

# Adv. 9/28/80 They ain't heavy, they're the champions

By Andy Yamaguchi  
Advertiser Sports Writer

After helping Outrigger Canoe Club win yesterday's 29th Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race, Walt Guild said his first order of business was to gain 20 pounds.

"It took some heavy dieting" to make weight for the race, said Guild, a former University of Hawaii football player who exemplified Outrigger's lean, mean, never-faltering machine. "But it was worth it."

OCC made it interesting for most of the way before bursting away from the pack 11 miles from the finish line and winning its second consecutive Molokai-to-Oahu title, one of most coveted in Hawaii sports.

Outrigger covered the 39-mile course — from Hale O Lono Harbor, across the Kaiwi Channel and to Fort DeRussy Beach — in five hours, 52 minutes and 26 seconds to capture its fourth Molokai title in the last six years.

Off Shore Canoe Club — known last year as Balboa Bay — of Newport Beach, Calif., finished second in 5:54:37. Hui Nalu was third in 6:04:04 and Imua of Newport Beach placed fourth in 6:14:17. Imua also was the first koa canoe crew to finish, and for that distinction won the day's top prize of \$1,000. OCC won \$700 for its Open Division victory.

Kaliua, Lanikai, Koolau, Hanalei, Leeward Kai and the Waikiki Beach Boys rounded out the top 10, in that order. The two entries from Tahiti — Pueu Tati and Tiare Roa — placed 18th and 22nd, respectively.

Competition was keen at Outrigger for spots in its No. 1 canoe, and team captain Tom Conner imposed a 190-pound weight limit on paddlers. Easier said than done for Guild.

who tipped the scales at 255 last year when he played for the Rainbows. But he had a special incentive: this was the first time in nine years he wouldn't be playing football during the Molokai race.

"I've waited a long time to paddle in this one," said Guild, wearing a smile and several leis. "I'd played football since the ninth grade. Now this is it, and I want to be in many, many more."

The race started at 7 a.m., but Hale O Lono was buzzing well before dawn. Crews drove in from their hotels, though a couple of the 36 nine-man crews elected to sleep at the water's edge.

The channel was relatively gentle, just a little rougher than last year's malle (smooth) conditions. Outrigger and Hui Nalu jumped out to the lead at the start, with Off Shore and Imua not far behind.

Twenty-six minutes into the race, as the fleet passed Lsau Point and into the channel, all the canoes fanned out to the north, pushed by the current. All, that is, except Hui Nalu, which kept a dead-eye bead on Diamond Head.

At 11 a.m., OCC and Hui Nalu shared the lead while the rest of the fleet virtually dropped out of sight. Mechanical failures stalled the Californians. Off Shore stopped about five minutes to repair a broken ama (outrigger arm) and Imua had more serious woes: its escort boat, which carried the allotted three relief paddlers, lost a propeller shaft before the race was an hour old.

"We made our first change and then the boat never showed up," said Imua paddler Tim Rush. Paddlers generally are relieved every 20 minutes, but Imua "had to go 'iron man' for two hours," before another

escort boat could be found, Rush said. "That's not an excuse, but it's a damn thing to happen at the beginning of a race."

Hui Nalu also ran into trouble around 11 when it had difficulty bringing its canoe closer to the shoreline. "We just got stuck," said steersman Brant Ackerman. "The ocean changed on us and the swells just started to work against us, knocked us around."

But Off Shore was able to scramble back from its mishap, making an amazing recovery to join and Outrigger in the lead at 11:15.

OCC's crew was made up of Conner, Guild, Bill Bright, John Finney, Tim Kelly, Ed Pickering, Bill Mowat, Keone Downing and Dale Hope.

"Our crew is in such good condition, none of us ever got tired," Guild said. "We just kept going and going and going."

