

Outrigger captures Molokai race

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"The one thing you learn after years of paddling is that you can never tell how the race is going to turn out," said an elated Tim Guard, oldest member of the Outrigger Canoe Club's fiberglass canoe team, which was the first out of a fleet of 39 starters to finish yesterday's annual Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race.

Guard and teammates, decked with leis, were on the beach at Fort DeRussy just five hours and 46 minutes after the start off Hale O Lono harbor, Molokai. The reason Guard was so jubilant was because until the OCC team reached Diamond Head lighthouse, it had a firm grip on second place, with Balboa Bay Club of California in what looked like a shoo-in position for first.

"It was a question of being mentally tougher," said Guard. "The experience factor is the major thing. You learn to look at the situation and know you can't be discouraged in the middle of the race."

"They (Balboa) are marvelous competition. They contested us through the whole race. I paddled in '75 and '77 and I'm damn proud that Hawaiian canoes are coming across and showing them that we've got it. Today was won on desire and it was a grand win. The best of the 13 races I've ever been in."

The paddlers got, under way offi-

cially at 7:59 a.m. yesterday under overcast skies in approximately five knot winds with what paddlers refer to as "malia" (calm) seas. In the opinion of most contestants, conditions were excellent.

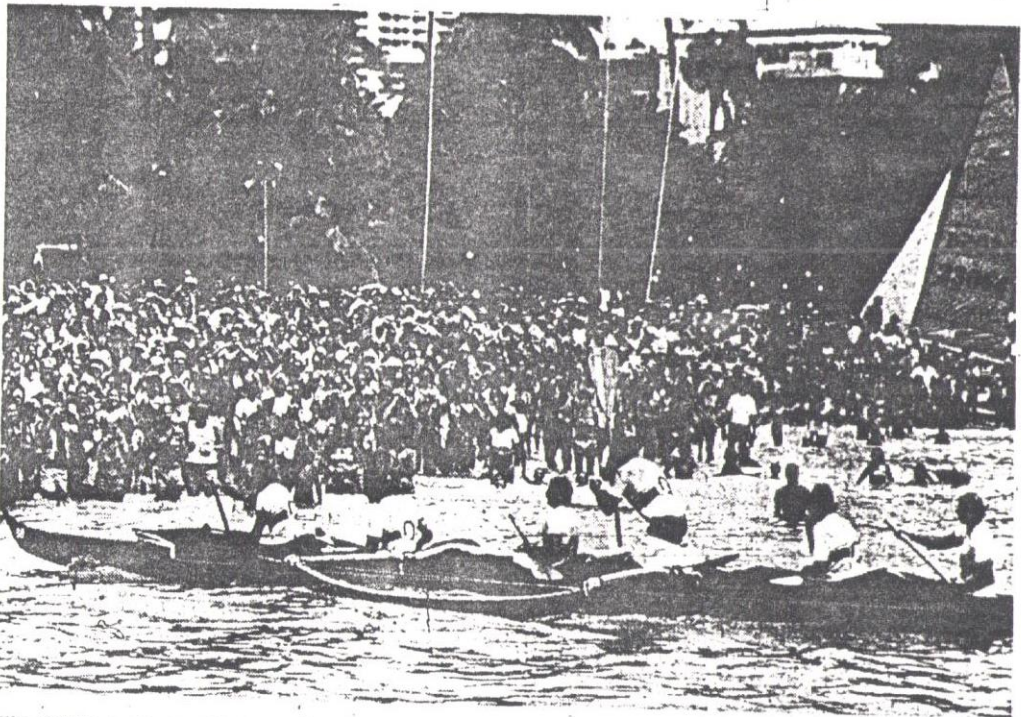
John Rader, president of the BCC team said, "It was perfect, the best I've ever seen. In any one of these races it just depends on the conditions of the water and the course you're taking. Outrigger did a super job. They went up a little higher and came right up under us."

Both teams were manu ihu to manu ihu (bow to bow) at the start. By 8:30 they had reached Laau point and were heading out into the channel's open ocean. But it just wasn't BCC's year, beginning with a rule infraction that forced them to change their Hobie ama for one of Hawaiian design.

At 8:40 the first change of paddlers was made — three in and three out — bobbing alone in the big ocean.

When making changes the normal procedure is for the large escort vessel to run well out in front and to the left side of the oncoming canoe, then make a wide circle around to the right side taking care not to let the wake interfere with the canoe's progress. Three relief paddlers jump into the ocean in front of the advanc-

• See OCC on page 1-4



The Outrigger Canoe Club entry receives a royal welcome at the beach at Fort DeRussy yesterday after finishing first in the Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race in a time of 5 hours and 46 minutes.

