

**Outrigger Crews push
Kailua real hard
in Leeward Kai Regatta
Tahitian stroke "shapes up"**

Our Club crews didn't win the Leeward Kai Regatta, but, in paddling to a very respectable second place our crews showed that they are fast mastering the Tahitian stroke. Here is how the Advertiser reported it:

"Kailua Canoe Club did it again the Hawaiian way, but the battle of paddling strokes is shaping up quickly.

The Windward club won the Leeward Kai Regatta yesterday at Nanakuli Beach Park for its second straight Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association victory. Utilizing the traditional Island way of stroking, Kailua amassed 48 points by taking five firsts and four seconds.

But the Tahitian stroking Outrigger Canoe Club, admittedly "peaking a little too soon" with its newfound style, came close to the winners with 43 points.

Most coaches felt it would take until mid-season before clubs using the Tahitian stroke would feel competitively comfortable with the contrasting style. But Outrigger evidently has taken the transition in stride, especially its older crews.

"We're feeling a little more comfortable with the stroke," said coach Tom Conner. "But we usually don't get this many points so soon in the season. We usually point for the Oahu Championships and the State."

Outrigger may not have needed to wait that long for a win if not for some disqualification that may have put them ahead of Kailua. It finished second in both the Boys 16 and Men Freshmen events, but were disqualified for interference and a false start, respectively.

Thirteen points in the final two events, won by adept Tahitian-stroking paddlers, pushed Outrigger into the runner-up spot.

Following Kailua and Outrigger in team results were Healani and Hui Nalu, tied for third with 33 points, Waikiki Surf (28) and Lanikai (18)."