

## CANOE COACH'S REPORT

The 1953 season was one of the most successful in many years from the standpoint of competitive participation and spectator interest. In the seven regattas covering a four and one-half month period, there were six clubs participating locally, and two more from Kona for the races there. The interest in this sport is growing rapidly. Clubs from Molokai, Maui, and two new clubs on Oahu have expressed a desire to join the racing association. During the season, the Honolulu Canoe Racing and Surfing Association raised approximately \$10,000 to support the program. The schedule was probably too long, with too many regattas, and we could have better organized races if the schedule was less ambitious. However, work is underway now in the racing association on programming the 1954 season.

The interest at the Outrigger Canoe Club was good and we had ample com-

petition for the seats in the crews, especially during the latter part of the season. In the Oahu Championships, held in Honolulu Harbor July 12, the Outrigger entered nine crews, won five firsts, four second places, and the regatta championship. The weather conditions during this regatta were near perfect.

The fourth of July races were very successful in that there were more crews entered than ever before, and the medals and trophies were well scattered throughout the six clubs invited to compete. In the "Walter Mac" senior six race, the blue ribbon event of the year, the Outrigger crew turned in a very commendable performance and finished in second place by one or two boat lengths behind an outstanding Waikiki Surf Club crew who took a big lead on the first lap after Blue picked up a wave out in blue water.

The Outrigger sent forty paddlers to Kona and they all turned in a good job and enjoyed the trip. The races there were hampered by very rough water, and two of our canoes were swamped—one when in the lead and nearing the finish line. In this regatta we finished two points behind Waikiki Surf Club, the winner. In my opinion it is not worthwhile to send crews to Kona every year because, (a) a paddler normally participates seven or eight years, and this many consecutive trips in the offing would tend to dull his enthusiasm for spirited competition to make the team; (b) these trips are costly and the money could be better expended by the racing association promoting and improving local events; and (c) if we went every other year it would give the Kona supporters more time to organize and cooperate in the promotion of the regatta.

The Outrigger Canoe Club lost four regattas by very slim margins. During the season we came in second in many races to the Waikiki Surf Club crew in their fiberglass canoe, which weights 100 to 200 lbs. less than our canoe, depending on which canoe we were using. This canoe had a particular advantage in choppy water. As an example, in the June 28th races at Kailua, it was entered in eleven races, winning ten and very nearly winning the eleventh. The racing association, however, has since ruled that

all canoes must weigh at least 400 lbs., which will make for fairer competition in the future.

This was my first experience of any kind in coaching, and looking back over the season I can recall many instances which could have been better handled. Coaching the paddling crews requires a great deal of time, three to four hours a day for four months, with no let up; however, I sincerely enjoyed it and am happy if I contributed something to the sport.

I am proud to have coached the fine group of members that paddled in 1953 for the Outrigger Canoe Club. The material, particularly in the younger boys' crews, was outstanding and 1954 should be a banner year for the club. I wish to thank you and the Board of Directors for your cooperation, particularly in approving the many requests made during the season. Also, I would like to express my appreciation for the willing cooperation of Ted Magill, Fred Steere, and many others.

ROBERT BUSH, *Head Coach*



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