

Sports Afloat and Ashore

by Jerry Ober

Canoe Racing Wrap-up

The canoe racing season for 1972 climaxed in mid-October with the annual running of the Molokai to Oahu canoe classic, the major distance event of the year. Your Club paddlers once more underwent a rigorous training program which they hoped would pay off on race day October 15th. By the time you have read this, the race will be history, for better or worse. Last year we ran a neck and neck battle for second place with Hui Nalu, edging that crew out in the final seconds. This year. ???

The season started out in March with the 2nd Annual running of the 8-mile open ocean race from Coco Palms to Nawiliwili Harbor on Kauai. There was another distance race at Kaneohe Marine Air Station around Coconut Island in mid May; then the regular season of course regattas, followed by the post-regatta season of distance races. The first of these was the John Awong Day race from Waikiki Beach to Waianae in which the Outrigger Canoe Club entered three canoes and placed all three of them in respectable positions. The last official race prior to the Molokai Race was the Lanikai to Waikiki Race.

All of these races, both the open ocean events and the regular regatta season, lead up to the Molokai/Oahu Race. They provide excellent training for the select nine who are in the boat on race morning at Hale o lono on Molokai. The season is not an isolated series of events but rather a long and continuous pull toward the Molokai Race.

Our crew this year is made up of Brant Ackerman, Bobby Anderson, Henry Ayau, Mark Buck, Bill Burso, Tony Crabb, Roger Cundall, Jimmy Foytich, Tim Guard, Fred Hemmings, Jr., Donny Mailer, Tuck Siegfried and Marty Wilson. Two members, both paddlers in the regatta season, have been devoting hours of their time and effort to the race with logistics and the myriad details that go into the event. They are Kimo Austin and Rod Muller. Dr. Jack Scaff, who was team physician for the last two races

and a paddler in this season's regatta series, as well as in the Waikiki to Waianae open ocean race, has returned to assist the crew with medical and dietary advice. Cline Mann will once again handle race day crew logistics. Your writer will report and photograph the event and assist with pre-race organization on Molokai.

Outrigger has in the past few years attempted to add young paddlers to the roster of "old pros" who have been at it for years. The regular summer season of races serves to bring out promising new young paddlers. They don't always make the crew in their first year out, but once involved in the program, they become the basis of our strong and enthusiastic crews of future years. This year's crew and any crew in the past has had more than one young fellow who may not have made it his first time out but stuck with it and is now a key man in the effort. This training program provides individual instruction for the few who are willing to devote many hours to a fine athletic program.

Our effort this year has added several new names to the sport. The coaching staff also has some "new" old names added to it. Assisting Head Coach Mark Buck this year are Bob Anderson Sr. and Archie Kaawa. Both have been around canoeing for many years. Both have a vast background of knowledge to impart to their crew. It is an excellent thing that these two members have found the time and interest to return to active canoe racing at the Outrigger.

The crew this year has had 13 aspirants for the 9 available seats on race morning. Four of them assume helping roles on race day. Their assistance during the running of the race is second in importance only to that of the paddlers. Their personal acquaintance with the crew members is invaluable in the stress and excitement of the race. They suffer the disappointment of not being in the boat, but they are "in the race" just the same.

