

Outrigger triumphs

Paddles off with 14th win

By Paul Giblin
Special to The Advertiser

The Outrigger Canoe Club quite literally swamped any challenge to its claim on the world championship title of outrigger canoe racing yesterday.

The Oahu-based team tipped over its closest competitor early on, and took advantage of rough seas the rest of the way to win the 41-mile Bankoh Molokai Hoe race. Outrigger finished the Molokai-to-Oahu ride across the Kaiwi Channel in 5 hours, 19 minutes and 38 seconds.

It marked Outrigger's 14th victory in the race's 39-year history and fourth in the past five years.

Outrigger's time was more than 13 minutes off last year's record, but fast enough to dethrone defending champion Offshore Canoe Club of Newport Beach, Calif. Offshore placed second in 5:28:52, just nine seconds ahead of Australia's Outrigger Canoe Club.

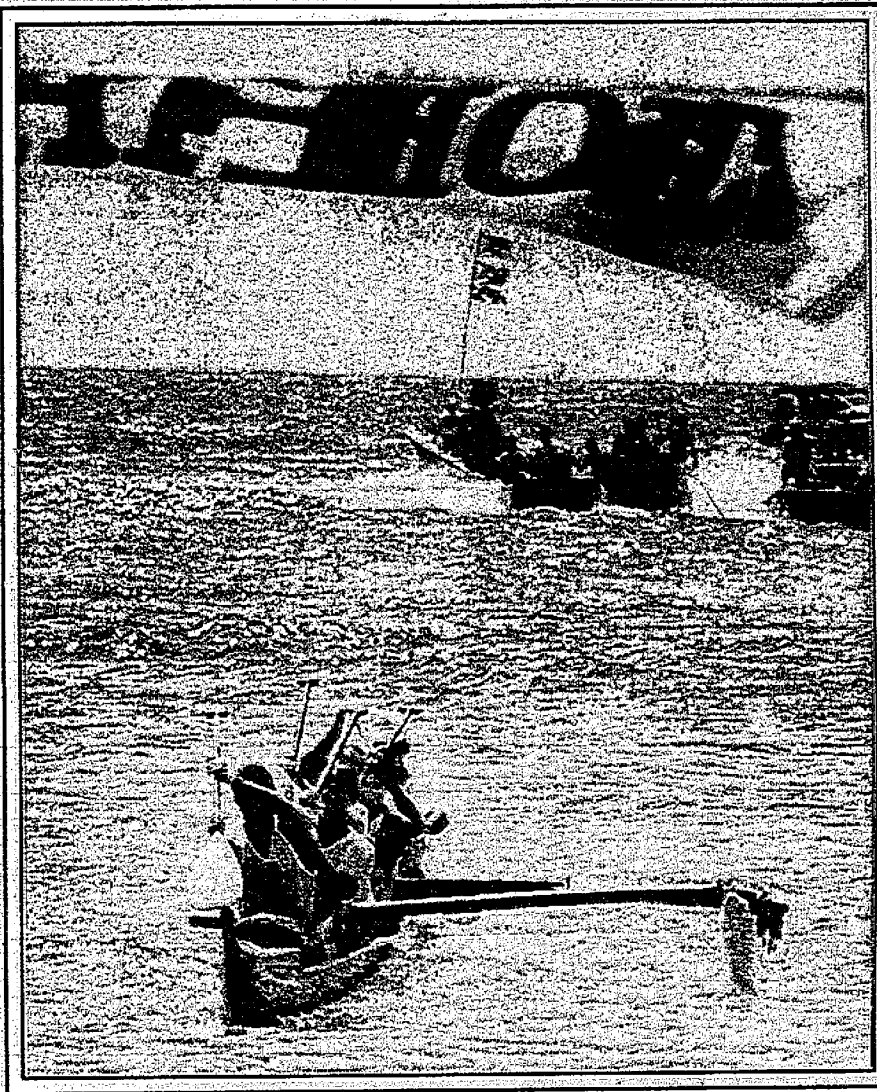
"We put a lot into this," said steersman Tom Conner of Oahu's Outrigger team. "We were very determined; determined not to let it slip away. We were embarrassed last year."

Last year, his team finished 18 minutes off the lead in seventh place.

"It was good to be embarrassed last year. We came back more determined this year. It lit a fire beneath us," said Conner, who's crew was nearly identical to last year's lineup.

The race took a watery twist about an hour after the start at Hale O Lono Harbor in Molokai.

Outrigger of Oahu and Outrigger



Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato

The Outrigger Canoe Club heads for the finish line of the 41-mile Bankoh Molokai Hoe race yesterday. Outrigger won in 5:19:38.

of Australia caught the same wave when the local team crashed into the crew from Down Under. The Hawaii crew's koa canoe nosed into the rear of the Australians' fiberglass boat and flipped it.

"There were some pretty big runners coming," said Australian Jason Somerville-Kimlin. "They tipped us on the back. It just bumped us right over."

