

The Hobie Cat Nationals

by Jerry Ober

Hobie Cat Regattas are the current word in Outrigger Canoe Club sailing efforts.

The Club sent three of its best sailors to Tampa, Florida, in November to compete in the Hobie Cat Nationals. The Outrigger contenders were Lieth Anderson, Bobby Anderson and John Tatom.

The weekend of the 11th and 12th of December saw the first in the series of Hobie Cat regattas for next year's Nationals. This regatta was sponsored by the Outrigger Canoe

Club and was held in the waters off Waikiki. Readers may recall that December was a month of super trades. Sunday the 12th was no exception; the winds were gusting up to 30 mph and the seas were rough and choppy. Outrigger racing weather.

The Regatta consisted of three races, all of which provided plenty excitement for spectators. Twelve boats started the first race, but demastings, flip-overs, etc., reduced the number to seven boats for the second race. Outrigger proved its strength in the first event; Lieth Anderson,

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Bobby Anderson and Mike Holmes taking 2nd, 3rd and 4th places respectively. The second race was a clean Outrigger sweep, with 1st place going to Mike Holmes, 2nd to Lieth Anderson and 3rd to Bobby Anderson. In the third and final event it was Mike Holmes again in 1st place followed by Lieth Anderson. Congratulations go to Mike Holmes for his first major regatta win, and a very convincing one at that.

A qualifying system has been established for next year's Hobie Cat Nationals. There will be at least 8 mandatory races plus the State Championships, to decide the State representative. The Outrigger Canoe Club has its own system for selection of its representatives to the Nationals. The way things are starting, it could well be that the Outrigger champion will be the State champion as well.