

Outrigger CC wins Aloha race

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By STEVE KIMURA

With the Makaha Sons of Niihau strumming their tunes, the thousands of bikini clad girls strutting their wares, and the party like atmosphere hanging over Magic Island, one might forget that there was a canoe race going on. But when the winning Outrigger Canoe Club crew appeared at the tip of Magic Island heading for the finish line, it became apparent to the more than 8,000 people gathered at Ala Moana Park yesterday that there was indeed a race.

For Outrigger and the Maire Nui Club from Tahiti, it was the rubber match of their two previous meetings in the annual Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu race.

In 1975—the first meeting ever, Outrigger prevailed by edging the entry from Tahiti. Last year, it was all Tahiti as Tahitian crews swept every division in dominating the whole race.

This year, with captain Tom Conners (who paddled in the first Outrigger victory) leading the way, Outrigger took the lead off the first stroke and never looked back in winning the over-all and glass division with a time of 5 hours and 55 minutes.

"We had something to prove to everyone and we went out and proved it," said a tired but very happy Conners. "The crew wanted to show the people of the canoeing world that we're not back in the stone ages when it comes to paddling, but most of all, we didn't want to be embarrassed like last year.

This year's winning crew, which paddled the canoe "Manu'Ula", included Marshall Rosa, John Finny, Tim Guard, Mark Buck, Jay West, Brant Ackerman and Conners. It was nearly the same crew which brought the first victory. Only Finny is a newcomer.

Ackerman, one of the strokeers in the 1975 race, was the steersman this year and

guided the canoe the entire 28-mile course without being relieved.

"We've been training really hard for this race and the crew was determined to win, especially for Hawaii," said Ackerman, who was

smothered with leis and kisses. "It was a smooth sailing for most of the race except for that incident where we got hit by a huge swell and nearly tipped over in the middle of the channel."

Maire Nui club paddling the canoe "Kai'Elua", the same canoe which they used to sweep last year's race, finished second in the over-all division and first in the Koa division with a time of 6 hours

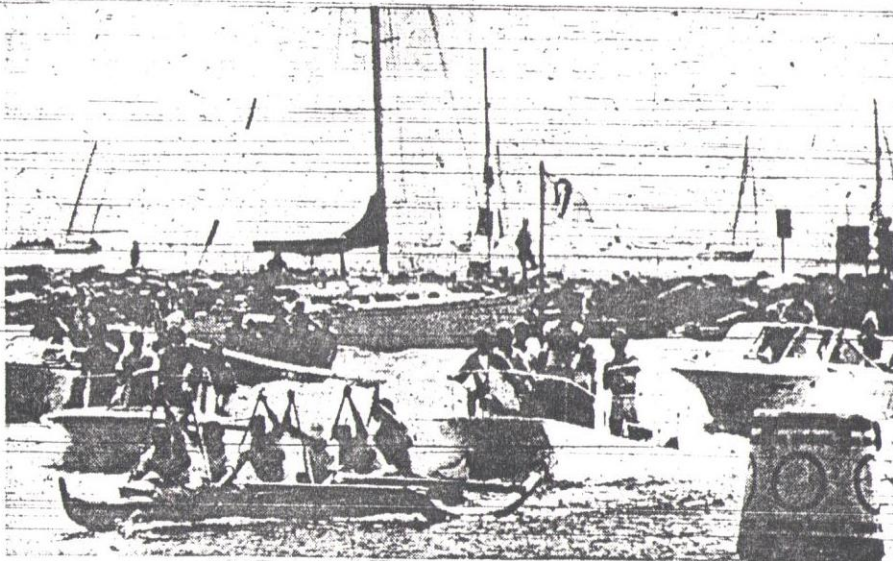
and 32 minutes.

Teiki Tamari, one of the paddlers on the Kai Elua said that one of the reasons for the huge gap between the two canoes was their slow start off the starting line.

"We didn't get started until most of the other boats were already off the starting line because we didn't hear the gun go off," said Tamari. "Also, we were closing the gap when the canvas which covers the boat ripped—causing us to take ten minutes to repair the damage, and by that time, Outrigger was way out in front."

Finishing second in the glass division and third over-all was Hul Nalu with a time of 6 hours and 18 minutes followed by Kailua Canoe Club with a time of 6 hours and 24 minutes.

Maui Division—1 Outrigger 5:55
 (7. Conner, M. Rosa, J. Finny, T. Guard, M. Buck, B. Ackerman, B. Finny, C. Perry, J. West) 2. Hul Nalu 6:18:24 3. Kailua 6:24:36 4. Marie Hul 6:36:25 5. Teiki Tamari 6:47:00
Kailua Division—1 Outrigger 6:29:38 2. Teiki Tamari 6:31:11 3. Mahealani 6:32:45 4. Tamari Mahealani 6:33:22 10. Leeward Kai 6:33:42 11. Paesarii 6:35:10 12. Hul Lanikai 6:36:13 13. Tiera Pu 6:43:35 14. Waikiki Surf Club 6:44:19 15. Teveta Manu 6:45:16. Honolulu 6:46:17 16. Pihua 6:47:21 17. Waikiki Beach Boys 6:47:43 19. Kamaea 6:51:27 20. Hul O'Ka Koo 6:51:45 21. Makaha 6:52:17 22. Hawaiian Beach Boys 6:54:19 23. Lanikai 6:55:24 24. Waialea 6:56:27 25. Faa 7:3:29 26. Kamehameha 7:4:50 27. Bora Bora 7:10:53 28. Hoopa 7:15:45 29. Na Kai 8:1 Oka Mari 7:15:44 30. Maunaloa Kai 7:18:19 31. STP Tiera Tamari 7:24:32. Hawaii Kai 7:36:45 23. Honolulu Police Dept. 7:46:34. Sons and Daughters of Molokai 7:48:48 35. Jason 8:30:19
Koa Division—1 Maire Nui 6:32:14 2. Waikiki Surf Club 6:32:14 3. Lanikai 6:33:45 4. Kamaea 6:39:18 5. Kai Oka 6:41:39 6. Bora Bora 6:44:45 7. Kailua 7:4:12 8. Molokai 7:7:19 9. Kailua 7:11:30 10. Waiananaloa 7:20:27.



The winning Outrigger canoe crew races past the finish buoy (at right) and receives an escort toward the beach in yesterday's Molokai-to-Oahu Aloha Week race.

Advertiser photo by Greg Yamamoto