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# Waikiki Surf Club Winner in a Close Race

By Ron Haworth

Waikiki Surf Club.

The glory and pride of finishing first in yesterday's 38-mile 18th annual Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race filled the hearts of nine gutsy paddlers representing the

In winning, WSC overcame second-place Outrigger, Kaneohe Club five miles off Koko Head.

"We were behind," WSC captain Joe Gillman said lat-

er between gulps of orange juice.

"We knew we had to go out after Outrigger with all our guns.

"This was the toughest race I've ever paddled," he added.

Paddling the winning canoe, "Maha," were Jeff Chee; Randy Chun, Anthony Guerrero, Richard Henning, Blue Makua Jr., Andrew Miller, Joe Napoleon, Mike Tongg and Gillman.

THE CANOES are paddled

by six men with three alternates used under the free substitution rule.

Following Surf Club and Outrigger were Healanai, and Lanakai. Kauai and Molokai finished sixth and seventh respectively.

This year's race was one of the closest in history. A spread of 18 minutes was all that separated the first four finishers.

Waikiki Surf Club's winning time was six hours, 38 minutes and 26 seconds.

First to finish in the non-koia class was Lanikai with a time of six hours, 56 minutes and 1 second.

YESTERDAY'S TIME was well off the record set by Outrigger last year of five hours, 45 minutes and 16 seconds. Trailing by 300 yards Outrigger gambled off Diamond Head and cut inside the reef. This maneuver meant flirting with the big surf cracking through at a break known as Rice Bowl.

ALTHOUGH the maneuver did cut into the winners' lead it wasn't enough to deprive Waikiki Surf of their well-earned victory.

Yesterday's victory gave Waikiki Surf Club a clean sweep of the season's long distance races. Previously it won the Pookai Bay and Lanikai events.

A total of 12 canoes competed. Victory brought Surf Club a \$400 dollar check. Outrigger got \$200.



ONE PADDLE—Waikiki Surf Club's winning crew throws a paddle away after crossing the finish line off the Hawaiian Village Beach yesterday.—Photos by Jack Titchen.