



FORECAST

Outrigger Canoe Club

OUTRIGGER BEACH

NOVEMBER 1965

HONOLULU, HAWAII

OUTRIGGER WINS ANNUAL MOLOKAI-OAHU CANOE RACE



Expending their utmost effort as they head victoriously for the finishline are OCC paddlers, left to right, Mike Holmes, Al Lemes, Tom Rietow, Mark Buck, Paul MacLaughlin and Fred Lowrey. —Honolulu Star-Bulletin Photo by John Titchen

ALL HAIL THE CHAMPS!

by Doug Kilpatrick



OUR MAGNIFICENT NINE—The proud and happy members of the OCC crew. Standing, from the left, are Paul MacLaughlin, Terry Ledford, Fred Lowrey and Mike Holmes. In front, L. to R., are Al Lemes, Tom Rietow, Tim Guard, Mark Buck and Butch Hemmings.

—Honolulu Star-Bulletin Photo by John Titchen

Weeks of hard work paid off in a smashing Outrigger victory in the 40 mile Molokai to Oahu Canoe race which opened Aloha Week, October 17. Led by paddler-coach Albert Lemes, the paddlers included Paul MacLaughlin, Fred Lowrey, Mark Buck, Tim Guard, Tom Rietow, Terry Ledford, Butch Hemmings and iron-man Mike Holmes who steered the entire race without relief.

The race was close from the outset as Outrigger, Waikiki Surf, and Healani headed for Koko Head, and Kailua veered off on their usual course to Diamond Head. As the race settled down, Outrigger and Waikiki Surf pulled far ahead alternating the lead. Neck and neck, the two crews inched towards Oahu in seas that ran from three to six feet. Under the masterful direction of George Downing, who provided invaluable technical and inspirational support, the crew was able to outmaneuver Waikiki Surf, and when the boys turned the corner at Portlock, they had a solid 400 yard lead.

But as Outrigger and Waikiki Surf battled head on into the 2-knot current running out from Portlock, Kailua

was sneaking up on the outside far south of our course. The Outrigger crew broke through the current leaving a beaten Waikiki Surf behind, but then there was a new challenge—Kailua had opened up a 1/2 mile lead outside.

It was here that the race was won as the superbly conditioned OCC Crew shook off the oppressive clouds of muscle exhaustion and mental fatigue to dig in and beat Kailua to the juncture of the two courses at Diamond Head buoy by a very small, but crucial 100 yards. Holding grimly to the lead, the paddlers passed in front of the Club. Spurred on by the cheers of the hundreds of members who turned out to support the crew, the paddlers opened up to win going away. Kailua outdistanced the discouraged Waikiki Surf crew to finish second.

After receiving their awards, the triumphant paddlers returned to the Club where they were greeted by a spontaneous, standing ovation. One old-timer remarked that it was "... the most thrilling reception the Outrigger has ever seen."

Credit should also be given to the others who contributed to the victory: Fred Hemmings, Jr., Gaylord Wilcox, Richard Sylva—the other members of the 12-man training crew (the actual 9 paddlers were not selected until ten minutes before the race); Gibby Rietow and Chico Gibson—skippers of the escort boat Mary J; Tom Arnott, Bob Johnson, Thad Ekstrand—pickup boat; Cline Mann and Doug Kilpatrick—escort boat; Don Fowler—practice escort boat; Jerry Fawcett and Alan Brown—drivers; and Peter Van Dorn and his staff—general support work.

This was truly a magnificent victory—OCC's first win since 1956. All hail the Champs!