

Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race

OCC, Healani Set Records

By FERD BORSCH
Advertiser Sports Writer

Outrigger Canoe Club and Healani maintained their power paddling prowess in Hawaiian waters yesterday by stroking to new records in the 17th annual Aloha Week outrigger canoe race.

Although swamped and upended by the tricky and treacherous waves of Molokai Channel, Outrigger quickly recovered and completed the 38-mile canoe classic from Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai to Duke Kahanamoku Beach in 5 hours, 55 minutes and 16 seconds.

Coached and captained by Mark Buck, the finely-tuned Outrigger oarsmen nosed their sleek, red-trimmed canoe under a ti-leaf trimmed finish line at 1:44 p.m., improving the old koa and overall record by a scant 44 seconds.

Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club set the outgoing mark of 5 hours and 56 minutes flat in 1964.

This was the second straight victory for the Outriggers — and their third in four years.

Healani, meanwhile, raced its way through eight and ten-foot swells to a third straight non-koa conquest. And it also was a second straight record breaking performance.

Veteran Richard "Baby" Bell guided the fibreglas outrigger Mahimahi over the exhausting course in 6 hours, 3 minutes and 28 seconds, almost nine minutes swifter than the 6:12:14 record established by this same boat last year.

Lanikai Canoe Club, usually in the "second division" of this event, also bettered the old non-koa record with a clocking of 6 hours, 7 minutes and 48 seconds.

This marked the first time in Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger racing history that non-koa boats finished two-three overall.

Waikiki Surf Club and Hui Nalu took second and third in the koa class and fourth and fifth overall.

"We almost lost it when we swamped and flipped over," said Outrigger skipper Buck between gulps of guava nectar after the race.

The Outriggers took their unscheduled dip in the brine at 9:43, near the end of the second hour of paddling. They were uprighted and again on their way four minutes later.

"We attempted to take a straight course across but couldn't because of the wave action," Buck added. "Fortunately, we had a good lead when we flipped and we still led after the flip."

But Healani's blue-trimmed fibreglas craft did enjoy a few minutes of the lead before the race was over.

"Shortly after they (Outrigger) recovered, we nosed ahead for a while," said Bell, who was mighty proud of his Healani squad. "But it didn't last for long. That Outrigger is a good crew."

Bell also said he had plotted a straight-across course to Diamond Head "but we veered to the right because of the swells."

Doug Carr, who coached and steered the Lanikai crew, said the water was rough—but it has been rougher in the past.

Rough water, in fact, de-

layed the start of the race for 20 minutes.

And two canoes failed to finish. Hui Nalu's fibreglas swamped three times before the race was two hours old and turned back. And Kauai Canoe Club swamped at 8:40, still in the shadow of Molokai. Unable to bail out and upright their koa craft for almost an hour, the Kauai crew finally made it back to Molokai at 12:05 p.m.

In addition to coach Buck, who paddled No. 1, the winning Outrigger crew included Tom Conner No. 2, John Haneberg No. 3, William Mitchell No. 4, Mike Holmes No. 5 and Fred Hemmings steering. Holmes also steered and Henry Ayau, Aka Hemmings and Jon Sutherland took their paddling turns.

Coach Bell also was No. 1 for Healani with Franklin Crozer No. 2, Robert Kunu-

kau No. 3, Gary Murakami No. 4, Harry Ho No. 5 and Douglas "Dukie" Kuahulu steering. Larry Bento, Gale Berengue, Sofronio Calaycay Jr. were the relief paddlers.

The Lanikai crew included Tay Perry, Ralph Watson, Mike Singlehurst, Campbell Cavaco, Ken Olds Jr., Dave Holzman, Earl Sandimer and Bill Watson.

