

Outrigger Takes Opening Double-Header of Distance Canoe Racing Season

by Jerry Ober

The 1977 long distance canoe racing season opened in a big way for OCC the weekend of August 20th and 21st. First, on Saturday, came the 4th Annual Dad Center Memorial Canoe Race for Women. The Outrigger wahines won the honors this year as they have each time since the race's inception. The wahines kept their perfect regatta season score of 5 - 0 quite safe with their impressive quarter-mile lead. The race course runs from the pier at Portlock to Outrigger Beach, a distance of about 8 miles which the paddlers covered in 1 hour, 21 minutes. Kailua took second and Hui Nalu third.

Tennessee Ernie Ford presided at the awards ceremony which followed at the Club. A presentation speech was made by Dad Center's sister, Mrs. Margaret Center Anderson, mother of our club president, Bob Anderson.

Sunday, the 21st started the demanding long distance season for men which will culminate in mid-October with the Molokai to Oahu Race. The "Lanikai Race", dedicated to the late Duke Kahanamoku, starts at Lanikai and ends at the beach near the Natatorium. In the approxi-

mately 21-mile course every possible variety of ocean is encountered, making this one of the most challenging of all of the open ocean events. For the third year in a row, Outrigger was the victor over both competition and elements. The winning time was 3 hours, 20 minutes, just slightly off the record pace of the preceding year.

The race was not without its pre-start intrigue, typical of Hawaiian canoe racing. Coach Tom Conner has recently built the *Manu Ulu*, a fibre glass racing canoe combining both Hawaiian and Tahitian concepts of canoe design. The new canoe is, in



Senior Women, (l/r): Evie Black, Sharon Bintliff, Anne Hogan, Michele St. John. Rear row, (l/r): Jill Andersen, Coach Tom Conner, Tracy Phillips, Anne Nicol, Kisi Haine. (Off pic: Connie Maguire) Photo Willard Gray



State Champion Senior Womens crew (l/r): Moira Scully, Michele St. John, Sharon Bintliff, Anne Hogan, Maile Morgan, Connie Maguire. Photo Stephen Riede.

part, a departure from the traditional Hawaiian canoe shape. Acceptance of change is something that comes a bit slower than innovation. On the beach before the start of the race, the Outrigger seniors were told they could not use the *Manu Ulu*. The Outrigger "B" team, previously assigned to paddle the *Kakina*, generously gave her to the seniors. The "B" team then used the *Manu Ulu*, an unofficial entry.

Soon after the race got under way, it became a two-boat duel between

Outrigger and Hui Nalu. The two canoes were paddling for several miles close on and occasionally running into one another until Outrigger broke away and got into clear water. Once in the clear, the OCC crew continued to widen its lead, passing within inches of the cliffs below Makapuu light. Once around the bend, the OCC crew was never again challenged for its first place position. In the last miles of the race the closest challenger, Waikiki Surf Club, took the inside passage from Diamond Head past Tonggs in a vain attempt to get by Outrigger which had chosen the outside route. OCC quickly covered this move, came inside, made a beautiful and dramatic pass by the Club Beach and went on to the Natatorium for the win.



Tennessee Ernie Ford makes the awards after the race. Photo Willard Gray.

Paddling for the Senior Men were: Mark Buck, Tom Conner, Tim Guard, Mike Lemes, Marshall Rosa, Brant Ackerman, John Finney, Ed Pickering, and Donny Mailer.

In the "B" crew, sometimes known as the "Wackos" were: Jay West, Jay Pynchon, Willie Hawthorne, Bill Bright, Ken Morrow, Alan Rosehill, Hugh Murray, Roger Cundall and Mike Clifford, Bill Mowatt was their coach. The "B" crew finished in 7th place.

In the Dad Center race, the women's crew included: Connie Maguire, Evie Black, Anne Hogan, Kisi Haine, Michele St. John, Tracy Phillips, Jill Andersen, Anne Nicol, Sharon Bintliff.