

Honolulu Marathon Report

by Hugh Foster, Running Committee

Out of the 7500 starters in this year's Marathon, OCC had our usual 30-35 runners with aspirations ranging from completion to breaking prior personal records. As the race began and the first several miles were covered it was apparent to all but a few that the conditions ahead were to be brutal. For many, the Outrigger Aid Station was the maximum comfortable run that morning, except that the finish line lay another 15 miles ahead. The consensus of runner opinion was that at the mid point check - 15 mile mark at the Esplanade in Hawaii Kai marked the spot where most everyone questioned whether or not a good time or, in fact, a respectable finish was in the cards.



Bill Stricklin & helpers, Clinic

While some were asking themselves, "What am I doing here?", several runners were well on their way to new records. For Dean Matthews it was a 2:16 and a new course record, shattering a full minute from Don Kardongs 1978 2:17, and for our own Gil Hicks, a personal best 2:57:34 and a first place trophy from the Honolulu Marathon Assn. in his age group, in addition to breaking the 3:00 hour barrier separating runners from joggers. When asked about the humidity and heat Gil replied, "what humidity?" which goes to show you if you're "smoking" at sub seven minute miles there is no time to feel it.

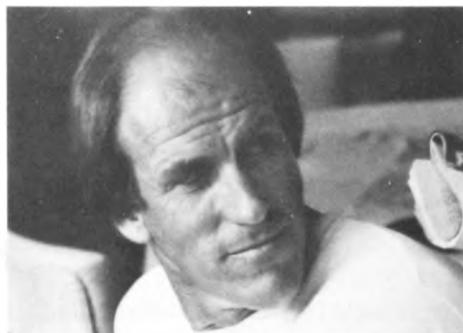
OCC heavy, Peter Balding, not only completed his first marathon but completed the trek under four hours with an unbelievable 3:47. The rest of the Paddle Tennis Mafia were close to him with Bob Rediske clocking a 3:58 and Billy Head a 3:45. Jon Kelleher, who was

an official during the race, broke the 3:30 barrier several weeks earlier during Special peoples marathon.



Runner Jon Finney

Dr. Bill Starbuck continues to defy nature by completing the grueler and by being one of the top age group cardiac rehabs on the course. He clocked a 6:43 and edged our own Capt. Hap Hazard by a scant 24 minutes. Hap rolled in to the applause of his supporters during a tropical monsoon just in time for the awards ceremony. Fred Hemmings again astounded the world by gutting out under 4 hrs. with a 3:58 and winning a purported \$100.00 from Jack Scaff in a "run to THE DEATH" race, with Jack clocking in around 4:10. The worst casualty was Hugh Murray whose conditioning and ability fooled his mind and with his first sub-3 in sight collapsed in sight of the finish line. "The Murr" did set a record, however, 107 temperature at the MASH Tent, clocked just before they whisked him to Queens. Other "casualties" were Dewey LaFond, who traveled from West Point, NY only to get strep throat and CNS (Could not Start); Jim Peterson who blew his wad on the Molokai Kayak race (CNS); Dr. Don Nichol whose broken shoulder again revealed itself at the OCC Aid Station with a six pack in sight. (DNF) Jaren Hancock (CNS) and Bruce Ames (CNS), who both pantied out.



Hugh Foster

Rugby Reps John Finney and Jim Stahl clocked a 4:20 and a 3:45 respectively.

The remaining OCC runners, who were satisfied in merely surviving the ordeal that day, include Rudy Choy @ 4:23; Paul Diller @ 4:10; Pete Dudgeon @ 3:42; Bill Breeden @ 4:40; Doug "Screamin'" Schramel @ 3:10; yours truly @ 3:34 PW (Personal Worst), and George Crandelmire @ 4:40. Ian Emberson cruised a leisurely sub 4 hr. as a prep for his Iron Man attempt in January. Kimo Austin, also will be attempting the gruelling Iron Man Triathlon in January and decided the Marathon would hinder his training schedule so passed.

OCC had a number of guest member runners from reciprocal clubs including several from NYAC, Olympic Club, Australia and New Zealand. What a better place than OCC as a base for the Honolulu Marathon. In the next issue we will list all OCC finishers when final result and reporting is pau. Please, all runners except those mentioned submit your times to the desk attn: Jeanne Dean.

OCC Marathoners were joined this year by several World Class athletes at the annual pre-race brunch. OCC hosted the Honolulu Marathon Assn.'s Press Conference where members heard Don Kardong's words of wisdom on this year's attempt to win it again, and fellow Washingtonian Herm Atkins' soft challenge to not look back.



Jogger Rudy Choy

Particularly exciting was to mingle with such athletes as Jim Ryun, former world record holder in the mile, which stood for years until broken in 1975 by Filbert Bayi, and subsequently by Walker (NZ) and just recently by Coe (ENG) Kenny Moore making his fifth appearance in Honolulu, and winner of the Great Hawaiian Footrace explained how he will attempt at qualifying for the Olympic Trials in



Young helpers at Aid Station



Bob Nemenchek, MD

Buffalo in May. Kenny was fourth in the USA's effort in Munich where Frank Shorter established America as a distance power with a Gold Medal. Pre race favorite Patty Lyons who won last year and again this year in 1979 gave us her thoughts on a very relaxed approach to our Marathon as did Gillian Adams a world class runner from Great Britain who finished second in the NY Marathon behind Grete Waitz, who established a womens record during that race. Frank Segura with one marathon under his belt (2:13 at Nike in Oregon in Sept.) couldn't believe the humidity and stated it would undoubtedly affect his performance, which it did. Runners regretting on our invitations due to plane connections were Frank Shorter, (3rd 1979) and an Olympic favorite for the 1000 meters, Benji Durden from Atlanta, and several others who in addition to the aforementioned will undoubtedly qualify for the trials in Buffalo in the Spring. It is quite probable that one or more of our Brunch guests will represent the USA in the marathon effort in Moscow next summer, in Olympiad 1980.



John Gesser



Jon Haig



Norm Dunmire



Club President Ron Sorrell presenting a plaque to Dennis Gonzales of the Peruvian Surfing Association and Club Waikiki in Lima, Peru, in appreciation of his many courtesies to the surfers from Hawaii who competed in Peru. Peruvian Consul Neal Iversen appears in the background.