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## Lanikai makes it two in a row

By [Dayton Morinaga](#)  
Advertiser Staff Writer

In a paddling version of chase master, the Lanikai Canoe Club was uncatchable yesterday.

Lanikai mastered the Moloka'i Hoe for the second consecutive year, winning the 41-mile race across the Kaiwi Channel in convincing fashion.

"I don't know if anybody thought we could run away with it like that, not even ourselves," paddler John Foti said.

Lanikai completed the course from Hale O Lono Harbor, Moloka'i, to Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki, in 5 hours, 17 minutes.

Tui Tonga came in second, nearly 10 minutes later at 5:26:51. Outrigger was third in 5:28:26, followed by Ra'i of Tahiti in 5:30:54, and Team New Zealand/Hawai'i in 5:33:45.

The race is considered the world championship of long-distance outrigger canoe paddling, and 107 crews entered yesterday. Lanikai has won it six times, including five since 1995. Only Outrigger (16 victories) and Waikiki Surf Club (12) have more wins in the 54-year history of the race.

"I think our experience in the ocean, in that channel, makes a difference," Lanikai paddler Mike Pedersen said. "We do a lot of practice runs out there, and the experience we've gained over the years makes it easier."

Paddlers in the winning crew were Kai Bartlett, Peter Binney, Ka'ai Bruhn, Kekoa Bruhn, David Daniels, Jim Foti, John Foti, Mike Judd and Pedersen. All nine paddlers were also on the winning crew last year.

The Foti brothers and Pedersen have been on all five Lanikai championship crews since 1995. The ages of this year's crew ranged from 27-year-old Ka'ai Bruhn to 42-year-old John Foti.

"You can't buy experience," John Foti said. "And it worked last year, so why not stick with it?"

Last year, Lanikai fell behind early in the race, and rallied to victory. Yesterday, there was no doubt.



Lanikai Canoe Club, from left, John Foti, David Daniels, Kai Bartlett, Pete Binney, Michael Pedersen and Jim Foti, used experience and teamwork for its fifth victory in the Moloka'i Hoe since 1995. Lanikai dominated yesterday's 41-mile race from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki.

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"In the past, we'd kind of relax at the start, knowing we were going to make a move somewhere down the line," Pedersen said. "But we didn't want to get lost this time. We wanted people to chase us."

Conditions across the Kaiwi Channel were "sloppy" so the times were generally slow.

"It was very difficult to drop into the bumps because of the current," Bartlett said. "So we were just trying to get into some little ones and keep our momentum going."

Jim Foti steered the Lanikai canoe for most of the race. "The beginning was good and the end was good," he said of the conditions. "But there were two to three hours in between where it was just rough and sloppy."

In addition to its winning experience, Lanikai relied on teamwork. John Foti, for example, relieved his teammates by alternating in all six seats of the canoe during various stretches of the race.

"We knew we had the lead, but we were never comfortable," John Foti said. "When you have that feeling, you do what ever it takes to win."

Tui Tonga's runner-up finish was the best showing for a team from the Big Island. All the paddlers are from Kailua, Kona: Nick Agorastos, Bruce Ayau, Mike Field, Kafoa Halalatu, Ikaika Hauanio, Nate Hendricks, Thibert Lussiaa, Lyle Palakiko and Nue Youderian.

"We were shooting for top five and we got second," Ayau said. "We're ecstatic with that."

The Tui Tonga paddlers prepared by practicing in the rough ocean off the remote north coast of the Big Island.

"Lanikai is the world champs — they proved it again," Hauanio said. "But we showed a lot today. We're happy to be second to them."

Outrigger defeated Lanikai in two of the "warm-up" races off O'ahu last month, but they got too far behind yesterday.

"We were kind of following (Lanikai) on the same north course, but they just had more speed than us," Outrigger steersman Karel Tresnak Jr. said. "It was their day."

In the other divisions:

- Mooloolaba of Australia was 13th overall, and first in the masters 40-older division in 5:48:30.

Mooloolaba has won the 40-older division three consecutive years and eight of the last 10 years. The crew featured seven paddlers from Australia and two from Hawai'i (Walter Guild and Marc Haine).

