

The Outrigger

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

HONOLULU, HAWAII

MARCH, 1971

CANOE RACING

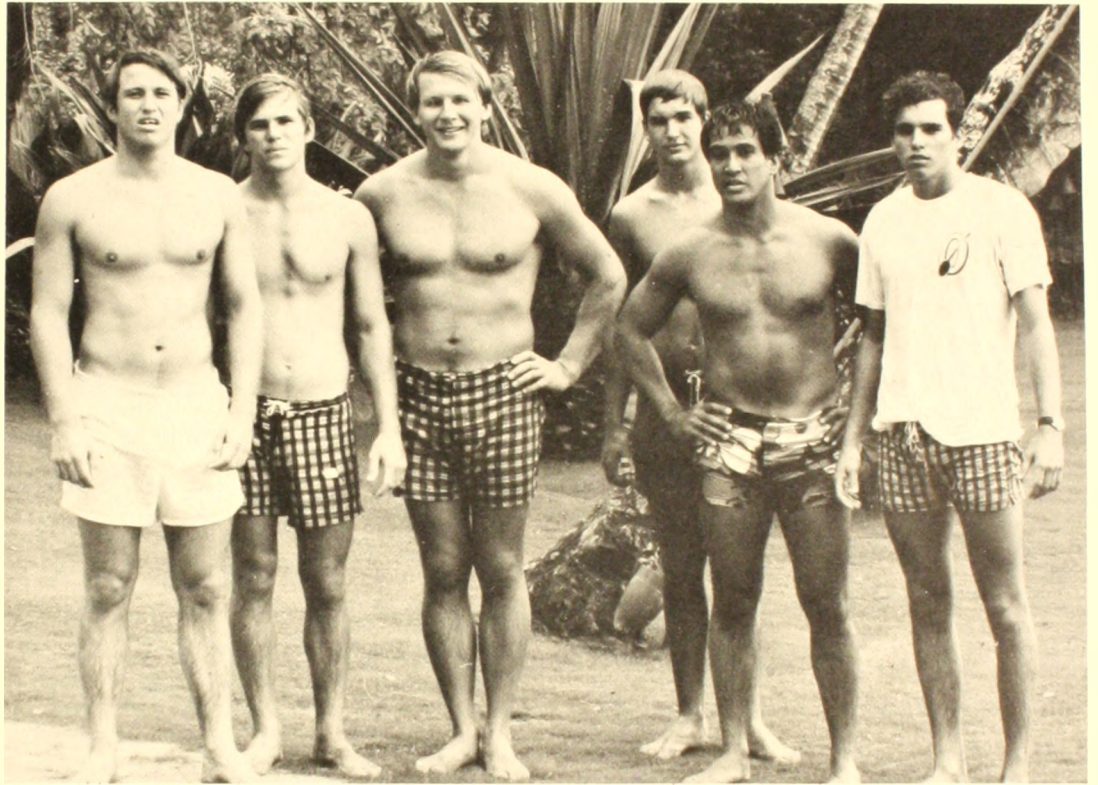
by Jerry Ober

The racing season got off to an early and very satisfactory start for the Outrigger Canoe Club. The Club was invited to participate in a pre-season race held on Kauai and hosted by the active and able Kauai Canoe Club. The race was held in connection with Kuhio Day festivities on Kauai Saturday, March 27th.

A group of our younger veterans of paddling made their wishes known and commenced training under the able guidance of Coach Mark Buck. They were George McPheeters, Brad Brown, Barry Hall, Nick Black, Bill Burso, Dale Hope, Billy Mitchell, Tim Guard and Hal Burchard joined the crew to fill it out to the required 9 men.

Race day on Kauai dawned windy and rough, the course from the beach fronting the Coco Palms Hotel to Kalapaki Beach fronting the Kauai Surf, a distance of approximately 8 miles, was a very un hospitable piece of water. The Kauai hosts had originally planned the race with nine-man crews using escort boats and changing paddlers much the same as the Molokai-Oahu Race. Conditions, however, did not permit the use of small boats in the rough waters. The Coast Guard provided the only emergency craft available for the course. Without escort boats, the canoes had to go it alone with 6 men as there would be no provision for changes. A crew consisting of Billy Mitchell, Dale Hope, Nick Black, Bill Burso, Brad Brown and George McPheeters was selected to make the trip. Barry Hall, Tim Guard and Hal Burchard opted out.

There were 7 canoes in the race of which 5 finished. The start was an unbelievable tangle of canoes following a modified "LeMans" start off the beach and into a stormy onshore wind. No more than 50 feet from shore the canoes became a tangled mess each on top of the other and trying to get free. It was such an unintentional mess, something like the freeway at 5 p.m., that no tempers were lost and the canoes were soon free of one another and off and running. Waikiki Surf Club took an early lead followed by Healani and then



Kauai Canoe Race paddlers, l-r Nick Black, Brad Brown, Bill Burso, Dale Hope, Billy Mitchell, Geo. McPheeters. photo Jerry Ober

a close group of three boats, Outrigger, Kauai and Waikiki Surf Club's number two boat. One boat swamped shortly after the start and was assisted by the Coast Guard. From a vantage point midway in the race, it was Surf Club, Healani and the tightly grouped pack of three, Outrigger, Kauai and Surf Club number 2. The next available vantage point was from the beach at the finish line. Here the truth became evident, Waikiki Surf Club rounded the point and came in with a solid first place. But, the previous number two boat, Healani, was nowhere to be seen and the next boat to come into view was the Leilani running a good strong finish against the Surf Club's number 2 boat. The Outrigger crew had proved its ability by wearing down and out-paddling the other two close contenders for the 2nd place position. Healani had swamped several miles from the finish and Kauai took 4th place.

The Kauai Surf Hotel and Kauai Canoe Club hosted an excellent lunch on the lawn fronting the hotel along with a presentation ceremony. The Outrigger was awarded the "Presidents" trophy

for its second place position.

In all, it was an excellent pre-season outing for the club and provided valuable training for some of our younger paddlers; it was a very worth while effort for all. The Outrigger sends its Mahalo to the Kauai Canoe Club for its generous hospitality not only on race day but for providing transportation to and from Kauai for the paddlers and the canoe as well.

PADDLERS

All paddlers, mark your calendars Monday, May 10th. There will be a general meeting for all those who are interested in paddling. Everyone who has ever wanted to paddle come to this informative meeting; it is open to all who would like to paddle this season regardless of experience. Exact time for the meeting will be announced, however it will be in the late afternoon by the beach front.

Tentative schedule of regattas for the 1971 canoe racing season has been set and for the most part follows the same format as previous years. There are

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The Kauai Race start



The finish at Kalapaki Beach 1 hour 40 Minutes later. photos Jerry Ober

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however some new additions both to the number of regattas and to the number of events. There is one new event. A Boy's 12 and Under "B" team now joins the 12's, making 2 12-year-old events. The "A" and "B" system was first started last year with the introduction of Novice Women B.

The other change is an addition. This year there will be another Waikiki race to be called the Waikiki Beach Boy Race. It will be held the Sunday following the Annual Club sponsored Macfarlane Day Regatta on the 4th of July.

The events are:

Sunday, June 13th, Kam Day at Kailua Beach Park, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 20th, Pokai Bay at Pokai Bay Beach Park, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 4th, Macfarlane Day at Waikiki Beach, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 11th, Waikiki Beach Boy at Waikiki Beach, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 25th, Oahu Championships, place to be announced.

Saturday, August 7th, State Championships, place to be announced.