Results:

KOA DIVISION

1—Outrigger Canoe Club in 5 hours, 55 minutes, 16 seconds (new record; breaks old record of 5 hours, 56 minutes flat set in 1964 by Hawaiian Civic Club). 2—Waikiki Surf Club in 6 hours, 11 minutes, 25 seconds. 3—Hui Nalu in 6 hours, 18 minutes, 48 seconds. 4—Molokai in 6 hours, 29 minutes, 25 seconds. 5—Maile Sons in 6 hours, 38 minutes, 29 seconds. 6—Leeward Kai in 6 hours, 50 minutes, 18 seconds. 7—Order of Kamehameha in 7 hours, 7 minutes, 46 seconds. 8—Kauai did not finish.

NON-KOA DIVISION

1—Healani in 6 hours, 3 minutes, 28 seconds (new record; breaks old record of 6 hours, 12 minutes, 14 seconds set in 1967 by Healani). 2—Lanikai in 6 hours, 7 minutes, 48 seconds (also breaks old record). 3—Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club in 6 hours, 28 minutes, 10 seconds. 4—Molokai in 6 hours, 35 minutes, 17 seconds. 5—Hui Nalu did not finish.

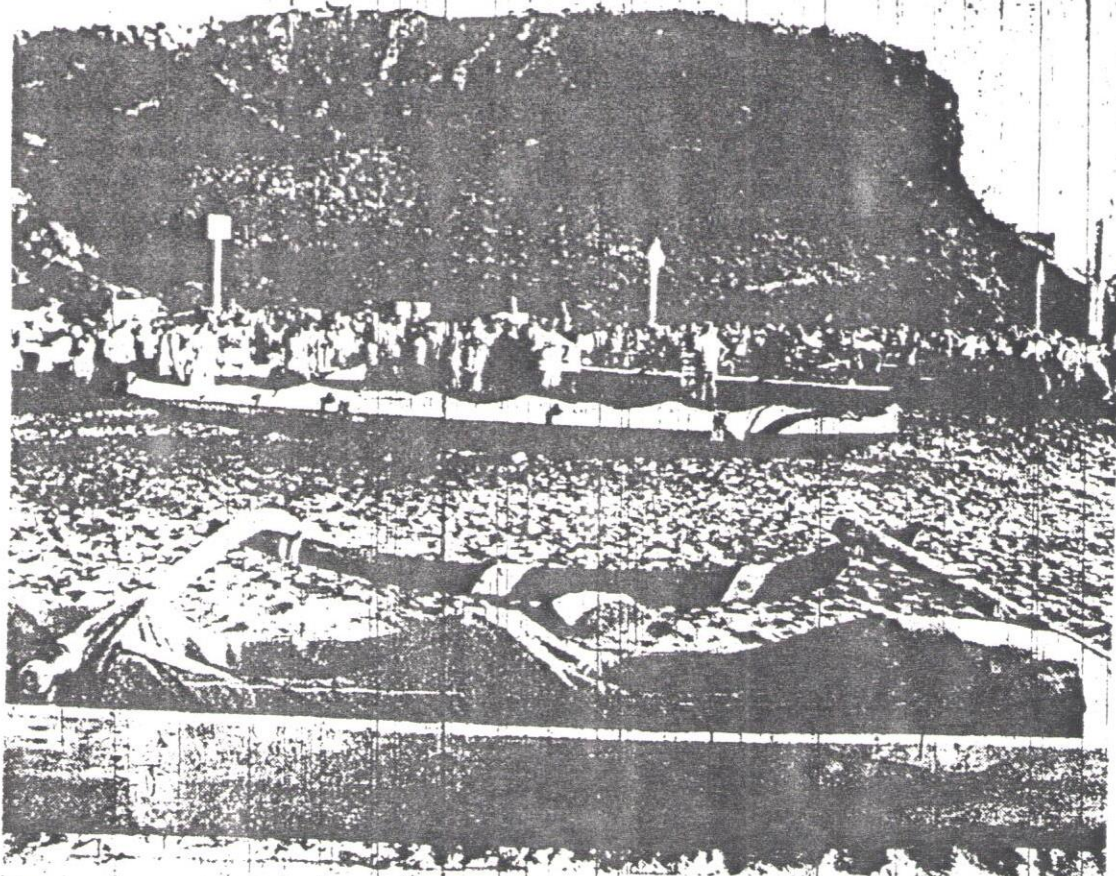
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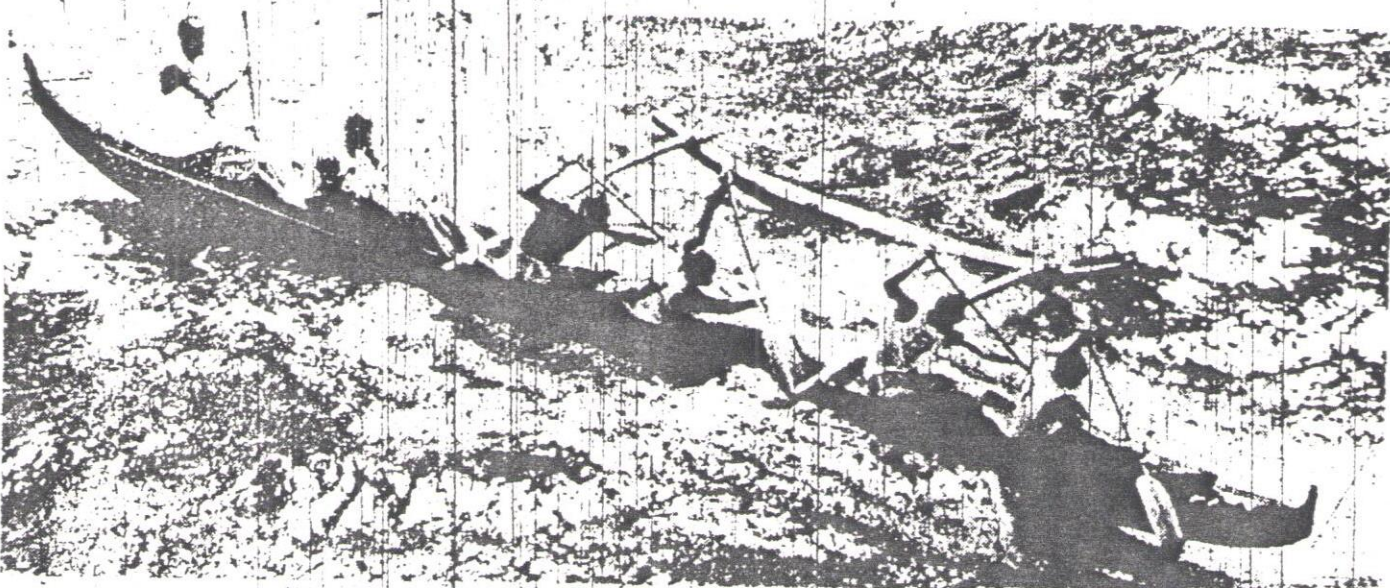
Advertiser Photo by Ron Jett

Outrigger Cande Club's record winning crew members cool it in a Hilton Hawaiian Village pool after the Aloha Week race from Molokai. They are, lower left and clockwise, Fred Hemmings, coach Mark Buck, Tom Conner, Jon Sutherland, Mike Holmes, William Mitchell, Henry Ayau, Jon Haneberg and Aka Hemmings.

11/9/21/68



HOPES AND PRAYERS—The crews of the 13 canoes in yesterday's Molokai-Oahu race assemble at the crack of dawn for a brief ceremony before the start of the 42-mile grind.—Photos by Bob Young.



IN-CHOPPY SEAS—Here is the Outrigger C. C. entry battling rough waters five miles off Koko Head. In the canoe, from left, are Mike Holmes, Aka Hemmings, Jon Sutherland, Henry Ayau, Jon Haneberg and Tom Conner.