

Work, luck and Downing figure in win by O.C.C.

By CARL MACHADO

Lots of hard work and some luck...

That's the combination that gave the Outrigger Canoe Club the victory in yesterday's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

In naming the winning ingredients, Coach Al Lemes was quick to praise George Downing, veteran surfer and canoe expert.

Said Lemes: "George gave us plenty of help. He must be given much credit for our victory, the first for Outrigger since 1956."

Paddling in the red and blue koa boat Leilani, the Outrigger crew negotiated the 38-mile grind from Hale O Lono Harbor to Duke Kahanamoku Beach in six hours, 48 minutes and 57 seconds.

Lemes, an All-Star end for Punahou in 1953, said he alternated eight members of his crew (six in the boat at one time) except steersman Mark Holmes who did an iron man stunt and paddled all the way.

He also praised the other members of his winning crew: Paul MacLaughlin, Fred Lowrey, Mark Buck, Tim Guard, Tom Rietow, Butch Hemmings and Terry Ledford.

Lemes, who took turns at the paddle, said he had no specific plan on relief of his paddlers. "I changed the boys when-ver they appear-

ed tired," added the veteran of five Molokai to-Oahu canoe crossings.

He said he relied on the old theory—a straight line is the shortest distance between two points—and headed straight for Koko Head. "But we didn't know we were ahead until we reached Oahu."

The Kailua Hawaiian Civic club canoe, coached by George Gramberg, finished a close second, only two minutes and two seconds behind.

Gramberg's crew, which won the race last year in five hours and 56 minutes to set the course record, did the distance in 6:50.09 yesterday.

Both Lemes and Gramberg attributed the comparatively slow time to the "rough seas."

Waikiki Surf Club, which has won eight of the 14 races, five in a row, was third in 6:52.03.

All three leaders paddled in koa boats, with Outrigger receiving \$386, Kailua \$193 and Waikiki Surf \$64.

In addition, the Outrigger received the Walter F. Dillingham Memorial Trophy, the Alfred Shaheen Perpetual Trophy, the Leilani Rum Cup and a bottle of Leilani rum.

The fourth boat to cross the finish line in front of the Hilton Hawaiian Village was, surprisingly enough, a

fibreglass canoe entered by Lanikai, which made the rough crossing in 7:00.43. Lanikai won \$214 for taking first place in its class.

Last year's fibreglass winner, Hui Nalu, paddled the 38 miles in six hours, 14 minutes to set the existing mark.

All 13 Isle canoes finished, with five Oahu boats ahead of Molokai, the lone Neighbor Island entry.

The Balboa-Newport, California crew, suffered the only casualty in their koa boat, loaned to them by Frank Henriques of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

The Cal crew's woes started at the outset of the race when the boat lost its outrigger.

This caused a delay of 34 minutes while Coach Tom Johnson and his young crew made repairs. Then midway through the Molokai Channel the boat turned turtle. "It really swamped," said a race official. The second mishap put the California crew out of the race.

The canoe was towed in until it got to about a quarter-mile from Duke's Beach when Johnson and his crew took to the paddles and came in to receive a great ovation from the fans.

The order of finish:

KOA DIVISION

1. Outrigger, 6:48.57; 2. Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, 6:50.9; 3. Waikiki Surf Club, 6:52.03; 4. Lanikai, 7:12.42; 5. Healani, 7:13.28; 6. Molokai, 8:07.08; 7. Hui Nalu, 8:04.30; 8. Atalii Sons, 8:15.23; 9. Balboa-Newport, towed after halfway mark, but came in under own power last quarter-mile.

FIBREGLOSS DIVISION

1. Lanikai, 7:00.43; 2. Waikiki Surf Club, 7:18.49; 3. Hui Nalu, 7:24.05; 4. Kailua, 7:26.28; and 5. Healani, 7:45.46.

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