikiki Surf Crew were Randy Chun, Jeff Chee, Chris Bode, L. Faulkner, Joe Gilman, Blue Makua, Jr., and Archie Kaaua.

In addition to Kekai and Scott, Outrigger's crewmen were Tom Rietow, Al Lemmes, Nick Beck, Kimo Hollinger, Dodd Baylock, Fred Lowrey and Bob Johnson.

Kino, a participant in all 12 of the Molokai-to-Oahu races, said he was thinking of retiring, "but in this sport one never knows."

For winning its sixth straight victory, noted that the 11 canoes finished within 45 minutes of each other.

"That means that the boys are getting real serious about this race," Wally said. "In the past there were swampings, wrecked canoes and fatigue among the paddlers. Those incidents are

things of the past."

He paid tribute to the Balboa, California, crew which swamped, shortly after the start of the race, bailed the water out of the canoe and came back strong.

Kekai, a veteran of 11 Molokai-to-Oahu races said "it appears that koa canoes are more suited to our choppy Hawaiian waters. The fiberglass boats, on the other hand, do best in smooth water.

"In a koa boat, you can pull for a while and let it glide like an auto in neutral; but in a fiberglass the moment you stop paddling the boat pulls up like a car in gear. For the moment, I feel the koa boat is the better craft for such a race as this."

How they finished:

OVER-ALL

- 1—Waikiki Surf Club (koa), 6:40.
- 2—Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (koa), 6:42.
- 3—Healanani Boat Club (koa), 6:47.
- 4—Lanikai, (koa) 6:51.
- 5—Outrigger Canoe Club (fiberglass), 6:52.
- 6—Hui Nalu (fiberglass), 7:02.
- 7—Balboa, California, (fiberglass), 7:02.30.
- 8—Hui Nalu (koa), 7:03.
- 9—Kauai Canoe Club (koa), 7:07.
- 10—Waikiki Surf (fiberglass), 7:14.
- 11—Maile Sons (koa), 7:22.

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The muscular construction foreman said the race was no more than the "usual" kind he rowed for 21 years. He praised Foriseth's handling of the boat.

"Kailua led us most of the way. It was only off Queen's Surf that we passed that tough bunch of paddlers. Of course Wally's expert changing of the paddlers in the boat led to us forging ahead — good strategy, you can call it."

Froiseth, giving the rest of the crew "all the credit"