

OCC Wins Moloka

BY FERD BORSCH

Advertiser Sports Writer

Nine youthful paddlers from Outrigger Canoe Club stroked their red-and-white trimmed koa wood vessel on a straight line over the unusually calm waters of Molokai Channel yesterday to win the 16th annual Aloha Week outrigger race in the record

challenging time of 6 hours, 3 minutes and 9 seconds.

The weather was picture postcard perfect — almost too much so — as 12 canoes started and finished the grueling 38-mile event from the shores of Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai to the sun-baked sand of Waikiki Beach fronting the Hilton

Hawaiian Village Hotel.

It was the second koa division and overall victory in three years for coach Al Lemes and his broad-shouldered, hard-muscled oarsmen, who successfully weathered "almost unbearable heat" in clocking their near record time.

After crossing the channel

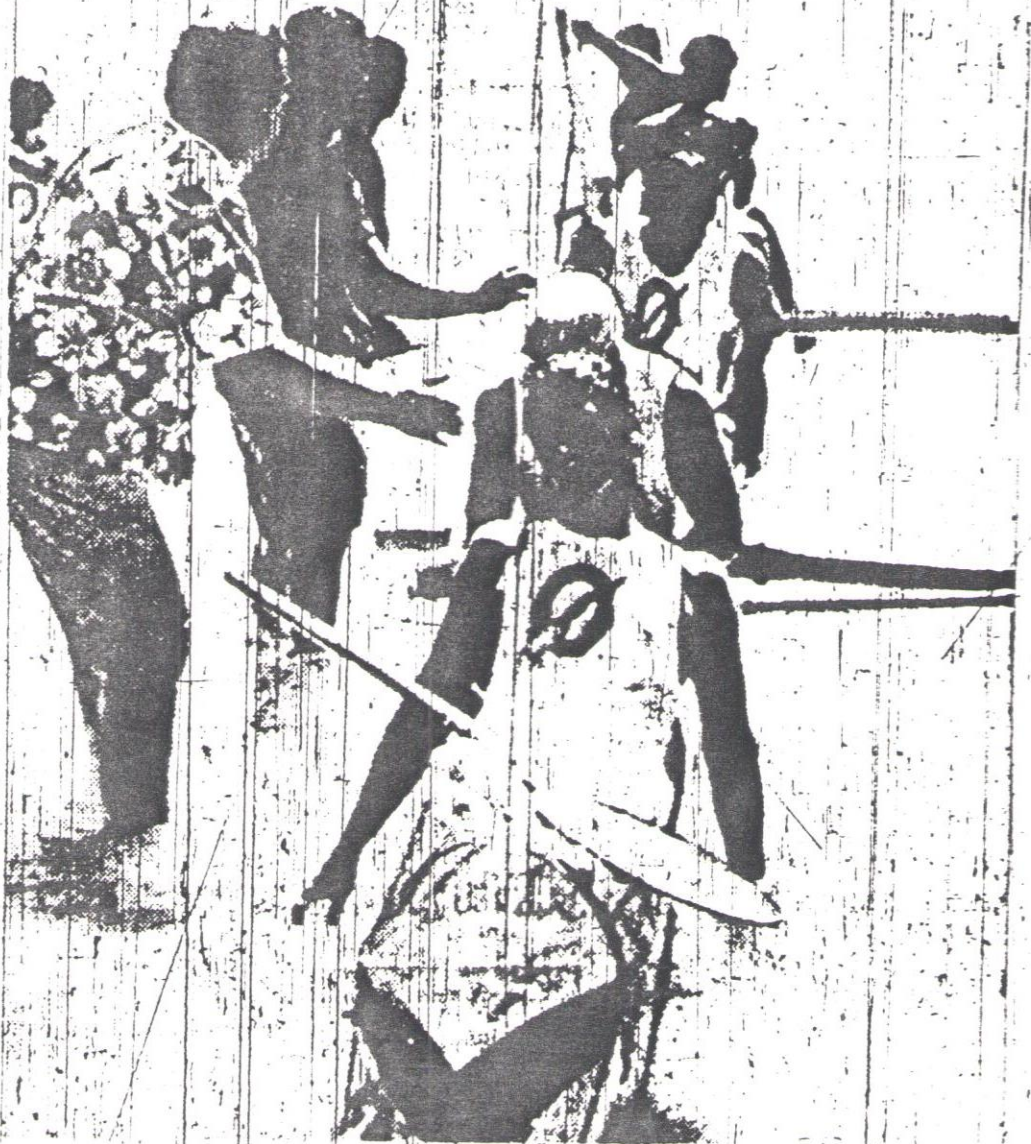
proper in record time — they were spotted two miles off Koko Head at 11:30 a.m. after their 7:33 start from Molokai — the Outriggers were slowed by on-shore winds off Oahu.