"It was kind of an error of

inexperience on their part," said Oahu's Mark Rigg. "It just seemed to me that their steersman wasn't really paying attention, and we don't stop for anyone. It's unfortunate it happened, but that's racing."

While the Australians gathered their paddles and righted their boat, the Hawaiians paddled on

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and opened a lead they never lost.

Just last weekend, the seas were calm for the women's version of the channel race, the Bankoh Na Wahine O Ke Kai, and Offshore turned in a record time. But yesterday, rugged seas prevailed. Water washed over the canoes nearly the entire way.

Conner said, "Our plan was to go straight to Diamond Head, but the swells were too big and our canoe started to bog down, so we went over to Hawaii Kai." From there, Oahu's Outrigger team paddled up the coast to the finish at Fort DeRussy Beach in Waikiki.

Meanwhile, Outrigger of Australia closed in on Offshore, which had surged into second place.

At Diamond Head, the Australians cut Offshore's 300-yard lead to nothing, but the Australians were unable to pass the Californians.

"We got inside to get all the runs, but they got a really good run and pulled ahead. Then we caught up, and they got another really good run again," Somerville-Kimlin said. "They have a very good crew. They were very hard to catch."

"From Diamond Head, we were neck-and-neck," said Offshore's Willie Reichenstein, whose crew includes two Olympic paddlers. "We were worried all the way."

Hawaii's Outrigger Canoe Club No. 3 won the masters division (5:49:58), while Kailua's No. 4 crew captured the senior masters (6:10:52).

CANOES

1990 Bankoh Moloka'i Hoe

Overall Results

1. Outrigger Canoe Club #1 (Hawaii), 5:19:38.
2. Off Shore (Calif.), 5:28:52.
3. Outrigger Canoe Club (Australia), 5:29:01.
4. Lanikai #1, 5:35:50.
5. Outrigger CC #2 (Hawaii), 5:37:07.
6. Hui Nalu #1, 5:41:37.
7. Waikiki Surf Club, 5:42:13.
8. Flase Creek Ocean Eaters 1 (Canada), 5:44:22.
9. Kai Opua (Big Island), 5:45:38.
10. Hanalei #1 (Kauai), 5:46:18.
11. Punaruu (Tahiti), 5:46:37.
12. Anuene #1, 5:46:45.
13. Rautere (Tahiti), 5:49:36.
14. Outrigger CC #3 (Hawaii), 5:49:58.
15. Marina Del Ray (Calif.), 5:50:14.
16. Dana Point Outrigger (Calif.), 5:53:53.
17. Hui Lanakila, 5:55:28.
18. Surfers Paradise (Australia), 5:56:58.
19. Waikiki Surf Club #2, 5:58:18.
20. Kamehameha (Big Island), 5:59:38.
21. Kailua #1, 6:00:21.
22. Lokahi #1, 6:03:03.
23. Healani #1, 6:05:04.
24. Lanikai #2, 6:05:56.
25. Hanalei #2 (Kauai), 6:07:42.
26. Tiare Tahiti (Tahiti), 6:07:57.
27. Lokahi #2, 6:08:53.
28. Waikiki Yacht Club, 6:09:01.
29. Kailua #4, 6:10:52.
30. Kaneohe, 6:11:11.
31. Virginia Outrigger (USA), 6:11:32.
32. Molokai, 6:11:50.
33. Outrigger CC #4 (Hawaii), 6:15:53.
34. Napili #2 (Maui), 6:16:39.
- 35.

Keoua (Big Island), 6:19:55. 36, Koa
 Kai, 6:20:47. 37, False Creek #2
 (Canada), 6:22:23. 38, Kailua #3,
 6:24:38. 39, Kailua #2, 6:25:45. 40,
 Hui Nalu #2, 6:26:34. 41, Lokahi #3,
 6:29:27. 42, Kailhi Kai, 6:30:45. 43,
 Napili #1 (Maui), 6:31:48. 44, Aue-
 nue #2, 6:31:49. 45, Kihel (Maui),
 6:32:36. 46, Kahana (Maui), 6:37:15.
 47, Tatou Hoe O Aotearoa (New
 Zealand), 6:38:42. 48, Hawaiian #1
 (Maui), 6:41:08. 49, Hawaiian #2
 (Maui), 6:41:45. 50, Honolulu, 6:55:08.
 51, Waimanalo, 7:21:22.

Koa Division

1, Outrigger CC #1 (Hawaii). 2,
 Hui Nalu #1. 3, Hanaui #1 (Kauai).
 4, Kailua #2.

Masters Division

1, Outrigger CC #3 (Hawaii). 2,
 Manna Del Ray (Calif.). 3, Tiare Tah-
 ti. 4, Lokahi #2.

Sr. Masters Division

1, Kailua #4. 2, Outrigger CC #4
 (Hawaii). 3, Lokahi #3. 4, Avenue
 #2.

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