

Molokai Race

Well, you can't win 'em all, a basic fact of life discovered by OCC paddlers in this year's men's Molokai-to-Oahu race. Defending champion, Outrigger placed fourth in a field of 40 entries, clocking at 5:36:37.

Off Shore Canoe Club of California won in 5:25:7, setting a new record for the 30-year-old race. Another California crew, Imua, placed second in 5:29:53, followed by Ihilani of Tahiti in 5:32:57. Outrigger was the first Hawaiian crew to finish.

Coach Walter Guild told a reporter his crew made a few mistakes during the race, but added, "We're not as fortunate as a lot of teams, since we have a regular regatta season and we're separated. With the California teams, their training and intensity is much more advanced. They've opened up the sport and raised it to a new competitive high."

On hand for the start of the race at Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor were Lt. Gov. Jean King and A. E. "Toots" Minvielle, long-time Club member who founded the race 30 years ago.

"There were only three canoes in the first race," Minvielle recalled. "But look at it now. We even have a team from Chicago. There's always room for improvement. I want this race to be to Hawaii what the Derby is to Kentucky."



Photos by Lincoln Scate