

FORECAST

Outrigger Canoe Club

OUTRIGGER BEACH

SEPTEMBER / 1969

HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Lanikai Race

CANOEING by Jerry Ober

The second running of the Lanikai to Waikiki Beach held in honor of Duke Kahanamoku, took place on the late Duke's birthday, August 24th.

The race measured on a chart, is just under 24 miles. It seems about twice that long. The course provides just about every condition of water one could hope to find or hope not to find.

The race starts at Kailua Beach Park with a Le Mans start, the crews on signal have to run, pick up their 400 pound canoe and carry it to the water then get in and go. The first portion of the race parallels the Lanikai shore and is fairly easy or at least calm. Then as the canoes come abeam of Bellows Field and Waimanalo, things take a very different turn. The shallow water in combination with a 90 degree cross wind makes as miserable a piece of ocean for canoe racing that one could hope to find. The chop is unbelievable. Once past the first tempest, there is a very short lull in lee of Rabbit Island then the test of tests, Makapuu Point and what must rival Cape Horn for rough seas. It is so rough in this area that the crews cannot change for fear of swamping the canoe (in distance races, there is a 9 man crew for a 6 seat canoe requiring changes to be made in the open sea). Once past Makapuu Point the course gradually becomes one with a following sea and one starts to relax, but not for long because the next test is the treacherous backwash from the heavy surf hitting the shore along by Sandy Beach and Blow Hole. This area has claimed its share of swamped canoes. Finally after passing Koko Head, Diamond Head comes into view and the waters become consistent and then comes the long hot haul to Diamond Head and what can often be termed as "slow water" off Portlock. Diamond Head brings a new set of problems concerning the surf condition at Waikiki. This race ends on the beach near the Moana Hotel so of course the contestants must make it through the surf and on to the beach. For anyone who watched the Macfarlane Day races on the 4th of July this year, they know



Lanikai crew off Hanauma Bay.

Photo: Jerry Ober

what that can mean. A hundred yards after nearly 24 miles could take a half hour.

Outrigger Canoe Club was the defending champion this year. We won the race on its first running last year. This year for a variety of reasons we did not fare quite so well. Our crew ended up in third place following Waikiki Surf Club in number one spot and Healani in second place. It should be said that the crew performed well, but suffered a few problems one of which was a broken zipper in the number 2 cover. In this race the canoes have a protective cover to guard against swamping. The cover has a zipper at each place to allow the paddler quick entry and exit. With an open cover in the second seat, the canoe took on far too much water in the backwash area off Sandy Beach. Only quick witted action by number 2 paddler Tommy Arnott, saved

the canoe from a total swamping. Tommy jumped clear and the rest of the crew followed. With only 8 minutes lost, the crew bailed the boat dry and they were on their way again. It was impossible with that much of a time loss to overtake the second place Healani crew. Surf Club had complete command of the race shortly after the start.

The crew this year was made up of Coach Mark Buck, Tommy Holmes, Aka Hemmings, Tommy Arnott, John Mounts, Jon Haneberg, Billy Mitchell, Henry Ayau, Pat Spencer and for the last 3 miles Jill Maguire. This year a new and unique rule was introduced to the race, a girl had to be in the canoe from Diamond Head to the finish. Jill was in number 4 seat and paddled like a champ.

The crew is especially thankful to Kimo Austin for the use of his boat

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the Pomaikai and particularly the superb services of **Marshall Rosa** who did an excellent job of driving the Pomaikai. Our own **Tommy Arnott** (paddler Tom's uncle) did his usual flawless job of piloting his own twin engine boat as the auxiliary. The helpers on this race were **Dale Hope**, **Terry Deacon**, and **Brant Ackerman**. **Dr. Bob Smith** gave up one of his precious few days off to perform as crew doctor. **Cline Mann** performed as statistician, and **Jerry Ober** as photographer.

Molokai

With the canoe hardly dry from the Lanikai Race, there is now little time for thoughts of the past but to prepare for the next race, the biggest of them all, the Annual Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race. The race falls on Sunday, October 19th this year and kicks off the round of events comprising Aloha Week.

Outrigger has won this race two in a row now and has no thought of making it any less than three in a row. If you spend your late afternoons at the club you will see the crew going for their evening run in one of the red and white fibre glass canoes. Keep your eye on these fellows, they are representing your club in the very best of its tradition.