- Keauhou from the Big Island won the masters 50-older division and was 20th overall in 6:06:17.

The second-place 50-older team came in 40 minutes later.

- Waimanalo won the masters 55-older division and was 45th overall in 6:38:03.
- A second Outrigger crew was the first to finish in a koa canoe with a time of 6:23:20.

## **BEACH BOYS PADDLER DIES DURING RACE**

Owen Cenal, a coach and paddler for the Waikiki Beach Boys, died of an apparent heart attack while competing in yesterday's race.

"The guys said he just kind of slumped over early in the race," Beach Boys coach Sean Monahan said. "It was real sudden. We're all shocked because he was in great shape."

Cenal was also a coach for high school paddlers at Damien and St. Francis. He was 53, according to an Associated Press report.

"He was always helping the kids — making paddles for them, coaching them," Damien co-athletic director Herb Lloyd said. "It's hard to believe."

Reach Dayton Morinaga at [dmorinaga@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:dmorinaga@honoluluadvertiser.com).

## **PADDLING**

### **MOLOKA'I HOE**

#### **YESTERDAY**

Hale O Lono Harbor, Moloka'i to Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki (41 miles)

Overall: 1, Lanikai (Kai Bartlett, Peter Binney, Ka'ai Bruhn, Kekoa Bruhn, David Daniels, Jim Foti, John Foti, Mike Judd, Mike Pedersen), 5:17:00. 2, Tui Tonga, 5:26:51. 3, Outrigger, 5:28:26. 4, Ra'i, 5:30:54. 5, Team New Zealand/Hawai'i, 5:33:45. 6, Tahara'a, 5:38:49. 7, Lanikai-2, 5:42:42. 8, Lanakila-California, 5:44:10. 9, Kailua, 5:46:07. 10, Hawaiian, 5:46:51. 11, Healani, 5:47:57. 12, Hui Nalu-1, 5:48:18. 13, Mooloolaba, 5:48:30. 14, Na Molokama O Hanalei, 5:51:49. 15, Wailea, 5:55:44. 16, Team West Hawai'i, 5:58:27. 17, Outrigger-Japan, 5:58:35. 18, Hui Lanakila-1, 6:00:02. 19, Team Lei Lei's, 6:02:05. 20, Keauhou, 6:06:17. 21, Nahoeiwa, 6:06:33. 22, Jericho, 6:11:02. 23, Hui Lanakila-2, 6:12:15. 24, Imua Newport, 6:12:27. 25, Lae Ula O Kai, 6:13:07. 26, Hawaiian-2, 6:19:25. 27, Manu O Ke Kai, 6:19:57. 28, Puna, 6:20:35. 29, Leeward Kai, 6:21:38. 30, Pu'uwai, 6:21:51. 31, Keahiakahoe, 6:23:05. 32, Outrigger-2, 6:23:20. 33, Na Molokama O Hanalei-2, 6:25:35. 34, 'Anuenue, 6:27:04. 35, Lanikai-3, 6:29:48. 36, San Francisco, 6:30:10. 37, Kailua Masters, 6:30:43. 38, Koa Kai-1, 6:31:05. 39, Kaiola, 6:32:36. 40, Lanakila-California, 6:32:45. 41, Kai E Hitu, 6:34:38. 42, Hui Nalu-2, 6:35:07. 43, Healani-2, 6:36:02. 44, Bend-Oregon, 6:37:12. 45, Waimanalo, 6:38:03. 46, Paopao, 6:38:38. 47, Kanu Connection, 6:39:57. 48, Hui Lanakila 40s, 6:40:04. 49, Outrigger-3, 6:40:20. 50, Hawaiian, 6:44:27. 51, Jericho, 6:46:26. 52, Lokahi-1, 6:46:55. 53, Pacific Dragons, 6:48:11. 54, Kukui O Moloka'i, 6:48:54. 55, Team Big Island, 6:50:53. 56, Kai 'Opua-1, 6:51:29. 57, Na Molokama O Hanalei 50s, 6:54:36. 58, Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 6:55:06. 59, Canoa Republic Italy, 6:55:29. 60, Hong Kong, 6:57:30. 61, Paopao, 6:59:45. 62, Waikiki Yacht, 6:59:59. 63, New Hope-1, 7:01:06. 64, Kaiola, 7:01:07. 65, Honolulu Fire, 7:01:57. 66, Lae Ula O Kai, 7:02:16. 67, Koa Kai-2, 7:02:57. 68, Kamehameha-Hilo, 7:03:15. 69, 'Anuenue, 7:08:48. 70, Kai Elua, 7:09:42. 71, Fu Hustle, 7:10:15. 72, Team Maui, 7:10:23. 73, Shonan Japan, 7:11:54. 74, Kukui O Moloka'i, 7:13:24. 75, Kilohana-California, 7:13:38. 76, New Hope-5, 7:13:46. 77, Santa Barbara, 7:15:01. 78, Lokahi-2, 7:15:53. 79, Healani-3, 7:17:19. 80, Waikiki Yacht, 7:17:32. 81, New

