

Double Victory for OCC in Liliuokalani Race

by Tom Conner

On Labor Day weekend, 1976, the Outrigger Canoe Club performed a feat in canoe paddling that was nearly equal to the club's record-breaking performance in last year's Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race.

For the record, there were two races on this weekend: an eleven mile race for women on Saturday and an eighteen mile race for men on Sunday. As in last year's Molokai race, the Outrigger paddlers proved their determination and endurance by coming from behind and passing the early leaders of the race. While it only took the women twenty minutes to run down and pass the competition, the men's crew had a tougher time of it,

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taking nearly forty-five minutes to claim the lead.

At the start of the women's race the OCC crew drew lane 19, near the extreme outside of the fleet of 22 canoes. At the drop of the flag, Outrigger's smooth-stroking crew of Moira Scully, Maile Morgan, Connie Maguire, Anne Nicol, Kisi Haine and Evie Black maintained a steady pace which kept them within two boat lengths of the leaders who were sprinting at a furious pace to stay ahead of Outrigger. When the first change of paddlers occurred at the two mile point, Outrigger's lightweight speedsters Tracy Phillips, Michele St. John, and Karen Jones leapt into the KAKINA. The rest of the fleet then stared in disbelief as our *wahines* quickly sprinted out into a lead that would never be challenged. By the time the Outrigger girls crossed the finish line at Honaunau, the rest of the competition could barely be seen in the distance. The time for the event, 1 hour and 34 minutes, establishes a record for this new race course. Second and third place went to the Kailua Canoe

Club of Windward Oahu.

On Sunday the men's race started from Honaunau with a fleet of 33 canoes in attendance. Outrigger drew lane 6 for the koa canoe and lane 33 for the fiberglass entry. After a 45 minute delay which saw the starting line alter its shape many times, the flag finally fell. The fiberglass crew took good advantage of their position on the line and surged quickly ahead. They soon gave way to a more experienced Waikiki Surf crew which jumped to an early 6 boat-length lead. By the time the KAKINA crew got untracked they were faced with a considerable deficit. Not taking too kindly to their position at this point, the senior crew threw more coals on the burner and took off after Waikiki Surf like men possessed.

After considerable grunting and growling, the KAKINA drew even with Waikiki Surf and steersman Mike Lemes calmly barked out two words, "Helter-Skelter!" Seemingly awakened by this post-hypnotic suggestion, the white water quickly started to boil behind the Outrigger paddles. Not wishing to tamper with such mysticism, Waikiki Surf fell quickly behind.

Once the lead was gained, the rest of the race produced nothing dramatic except for the fact that Outrigger's time of 2 hours and seven minutes bettered their own 1975 record by 2 minutes. The fiberglass crew finished in 12th place in what is the largest canoe race to date. The Outrigger was fortunate to have the services of Bill Cook, Bob Fischer, and Club President Roy Kesner. Their assistance did much to lighten the burden on the coaches.

Congratulations to women's crew members Evie Black, Kisi Haine, Karen Jones, Connie Maguire, Maile Morgan, Anne Nicol, Maile Ostrem, Tracy Phillips, Michele St. John, and Moira Scully.

Koa men's crew was Brant Ackerman, Bill Bright, Mark Buck, Tom Conner, Tim Guard, Mike Lemes, Bill Mowat, Marshall Rosa, and Jay West.

Fiberglass men's crew was made up of Milton Beamer, Doug Bechert, Mike Clifford, Willie Hawthorne, Donny Mailer, Buddy McGuire, Kenny Morrow, Hugh Murray, Ed Pickering, Jay Pynchon, and Alan Rosehill.