Advertiser Photo by Roy Ho



Billy Mitchell (right), coach of the Hui Lanakila crew which won the Koa class in yesterday's Molokai-to-Oahu race, receives a warm embrace from Pat Spencer, a crew member of the Hawaiian Warrior team.

AP/Wide World Photos by Rex 110

OCC overtakes Balboa to win Molokai race

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ing canoe and when alongside, pull themselves up over the left side as three tired paddlers roll out on the right.

Once in the water the paddlers hold an arm over their head for ease of spotting then wait until the same escort vessel curls back to pick them up. It's a lot easier to do in malia water, and if done well, takes less time than it does to write about it.

In mid-channel the swells remained at two feet with occasional chop but the sky remained overcast which was probably an asset to the California crew. Their changes appeared to be perfect and OCC was closing the gap. The rest of the fleet was spread out from north to south and positions were hard to determine.

If, during the first hour of the race, people on shore were wondering what happened to the marvelous MARS communication network that was supposed to be relaying news of the racers back to officials on the beach, be assured that it wasn't the all the equipment's fault — blame it on an upset stomach. The Navy communications operator on board got seasick and the antenna wasn't installed properly. Race committee officials handled the job smoothly.

Shortly after noon position reports for the top two boats remained the same — Balboa far ahead of the rest, but at Diamond Head it was a new ball game and according to OCC paddler Tom Connors, passing them was "the hardest thing I ever did in my life. For 35 miles I thought we

were gonna be in second place."

The first woman ever to paddle the race with the men was on the California Imua Canoe Club team. Her name is Sue Holloway who said, "My friends went last year and we got together in Vancouver. They asked me if I wanted to come and I said yes. I usually paddle kayaks — this was very exciting."

First to finish in the Koa class was Hui Lanikila. Coach Billy Mitchell said of their tactics, "It was easy. OCC was supposed to be the favorite so we raced with them and went by 'em; then we tried to outrace both divisions. We passed some but it's hard to tell how many, out there you think you're passing everybody."

This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Lei Faria, and although no records were set, some very happy paddlers walked away with a pocket full of prize money. In the Koa division, prizes were \$1400, \$800 and \$500 for first, second and third respectively. In the fiberglass division, the prize money was \$1000, \$650 and \$400.

OPEN CLASS

- 1 Ouir-opper 88, 5 46 26 Balboa Bay-Call, 5 49 30 3
- Imua, 5 56 18 5 4 Lanika, 74 6 01 77 8 5 Mui Nalu 100
- 4 04 23 2 6 Kai Onu 205, 6 05 41 5 7 Hanalei, 6 07 22 8 8
- Lanard Kai, 6 08 37 4 9 Koaou 118, 6 09 47 3 16 Lanaha
- 405, 6 16 31 1
- 11 Pahrana-Tahiti, 6 17 25 8 12 Loeia, 6 19 11 9 13 Tiare
- Boe-Faa, 6 19 42 2 14 Hawaiian Warriors, 6 23 22 4 15 Wa-
- iki, Beach Boys, 6 24 17 5 16 Kaniue, 6 24 42 8 17 Honolulu,
- 6 26 13 8 18 Mui Lanakila 110, 6 276 34 5 19 Knei-Mau,
- 6 31 45 20 Maunaloa, 6 32 55 3
- 6 31 45 20 Maunaloa, 6 32 55 3
- 21 Molokai, 6 41 17 2 22 Windward Kai, 6 45 06 1 23 Wa-
- iteii, 6 46 27 9 24 Kamehameha Oahu, 6 48 19 8 25 Wa-
- Kamehameha Hilo, 6 51 24 2 26 Koa Kai, 6 53 14 4 27 Mui O
- Halewa, 7 11 01 28 Mui O Kai Kolo, 7 17 01 7

KOA CLASS

- 1 Mui Lanakila, 6 14 50 8 2 Bora Bora Tahiti, 6 16 45 4 3
- Waikiki Surf, 6 20 31 4 4 Lanika, 6 20 54 1 5 Ouir-opper,
- 6 23 53 1 6 Mui Nalu, 6 26 46 1 7 Heaama, 6 27 05 7 8 Koaou
- 27, 6 28 00 4 9 Kai O Pua, 6 29 13 1