

# the **Outrigger**

March 1990



# Keone Downing Rules Waimea Bay

By Joe Teipel

The whole world it seemed, especially the surfing world, waited ... and waited ... and waited ... until finally .... it happened!

After three long, trying years of postponement, January 21 erupted with the cry of "surf's up!" Waimea Bay on Oahu's famed North Shore dawned this day to greet classic 20-30-foot surf for the Quicksilver in memory of the late great Eddie Aikau.

According to meet director, George Downing, himself one of the original, pioneer big-wave greats here at Waimea and elsewhere, it was the best Waimea he had seen in many years.

By day's end, after hours of grueling dangerous competition, it was his eldest son, Keone, who was crowned king for that day with surfing's largest first place cash prize ever—\$55,000. Keone's performance was superlative, deep position-

ing, careful and precise timing, and no wipeouts—a real first class day. He bested an amazingly strong international field of hungry and talented big-wave specialists.

Brock Little had the tube ride of the day for second place and \$10,000, while Californian Richard Schmidt took home \$5,000 for third and the largest wave free-fall of the meet. The 30 other surfers in this prestigious event, commemorating one of Hawaii's all-time great watermen, got \$350.

Catch the Aikau and Keone on ESPN-TV. Check local listings. Coming soon to a TV near you.

(Editor's Note: After sitting all day on the beach and doing commentary on the surfing contest and watching everyone else catch the big ones, Joe could resist no longer. As darkness approached, he paddled out on his bodyboard—described as a sponge by some—and caught and

rode what everyone agreed was a 25-30 foot wave all the way to the beach. Quite a sight, according to long time surfing observers who thought they'd seen it all!)

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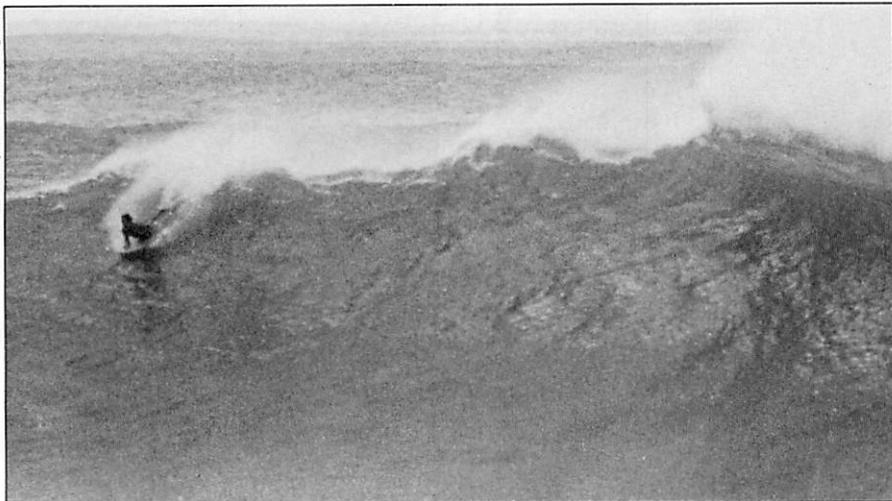
## RULE OF THE MONTH

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Photos by Scott Hartvigsen



Joe Teipel rides Waimea Bay on a bodyboard.

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