



THE FINAL EFFORT—Outrigger Canoe Club's winning drives toward the finish line at Duke Kahanamoku Beach at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The powerful paddlers, from left, are Mark Buck, Tom Connor, Henry Ayau, William Mitchell, Jon Sutherland and Mike Holmes.

# OCC paddlers set record

By Ron Haworth  
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Outrigger Canoe Club survived a mid-channel swamp-

ing that nearly led to disaster to win the 17th annual Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race in record time over 12 rivals yesterday.

It was the second successive victory for Outrigger and its third in the last four races.

The O.C.C. winning time for the 42-mile race from Hale O Lono Harbor, Molokai, to Duke Kahanamoku Beach was five hours, 55 minutes and 15 seconds. This eclipsed by 45 seconds the former mark held by Kaula Hawaiian Civic Club set in 1964.

Healani finished second, about half-a-mile behind, while Lanikai placed third and Waikiki Surf Club fourth.

Members of the winning Outrigger team were Henry Ayau, Mark Buck, Tom Connor, Jon Haneberg, Aka Hemmings, Fred Hemmings, Mike Holmes, William Mitchell and Jon Sutherland.

THIS WAS Buck's eighth Molokai-to-Oahu race, and probably his hairiest.

Choppy seas with waves 8-to-10 feet in the wind-lashed

Molokai Channel made this year's race one of the roughest ever.

The Outrigger craft capsized with the ama, or float, going under first. Generally, the canoe flips over the other way—it took the crew more than five minutes to right the koa canoe.

In addition, Mike Holmes, the No. 5 man, was under water for several seconds as his cover zipper was stuck and he needed help from his teammate Fred Hemmings to get free.

"I didn't want to hurry and tear the zipper," Holmes said, later on dry ground. "With a torn zipper we would have taken on too much water."

ACTUALLY, the capsizing led to the turning point in the race, according to Holmes.

"We had only three paddlers because the others were bailing water, and yet Healani with its six paddlers couldn't pass us," Holmes said. "It was a psychological break for us."

Several of the Outrigger crew thought the capsizing would be a repeat of the 1966

race when the favored O.C.C. team swamped and eventually lost to the Waikiki Surf Club.

"That went through our minds and we thought two months of training would be for nothing," said Buck, who was covered by water up to his armpits in his stroke seat because of the heavy swells.

Healani had some consolation by winning the non-koa division, and bettering the non-koa record it established last year.

The non-koa division was made up of fibre glass canoes.