As a result, they were denied a record, which still stands at 5 hours and 56 min-

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SPORTS SECTION



Advertiser Photo by Kenneth Kuwahara

Outrigger Canoe Club paddlers relax after finishing race.

i-Oahu Race

Continued

utes, set by Hawaiian Civic Club in 1964.

"We won and that's what counts," said the smiling, bespectacled Lemes, who was a non-paddling coach for the first time this year.

Outrigger led from start to finish in this event, but was pressed by Healani Canoe Club's Fibreglas canoe on occasion.

Healani, coached by Richard Bell, was denied overall honors, but clinched the non-koa division championship in the record time of 6 hours, 12 minutes and 14 seconds. This clipped almost two full minutes off the outgoing record—6 hours and 14 minutes flat—established by Hui Nalu in 1964.

It was also the second straight non-koa conquest for the happy Healani paddlers, who also prevailed in 15-foot-high waves last October.

Following triumphant Outrigger, in koa division order, were defending champion Waikiki Surf Club, Kauai Canoe Club, Molokai Canoe Club, Hui Nalu, Maile Sons and Order of Kamehameha.

Waikiki Surf also took second behind Healani in the non-koa, and was followed by Lanikai Canoe Club, Hui Nalu and Molokai.

"We followed the same course we did two years ago—straight across the channel," Lemes said in explaining his strategy. Currents and all, Lemes is a firm believer that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.

Another winning factor was a sprint start.

"We started off at 50 strokes a minute and pulled away to a quarter-mile lead in the first half hour or so, and we never gave up that lead," Lemes added.

Surfing champion Fred Hemmings Jr., who was steersman on the Outrigger craft for the full 38 miles, downed a quart of orange juice in a gulp and a half af-

ternoon.

Waikiki sand. "This crew certainly deserves first place," said Hemmings. "They really worked hard."

Mark Buck, Mike Clifford, Hal Burchard, Bruce Clifford and Tom Holmes were the starting paddlers on the long-haul race. They were relieved "at about 20 minute intervals" by Jody D'Enbeau, John Haneberg, and Henry Ayau.

"They (Outrigger) just outstroked us," said Healani coach Bell, whose strong-armed paddlers gave the winners their sternest challenge. "Whenever we came up on them, they just pulled away."

The non-koa record breaking performance was shared by Bell and crewmen Franklin Crozier, Robert Kuntukau,

Gale Berengue, George McCarthy, Doug Kuahulu, Larry Bento, George Dubois and Earl Paleka.

The crew of each canoe was officially presented to Aloha Week King Louis Kealupilaina Kau and his court, who held forth on a raised platform on the beach.

Results:

KOA DIVISION

1—Outrigger Canoe Club in 6 hours, 12 minutes, 14 seconds. 2—Waikiki Surf Club in 6 hours, 25 minutes, 18 seconds. 3—Kauai Canoe Club in 6 hours, 35 minutes, 58 seconds. 4—Molokai Canoe Club in 6 hours, 39 minutes, 54 seconds. 5—Hui Nalu in 6 hours, 40 minutes, 52 seconds. 6—Maile Sons in 7 hours, 8 minutes, 19 seconds. 7—Order of Kamehameha in 7 hours, 8 minutes, 52 seconds.

NON-KOA DIVISION

1—Healani Canoe Club in 6 hours, 12 minutes, 14 seconds (new record) old record of 6 hours, 14 minutes set by Hui Nalu in 1964). 2—Waikiki Surf Club in 6 hours, 25 minutes, 55 seconds. 3—Lanikai Canoe Club in 6 hours, 35 minutes, 19 seconds. 4—Hui Nalu in 7 hours, 4 minutes, 30 seconds. 5—Molokai Canoe Club in 7 hours, 12 minutes, 59 seconds.