

1975 Paddling Update

by Dave Pierson

Often when reporting any athletic event, a certain amount of important material is left out because of lack of space or simply lack of knowledge. A few important points left out in last month's reporting certainly are worthy of coverage, and I apologize for missing them.

1. Few realized that in the exciting Lanikai Race (the Makaha Canoe Club disaster) our "B-boat", as Coach Archie Kaaua calls it, was only defeated by Senior koa boats and nearly finished just one place behind our Senior No. 1 crew, which caught a wave to squeeze in third.

This same B-boat trailed early in the Kona Race, as is their style, but picked off one boat after another until only Hui Nalu led. They passed Hui Nalu and seemed headed for victory when the veteran California crew caught an unreal outside current and rocketed in 20 seconds ahead in this tough fibreglass division.

Members of the B-crew are: Keone Downing, Billy Foytich, Milton Beamer, Ricky Lemke, Bill Bright, Karl Heyer IV, Jim Bugbee, Barry Hall, and steersman "Wild Bruce" Ames. Alternates were Drea Kaaua and Kua-hiwi Apple. Here is the Senior crew of the future!

2 Missed by everyone on shore was the narrow escape from a "huli" by our No. 1 crew off Diamond Head lighthouse just after the Kailua boat broke apart. Mere inches separated us from disaster. The Lanikai distance race will be long remembered.

3. How far can one go in just one season of paddling? The answer was provided by Anne Nicol who started the season as a Novice B and kept climbing to Novice A, Senior Women (State Champions) distance paddling, and finally — the Molokai challenge. You've come a long way, Baby!