Zealand-Taniwha, 7:19:45. 82, New Hope-3, 7:20:10. 83, Pu'uwai, 7:20:37. 84, Waikiki Surf, 7:23:09. 85, San Francisco-2, 7:23:18. 86, Taniwha, 7:25:44. 87, Keauhou, 7:28:53. 88, Waikiki Beach Boys-2, 7:29:38. 89, North Shore, 7:30:11. 90, Lanikai 55s, 7:31:09. 91, Koa Kai-3, 7:32:36. 92, Na Kai Ewalu, 7:32:48. 93, Kikaha O Ke Kai, 7:34:52. 94, New Zealand-Taniwha, 7:34:59. 95, Honolulu Pearl, 7:43:18. 96, New Hope-2, 7:44:51. 97, Pale'kai, 7:47:18. 98, Honolulu Pearl, 7:48:38. 99, Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 7:53:37. 100, 'Alapa Hoe, 7:55:14. 101, New Hope-6, 7:55:51. 102, Kent Island, 7:59:12. 103, New Hope-4, 8:26:16. 104, Keaukaha, 8:27:48. 105, Honolulu Pearl, 9:42:55. Masters 40-older: 1, Mooloolaba (Guy Wilding, Danny Sheard, Ron Grabbe, Phil Thistlewood, John Gillespie, Walter Guild, Warren Cuffe, Marc Haine, Rob Dorrrough), 5:48:30. 2, Nahoeiwa, 6:06:33. 3, Kailua, 6:30:43. 4, Hui Lanakila, 6:40:04. 5, Kai Elua, 7:09:42. 6, New Hope-5, 7:13:46. 7, Pu'uwai, 7:20:37. 8, Keauhou, 7:28:53. 9, New Zealand-Taniwha, 7:34:59. 10, Pale'kai, 7:47:18. Masters 50-older: 1, Keauhou (Gary Capri, Lambert Lee Loy, George Abood, Jacques Blais, John Edwards, Barry Francis, Paul Dougherty, Mark Buck, Ken Powell), 6:06:17. 2, Jericho, 6:46:26. 3, Na Molokama O Hanalei, 6:54:36. 4, Kaiola, 7:01:07. 5, New Zealand-Taniwha, 7:19:45. 6, New Hope-6, 7:55:51. 7, Keaukaha, 8:27:48. 8, Honolulu Pearl, 9:42:55. Masters 55-older: 1, Waimanalo (Joseph Perry, Dennis Sallas, William Mowat, Bernie Paloma, Meiner Li'i, Mel Mau, Charles Kalama, Raymond Li'i, Jeff Metzger, Harold Akeo, Jimmy Kincaid, Robert Rocheleau), 6:38:03. 2, Team Big Island, 6:50:53. 3, 'Anuenue, 7:08:48. 4, Team Maui, 7:10:23. 5, Lanikai, 7:31:09. Koa canoe: 1, Outrigger (Ben Komer, David Buck, Mike Nakano, Robert Hastings, Paul Friese, Scott Gamble, Brady Jencks, John Bryan, Zachary Payne), 6:23:20. 2, Lanikai, 6:29:48. 3, Kanu Connection, 6:39:57.