Leeward Kai Regatta

The Outrigger Canoe Club really showed its muscle as it accumulated eight first places to capture the team title at the Leeward Kai Regatta in Nanakuli on Sunday, June 21. On this hot, almost windless day, the weather and ocean conditions were perfect for a regatta.

Canoe-racing chairman Jeff Kissel summed it up at the end of the day's racing. "The Outrigger Club won this regatta in the best of canoe-racing tradition that instills in all of us the will to win. And to think that the Novice A men have not yet peaked. This is going to be a great season indeed!"

Head Coach Walt Guild was equally proud of his paddlers, saying, "Our coaching staff has worked hard in preparing the paddlers to do what this club does best—win canoe races." Walt emphasized that this race shows the competition that our younger division has the determination to make steady improvement towards our goal of winning the Oahu and State Championships.

Walt believes that the most improved crews during this regatta were those of the Senior Women and the Junior Men. Members of the 1st place Senior Women crew are Anita Minteer, Tiare Finney, Ann Nicol, Tracy Phillips, Connie Young and Ann Hogan. These superstars are coached by Aaron Young. Members of the 1st place Junior Men crew are Ed Pickering, Bill Bright, Gibb Bintliff, Murry Hixnon, Jack Fher and Allan Rosehill. These racers are coached by Mike Lemes.

One crew to watch is the fast-coming Girls 15 crew. This 1st place crew is composed of Reeny Dorsey, Stephanie Smart, Gail Stringer, Malia Snyder, Caroline Stirling, and Jonna Lemes. We can expect some great wins from this group. These paddlers are coached by Didi Guild.

It might be noted, the Freshman Men, romantically known as the "Sultans," set a new course record for their 1-mile race with a record time of 7:52.

Girls 15 years took 1st place in the Leeward-Kai Regatta. From left: Didi Guild, ass't. coach, Reeny Dorsey, Gail Stringer, Stefanie Smart, Jonna Lemes, Malia Snyder, Caroline Stirling, Bess Burmeister.