## THE RESULTS OPEN DIVISION

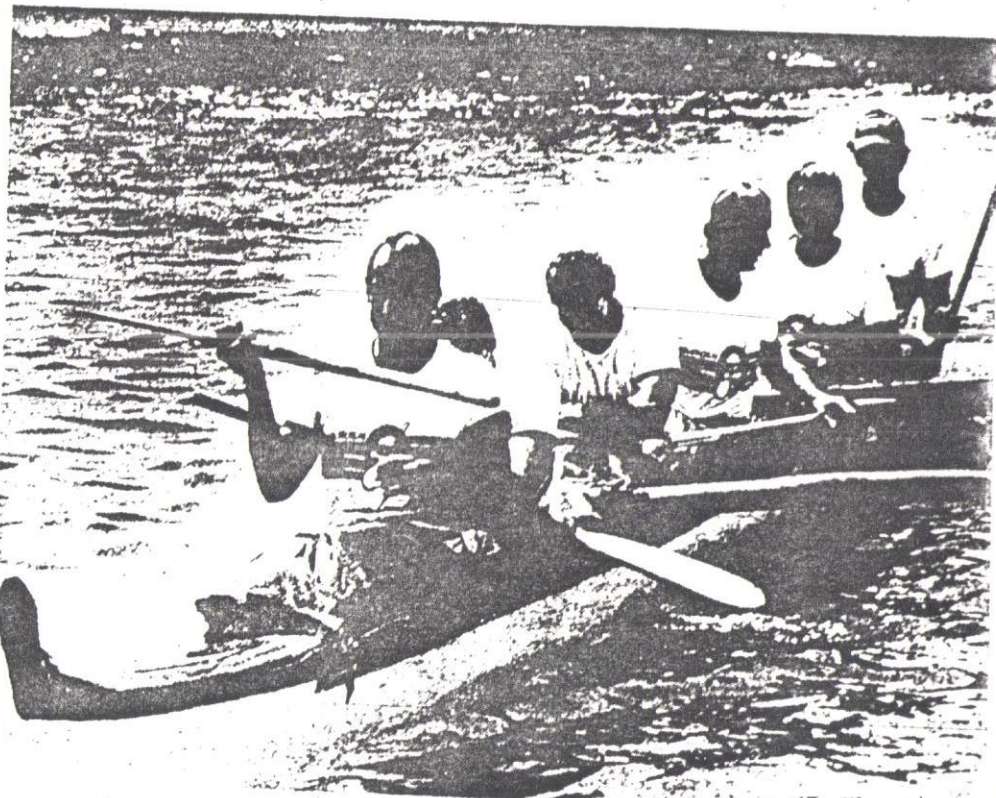
1. Outrigger 5:52:26, 2. Off Shore (Newport Beach, Calif.) 5:54:37, 3. Hui Nalu 6:04:04, 4. Imua (koa) (Newport Beach) 6:14:17, 5. Kaliua 6:22:38, 6. Lanikai 6:28:04, 7. Koolau 6:28:06, 8. Hanalei 6:30:32, 9. Leeward Kai 6:31:43, 10. Waikiki Beach Boys 6:28:31.

11. Kamehameha-Hilo 6:34:01, 12. Hui Nalu (koa) 6:35:00, 13. Lokahi 6:35:06, 14. Outrigger (koa) 6:36:54, 15. Waikiki Surf (koa) 6:37:43, 16. Healanii (koa) 6:43:25, 17. Honolulu 6:44:16, 18. Pueu Tati 6:45:40, 19. Lahaina 6:48:06, 20. Hui Lanakila (koa) 6:49:56.

21. Kihel (koa) 6:53:09, 22. Tiare Roa 6:54:11, 23. Hawaiian Warriors 6:55:30, 24. Kaliua (koa) 6:56:21, 25. Kamehameha-Oahu 6:56:45, 26. Makaha (koa) 7:00:36, 27. Windward Kai 7:07:53, 28. Lanikai (koa) 7:08:57, 29. Sons and Daughters 7:09:13, 30. Kihel 7:19:43.

## KOA DIVISION

1. Imua 6:14:17, 2. Hui Nalu 6:26:00, 3. Outrigger 6:36:54, 4. Waikiki Surf 6:37:43, 5. Healanii 6:43:25, 6. Hui Lanakila 6:49:56, 7. Kihel 6:53:09, 8. Kaliua 6:55:31, 9. Makaha 7:00:36, 10. Lanikai 7:08:57.



Thirty-nine miles and about 20,000 strokes later, Outrigger is a happy winner

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