

FORECAST

Outrigger Canoe Club

OUTRIGGER BEACH

SEPTEMBER / 1968

HONOLULU, HAWAII



Photo: RON HAWORTH AND ASSOC.

Lanikai/Waikiki Champions, first row, l-r, Jody D'Enbeau, Bill Eggers, Tom Conner. 2nd row, l-r, Geof Avery, Loch Ledford, Mark Buck, Nadine Kahanamoku, Henry Ayau. Not shown, Mike Holmes, Billy Mitchell.

Lanikai - Waikiki Canoe Race



Photo: JERRY OBER

The Junior crew pulls hard off Portlock.

OUTRIGGER PADDLERS CAPTURE 1ST AND 4TH IN LANIKAI-WAIKIKI RACE

The first annual Lanikai to Waikiki canoe race was a fitting tribute to Duke Kahanamoku. Ten of Oahu's finest canoe crews started at 8:35 a.m. on Duke's birthday, Saturday, August 24, and seven crews finished at the Moana Hotel about four hours later. Three canoes were forced to withdraw by rough seas and 20-knot winds.

The Outrigger "Seniors" took a lead at the start and were never behind, winning the 23-mile race in 3 hours 44 minutes 8 seconds. In second place about one-half mile astern was a crew from the sponsoring Lanikai Canoe Club, followed closely by Waikiki Surf and the Outrigger "Juniors." Our spirited "Juniors" maintained a solid second place from the start all the way to Koko Head, at one point closing to about 200 yards on our leading "Seniors," until reluctantly having to yield to Lanikai and Waikiki Surf.

Paddling in the Outrigger "Senior" boat were the following paddlers from our Senior, Junior and Freshmen boats in the recently completed regular racing season: steersman **Mike Holmes**, **Geof Avery**, **Henry Ayau**, **Mark Buck** (coach), **Tom Conner**, **Jody D'Enbeau**, **Bill Eggers**, **Butch Ledford** and **Bill Mitchell**. With the exception of coach and steersman **Fred Hemmings**, the "Juniors" were made up of the following paddlers from our championship Boys 16 and Boys 18 crews: **Brant Ackerman**, **David Alexander**, **Aka Hemmings**, **Tom Arnott**, **John Mounts**, **Jim Pietsch**, **Gary Sheehan**, and **Marty Wilson**.

The crews are grateful to their escort skippers: **John Goss**, whose cruiser NENE O KAI convoyed the Seniors; **Kimo Austin** in his sampan POMAİKAI and **Paul Strauch** in the Boston Whaler who served the "Juniors."

Our members can be very proud of our crews' performance in this brand new event. Most of them will resume training for the 17th running on October 20 of the 41-mile Molokai to Oahu canoe race in which the Outrigger is the defending champion.



Photo: CLINE MANN

It takes sixteen people to get nine paddlers 23 miles. This is the Junior crew and the seven others who helped organize and direct their effort. Long distance canoe racing is a highly organized sport almost like running a small army.

Molokai/Oahu Canoe Race training starts. For those of you who come to the club first thing in the morning or the late afternoon, you will see a crew going out in one of our fiberglass trainers. Those paddlers will be off for an hour or so making ready for the annual running of the 42-mile open sea classic race.

THE LANIKAI-WAIKIKI CANOE RACE By Mike Holmes

As the announcement of the first Lanikai to Waikiki Canoe race was made, some of our younger paddlers got together and decided to see what they could do in an event of this type. This may not seem unusual unless you are aware that the average age of these paddlers is 16, and that they are accustomed to races of one-mile maximum length. The race they decided to enter was a grueling 23-mile event over a course potentially containing some of the most adverse paddling conditions imaginable.

At the outset, they realized they did not know where to begin learning to train for a race of this type, so they recruited the tutoring and experience of **Fred Hemmings, Jr.**, who was both their steersman and coach. They paddled and ran daily as a unit; they waited every evening until 7:00 p.m. for the senior crew to return from their practice for the training meal, at which time they would begin their psychological warfare upon the senior crew. Realizing how weak we all are against a rough sea, the senior crew members often related various paddling situations which have occurred in past races and which might help if the ocean were rough on race day. The young paddlers would listen to these stories and laugh and take them lightly or so it might seem.

