

Kailua Ends W.S.C. Reign

Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club captured the 13th annual Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race in record time yesterday, ending Waikiki Surf Club's six-year reign.

An exhausted but happy Kailua crew coached by Heine Gramberg crossed the finished line off Duke Kahanamoku Beach in five hours 56 minutes. Six of the eight canoes in the koa class came in under the old record of six hours 40 minutes established last year by the Waikiki Surf Club.

The 38-mile course was considered the smoothest ever in the running of the annual race.

Lanikai finished second a half mile back with defending champion Waikiki Surf Club third.

In the fiberglass division Hui Nalu in record-breaking time, followed closely by

Healan and Newport, Calif.

Hui Nalu, clocked in six hours 14 minutes broke Off-rigger Canoe Club's mark of six hours 51 minutes set last year.

W.S.C. led until the half-way mark when it was challenged by Lanikai. The two crews waged a nip-and-tuck battle over eight miles before W.S.C. finally faded back.

Kailua, following a southerly course, also made its move at mid channels. Coach Gramberg credits frequent

crew changes down the home-stretch for his team's victory. From Koko Head to Diamond Head, Gramberg changed his crew every 20 minutes to minimize fatigue caused by the extreme heat.

The winning team members are Joseph Kalama Jr., Sammy Souza, Percival Nakachi, Gary Murakami, Albert Serikawa, Patrick Tamashiro, Val Marciel, Walter Makaula and Russell Wilbur.

Captain and steersman Murakami went the entire distance in the eighth channel crossing. Marciel is the only novice paddler on the Kailua roster. All other members have made the gruelling trip at least once before.

Kailua averaged 45 strokes a minutes in wining the annual event for the second time. Its previous victory came in 1957 when it also set a course record.

The race started at 6:30 a.m. at Hale O Lono Harbor, Molokai and all 11 canoes had finished by 1:30 p.m. Only 59 minutes separated the winners from the last crew to finish in the closest race of the 13-year endurance classic.

Three skydivers leaped

from 12,500 feet into the waters near the finish line at noon. Tom Anderson, Chico Caneles and Lincoln Ahlo of the Aloha Skydivers made free falls of 60-seconds before pulling their chutes open.

KOA CLASS

Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, 5 hrs. 56 min.
Lanikai, 6 hrs. flat.
Waikiki Surf Club, 6 hrs. 3 minutes.
Healan, 6 hours 12 minutes.
Kauai, 4 hours 24 minutes.
Hui Nalu, 6 hours 27 minutes.
Mauii Sena, 6 hours 40 minutes.
Molokai, 6 hours 35 minutes.

FIBERGLASS CLASS

Hui Nalu, 6 hours 14 minutes.
Healan, 4 hours 19 minutes.
Newport, 6 hours 21 minutes.