

the Outrigger



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Three OCC Crews Finish the 2005 MOLOKAI HOE

By Jon Bryan

The 2005 canoe racing season brought many new, positive changes to the men's program that generated many "first" experiences and results.

Coach John Puakea, who has coached our women's program for two of the past three years, coached the men's team for the first time.

There were three open men's crews participating in this year's Molokai Hoe on October 9, a first since 1996 with six paddlers competing in this prestigious race for the first time. Furthermore, Outrigger finished first place twice during the 2005 distance season winning the Duke Kahanamoku and Henry Ayau long distance races.

All of this momentum brought renewed confidence and enthusiasm to our men's paddling program with optimism of mounting a challenge to defending champion Lanikai Canoe Club.

Off the starting line at Hale O'Lono at least a dozen canoes battled for the lead, however, by La'au point the advantage clearly belonged to Lanikai, having a 300 yard lead over the rest of the field.

Outrigger's first crew (OCC-1), paddling the *Henry Ayau* under the guidance of Karel Tresnak Jr. followed Lanikai into the channel on a relatively similar course. The battle ensued for hours during difficult conditions with the tide dropping (tide going against the paddlers) accompanied with 10-15 mile an hour winds and channel swells reaching 10 feet.

OCC-1 closed the distance only to again lose ground on the push into

Portlock. Once into Maunaloa Bay, Tresnak and the boys had a smoking Hawaii Kai run, but Lanikai's lead was insurmountable.

Believing they were a solid second place, OCC-1 pushed towards Black Point only to notice two canoes far south of them. Converging on the Club's familiar home waters, it appeared that the advantage would be with them due to strong outgoing currents.

However, as luck would have it, the outside line actually ran faster and the Tui Tonga team from Kona was able to slide in front of OCC-1 to take second place. OCC-1 was able to hang on to third place, their strongest showing in six years, over Ra'i Ra'i of Tahiti and Team New Zealand/Hawaii (4th and 5th respectively).

Congratulations to Karel, Kapono Brown, Kevin Allen, Bret Chuckovich, Rob Harrison, Byron Ho, Jimmy Austin, Mike Kane and Evan Rhodes.

Outrigger-2 crossed the channel racing in the koa canoe the *Kakina* winning the Koa division. OCC-2, guided by "up and coming" steersman Zak Payne, consisted of veteran and younger paddlers.

Team members of OCC-2 were Payne, Scott Gamble, Jon Bryan, Ben Komer, David Buck, Bobby Hastings, Mike Nakano, Brady Jencks and Paul Friese.

OCC-2 battled with Lanikai's Koa canoe for the first part of the crossing but at the 1-1/2 hour point, Lanikai decided to take a more northern route hoping to have an advantage over Outrigger by

the time they reached Portlock with the dumping tide. OCC-2 kept its course which proved to be the right choice never relinquishing its lead to Lanikai throughout the race and beating them by over six minutes.

Paddling the *Kainalu*, were a crew comprised of paddlers born in the 60's to 80's with varying degrees of experience. For Joey Nakaya, Kulani Jones, Tucker Siegfried, and David Fan, it was their first crossing. They relied on experienced crew members Chris Eldridge, Chris Siegfried, Mark Eliashof, Paki Vaughan, and Scott Stevenson for guidance and leadership which they unexpectedly would need.

Twenty minutes prior to the start of the race, OCC-3 learned that their hired escort boat had not showed up. Fortunately, they were successful in obtaining a replacement escort boat, however, fluids needed to be rationed between OCC-2 and OCC-3 crews which would prove costly for OCC-3.

About one hour outside of Portlock, OCC-3's fluid supply had diminished to six bottles of Gatorade and no water. They pushed forward, limiting each paddler to rationed portions of the remaining fluid supply for the duration of the race.

After entering Maunaloa Bay, melted ice water in the cooler and left over tonic water from the previous evening were all that was left. OCC-3 paddled hard despite dehydration and finished the race through perseverance and determination. For many crew members, it was a crossing they would never forget.

OCC-2 included Bobby Hastings, Paul Friese, Scott Gamble, Jon Bryan, Ben Komer, Mike Nakano, Zak Payne, David Buck and Brady Jencks.



Molokai Photos

Color photographs of the Molokai Hoe and Na Wahine O Ke Kai long distance canoe races, including the one on the cover, were taken by veteran photographer Mark Roberts. The photos are available for purchase on line at rebelshots.com. We thank Mark for sharing the photos with Outrigger members.

2005 Molokai Hoe October 9, 2005 Results

OCC 1

3rd, Overall, 5:28:26 *Henry Keawe Ayau*
Kevin Allen, Jimmy Austin, Kapono Brown, Bret
Chuckovich, Rob Harrison, Byron Ho, Mike Kane,
Evan Rhodes, Karen Tresnak Jr.

OCC 2

32nd, Overall, 6:23:20 1st, Koa *Kakina*
Jon Bryan, David Buck, Paul Friese, Scott Gamble,
Bobby Hastings, Brady Jencks, Ben Komer, Mike
Nakano, Zak Payne.

OCC 3

49th, Overall, 6:40:20 *Kainalu*
Chris Eldridge, Mark Eliashof, David Fan, Kulani
Jones, Joey Nakaya, Chris Siegfried, Tucker
Siegfried, Scott Stevenson, Paki Vaughan