There is no way to explain to one who hasn't paddled in a rough sea that the canoe will often take on an angle customary only to a gyroscope, an angle often exceeding 45 degrees both vertically and laterally.

The day the juniors took their 20-mile practice run, the seas were calm and the experience could only teach them how physically demanding the race would be. At the time the race would start, they would still not know how to paddle and compensate for a relentless sea. This was their handicap and with it they paddled tremendously, powering themselves into a solid second place after a very poor start due to crowding of canoes. They maintained their second place throughout the first half of the race only to relinquish it near Portlock. They were further handicapped by seasickness and yet gave way to only two other crews in addition to our winning senior crew. It is noteworthy that they beat the Surf Club's first-line senior crew paddling the Malia. Ten boats entered the race, three of which did not finish because they could not make it around Makapuu Point, the seas were indeed rough.

In a time when many young people lacking a sense of accomplishment are turning towards a nothing-type existence, these young athletes are an elite group and they now know they can accomplish almost any objective they choose to set for themselves.

Speaking for the senior crew, we are very proud of them and would like to have as many of them with us as possible in the Molokai Race this October. We also hope that their accomplishments as paddlers and individuals will be a source of pride to the general membership which seemed to be too tired to drive 23 miles to see the start of a very monumental race.

Both the senior and junior crews wish to extend their thanks to the many people who helped them at the club, from the cooks to the manager and coaches.



Editor's note: The Junior crew used less than the most up to date equipment, they had for the most part training paddles, no two of the same weight, and a protective canvas for the canoe that would rival a volleyball net in its ability to hold water. J. O.

An indication of the spirit the junior crew carried with them throughout training and through to the end of the race is indicated in this poem by **John Mounts**. It was read to the entire crew and their friends and helpers the night before the race.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE RACE

By John Mounts

'Twas the night before the Race
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring
not even a senior mouse.

The paddles were hung
by the chimney with care
In hope that the next day
the race would be theirs.

The seniors were nestled
all snug in their beds,
While visions of first place,
dance in their heads.

Buck in his long underwear
and Holmes in his cap
Had just settled their brains,
for a long night's nap.

When out on the lawn,
there arose such a clatter,
They sprang from their beds,
to see what was the matter!!!

Away to the window,
they flew like a flash,
Tore up the shutters
and threw up the sash.

When what to their wondering eyes
should appear on the run,
But a miniature canoe
and nine baby guns.

With a jolly old steersman,
St. Hemmings by name,
Who drank blood and ate dynamite
and his crew did the same.

More rapid than bullets
his eighteens they came,
And he whistled and shouted
and called them by name.

Now Sheean, now Snidely,
now Zorba and Marty,
Gun Aka, Gun Acky,
Gun Jimmy and Arnotty.

To the top of the porch,
to the top of the wall,
Now paddle away, paddle away,
paddle away all.

So up to the housetop,
the paddlers they flew,
Munching on nails
and razor blades too.

As Buck and Holmes drew in their heads
and were turning around,
Down the chimney St. Hemmings
came with a bound.

A bundle of toys
he had flung on his back
And he looked like an animal
just opening his pack!

He brought out some gloves
and an oxygen mask,
And told them the race
would be no easy task.

He knew that his crew
would be tough to beat
So just for luck
he left rabbit's feet.

If the going got rough
and their morale began to soften,
Just in case
he left them some coffins.

He was going to leave
some railroad tracks,
But the 18's ate them
and those are the facts!

Everyone looked tired
and needed some rest
For he knew that the next day
they would all face the test.

So he sprang to his canoe,
to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all paddled
with the speed of a missile.

But they heard him exclaim
as he drove out of sight,
Good race to you seniors
'cause we'll give you a tough fight!

John Mounts is one of three of the Junior paddlers of the Lanikai Race to enter into training for the Molokai/Oahu Race. John's fellow Junior paddlers will be **Dave Anderson** and **Aka Hemmings**.



Photo: JERRY OBER

Junior crew on home stretch.



Photo: CLINE MANN

The senior crew shows its winning form off Diamond Head.