

OCC's Koa Entry Wins Lanikai-to-Waikiki

by Tim Guard

It is often a difficult transition to make from summer's short-course canoe races to autumn's long-distance Marathons. But the Outrigger senior men, augmented by one paddler each from the freshman and sophomore crews, proved they were ready for the challenge by leading a flotilla of 32 koa and fiberglass canoes to the finish line in the ninth running of the Duke Kahanamoku Lanikai-to-Waikiki distance race on August 22. Outrigger's time of 2 hours and 59 minutes established a new course record and axed 20 minutes from the previous standard for the 26-mile grind.

The OCC men began the race impressively by roaring away from the starting line and establishing a four-boat-length lead by the time the frontrunners reached Lanikai Point. As expected, the always tough Waikiki Surf Club entry clung tenaciously to the Outrigger's stern, and they were closely followed in turn by Kailua and two surprisingly strong dark horse entries—Lahaina and the International Canoe Club (also known as the Perry Boys Smorgy Team).

But by the time the frontrunners reached Makapuu, the fleet was strung out over nearly a mile of ocean, and the final order of finish had become apparent. Surf Club was still the Outrigger's most persistent challenger, but the turn at the point ice-boxed whatever hopes WSC might have had of overtaking the fast-stroking leaders.

By hugging the cliffs at the seemingly foolhardy distance of no more than 10 to 15 yards, the OCC picked up the ocean's equivalent of a jet stream and raced from the point to Allen Davis' beach in less than ten minutes. Following closely behind, Surf Club and Kailua were less inclined to chance the risky inside route. Surf Club particularly paid dearly for its decisions, and by the time the leaders of the pack were safely around Makapuu headed for the finish line, OCC's lead had expanded to an insurmountable 400 yards.

Working with nearly an 800 yard

lead near the finish line, the Outrigger headed in the channel towards the Kaimana Beach confident that their pursuers were safely to the rear. However, they failed to take into account Surf Club's closing rush. By borrowing a page from the Fred Hemming's primer on steering, WSC helmsman Nappy Napoleon guided his canoe safely through the surf and coral heads off Diamond Head and stormed along the beach in pursuit of Outrigger. By the time OCC nosed across the finish line, their once comfortable lead had shrunk to no more than 100 yards.



OCC crew after Duke Kahanamoku victory. (L/R): Tom Conner, Jay West, Brant Ackerman, Bill Bright, Tim Guard, Marshall Rosa. In foreground, (L/R): Bill Mowat, Mark Buck, Mike Lemes. (Winners' trophy between Mowat and Ackerman.) Photo Scoop

Liliuokalani from p. 1

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