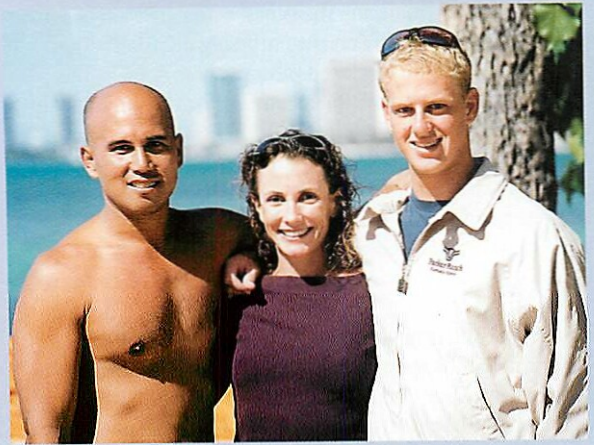
The Beachboy's "Choose Your Weapon" Race



Byron Ho, Mary Smolenski and Jimmy Austin won the team event for the Outrigger.

By George Wessberg

The winds picked up the night before the race and everyone arrived at Maunalua Bay with their favorite weapon. Approximately two dozen members from the Outrigger Canoe Club entered various categories of the Waikiki Beachboy's "Choose Your Weapon" Race on December 7.

Mary Smolenski, Byron Ho and Jimmy Austin won the team event for Outrigger. Mary was in third place on surfski, Byron was sixth in one-man and Jimmy Austin was second in paddleboard. This was the first time a team category was offered in this race.

Several Outrigger members won the category they entered. Brian Rochleau was first in men's unlimited paddleboard with Jimmy Austin right behind him. Chris Moore was first in stock paddleboard.

Mark Sandvold was first in men's surfski with Sean Monahan a close second. Mary Smolenski finished third behind Lauren Spalding and Kelly Fey in women's surfski. Tom Connor was first in men's 50+ division.

Kisi Haine and Paula Crabb were first in women's two-man and Jim Beaton and Doug Lock were first in men's two-man. Nikki Queyrel and Bobby Paket were first in the mixed category.

Manny Kulukulualnui was first in men's one-man and Diane Ward was first in women's one-man.

The most exciting event of the day was the finish for the six-man race. Hui Lanikila reached the buoy outside the channel first and Mel Pua hit the water to complete the swim to the finish line on Kaimana Beach. Mel was 25 yards ahead when Hui Nalu's Kai Mowat started his swim. As Kai closed the gap with 25 yards to go, an exhausted Mel was seen hopping from one coral to another along the jetty in attempt to maintain his lead. Kai won the race for Hui Nalu.