

ATHLETICS

by JERRY OBER, Sports Editor

The Summer Regatta Season to Date

The paddling season for Outrigger this summer can be best described by one word: change. Everything has changed since the last issue of *The Outrigger* went to press.

We started off the season with Mike Holmes as head coach. Mike worked with Hal Burchard and Mike Lemes as assistant coaches for the first two regattas. Then, just prior to the Walter Macfarlane regatta on the 4th of July, Mike had to resign because of business pressures and the long hours demanded of the head coach. At that point, Timmy Guard stepped in and took over as head coach, keeping as his assistants Hal and Mike. Timmy is also the chairman of the Club's Canoe Racing Committee and has his hands full with all canoeing activities this year.

Not only have there been changes in the staff; there have also been some changes in our progress as the season unfolds. There have been four regattas to date in which the Club has established a record that shows a definite upswing. In the Kam Day races at Kailua Beach Park on June 13th, we tied with Healani. At the Pokai Regatta the following weekend, we slipped to 5th place overall. Then began a climb back toward the top, with a 3d place overall, after Waikiki Surf and Healani Canoe Clubs, at the Walter Macfarlane Regatta on the 4th of July. In the Fourth regatta of the season, a new event called the John D. Kaupiko Sr. Memorial Regatta, Outrigger finished on top, following some very impressive performances and a truly outstanding display of Club spirit. We now head toward the two big regattas of the season with victory in mind.

The Kam Day Regatta

This regatta started off for Outrigger with three first place performances in a row. We won both 12 B and 12 A boys events and Women's Novice B. The Outrigger has recently led the field with its younger crews and this year is no exception. Kilo Baird, on his first day of paddling won two gold medals, one for stroking the 12 B's, then right back in the boat in seat 5 for another win in the 12 A event.

Following the three first places, we took 2nd place for Boys 13, then another 2nd place for Boys 14. Women's Novice A found us again in 2nd place. In the men's Novice we took a third place. The 16 and under boys, yet to find their pace, took 5th. The Boys 18 took third against the very hard competition



Boys 13 and under digging in at Macfarlane Day Regatta.

of Hui Nalu and Healani. The Freshmen wahines took 4th place, followed by the Freshmen men in 2nd place. Our Junior Men trailed the field, but that story will improve. The senior men have found themselves up against perhaps the best prepared competing club crews of recent years. They took fourth in their first outing, a fourth that in preceding years could have been a first or second.

The Pokai Bay Regatta, held June 20th at Pokai Bay on the leeward coast, brought the Outrigger paddlers their least productive day of the current season. Since overall results of this meet were reported in the July *Outrigger*, I will not go into details here. However, it should be recorded that an inspired Freshman crew came up with a great performance to outshine all comers in the one and one-half mile race. The crew consisted of Yama Chillingworth, Bill Burso, Hugh Foster, Mike Rodrigues, Bruce Ames and Brant Ackerman. The boys really smoked 'em. Also noteworthy: Boys 12 A and B crews were the class of the course and went to two straight wins.

The Macfarlane Day Regatta

This year's running of the Macfarlane Day Regatta was held in an almost flat sea with waves all but nonexistent. As a result there were few really exciting, hair-raising finishes. There were however many really close finishes and what little surf there was spelled the difference between victory and defeat for many of the favorites. We did not enter a Boys 12 A crew because of some personnel problems and had to forfeit that almost sure win. The Boys 12 B were on hand, however, and they came through with their third win in as

many regattas. The Novice B wahines regained their 1st place status with an unchallenged win to set a course record. The Boys 13 missed out on a wave and ended up in 3rd place. The Women Novice A followed the Boys 13 into 3rd place also. Our Boys 14 fared not so well, ending up in 5th place. The Boys 18 and under, really up for the race, started to show the tremendous potential that they have as they paddled to 2nd place and beat out the favored Hui Nalu crew. Healani was the victor. Men Novice made up for the showing at Pokai Bay and placed 2nd. Our Freshmen Men lost out in what had to be the closest finish on record. There could not have been an inch between them and the named winner, Waikiki Surf Club. It was a beautiful race. Our Senior Wahines did the unbelievable, coming up from last at Pokai to set a course record at Waikiki and take 1st place honors, a really beautiful performance. The Junior Men, starting to show improvement, came up to 4th place. The Senior Men also came up a notch and in an excellent race took 3rd behind Hui Nalu and Waikiki Surf Club.

The John D. Kaupiko, Sr. Memorial Regatta, July 11

Hui Nalu sponsored this new regatta which, like the Macfarlane Day Regatta the week before, was held at Waikiki fronting the Outrigger and Moana Hotels. The coaching staff had certain reservations about two surf regattas back to back, but these were soon erased as the Outrigger began to show its stuff and commenced winning one race after another, ending up with team honors. The race was once again held in very mild surf conditions.

The Regatta got underway an hour early, at 9 a.m., and right from the start our traditional winners in the young crews did their thing. The Boys 12 A, now racing before the 12 B's, came in with a solid 1st place. They were steered by Fred Hemmings Jr. Right behind them, with Freddy steering once again, came the 12 B's with another win. Freddy once again climbed into the steersman's seat and took the Wahines Novice B to a victory, three straight. Again, Freddy took the Boys 13 out for their event and brought them back in 2nd place.

All races for the younger crews are usually set for a one quarter mile straight away. In this race, almost all of the events were lengthened, the quarter miles becoming halves for the younger crews. Our young crews certainly showed that they were more than up to that extra quarter mile. The Wahines Novice A went out, and for a half mile came home winners. The Boy's 14 and under, with Mike Lemes steering, brought home another win for the Outrigger. They too went a half mile. The Men Novice did not fare quite so well at the hands of the surf and took fourth place. The Boys 18 once again showed their power in a race that was almost a repeat of the previous week. Again they came in 2nd behind Healani, but ahead of Hui Nalu and Waikiki Surf. The Freshmen Wahines came in for a fine 3rd place. The Junior Men held on to their 3rd place showing, a vast improvement over the start of the season. The Senior Men had to go three and a half miles in this race against the regular two and a half. Our Seniors were more than a match for the distance and had a lead into the final quarter mile, only to have Waikiki Surf Club and Hui Nalu catch a small wave and finish one and two ahead of them in a true photo finish. In the course of the race, the Outrigger Senior crew demonstrated some of the finest canoe turning ever seen at Waikiki. The crew would enter the turn a length or two behind and come out a length or two ahead. It was a beautiful display of the art of canoe racing.

Several events in this regatta were just designed for fun, one of them a relay. This was Outrigger's meat. Good crews and good old ingenuity combined to give us a big win in this three leg event. Each leg was a half mile. Our lead canoe was paddled by Doug Straehley, Bill Burso, Nina Rodrigues, Steph. Sofos and Monte Costa, steered by Keone Downing. The second round was handled by Niki Foytich, Dave Rochlen, Cindy Mahoney, Stretz Henrickson and Yama Chillingworth, and

steered by Cecily Quinn. The third and last lap was done by Bob Moore, Christy Wilson, Judy Mounts, Hugh Foster, Wendy Wilsey and steered by Brant Ackerman.

The Regatta was won by Outrigger. It was close and was not decided until the last race, but more than that the Club really got together. There was a spirit that caught on and united the club as a single unit with a single purpose: to win.