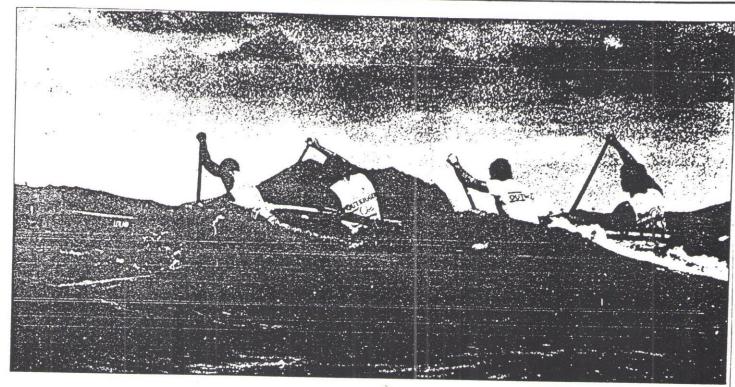
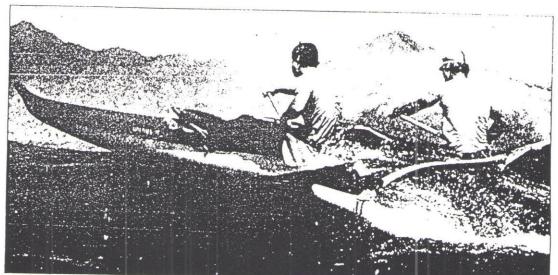
Monday, October 14, 1985



Outrigger Canoe Club's No. 1 crew has a swell time in Kaiwi Channel.

Warren Bolster photo

Illinois paddlers a surprise



Bow up, the Illinois Brigade surges through the chop.

Finish first in Molokai Hoe race

By Andy Yamaguchi

Confusion sidled up next to the sunglasses and Betamovies crammed on Fort DeRussy-Beach yesterday for the finish of the men's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

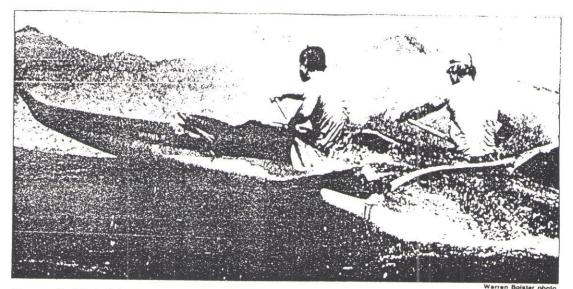
Who was in the lead? Someone said Tahiti. Someone said Illinois.

Illinois?!? Right ...

On the horizon, sunlight, flashed off paddle blades.

A few minutes later, a redand-white fiberglass canoe was first to pass under the finish-

Continued.



Bow up, the Illinois Brigade surges through the chop.



A textbook crew change: one man jumps in (middle) while another jumps out (right).



Advertiser photo by Gre

The Brigade's Kurt Doberstein (left) and titled finds (right) wear the look of winners

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Who was in the lead? Someone said Tahiti. Someone said Illinois.

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On the horizon, sunligh flashed off paddle blades.

A few minutes later, a redand-white fiberglass canoe was first to pass under the finishline banner; it ground to a halt on the sand.

"Wait a minute," announcer Lord Tallyho Blears bleated over the loudspeakers. "It could be Outrigger Canoe Club, we don't know."

don't know..."
"Illinois!" Mike Fries, one of
the drenched paddlers in the
canoe, yelled in reply. He
punched the sky with his right
fist, "Illinois!"

Paddling blinked.

In the most remarkable occurrence in the 34-year history of the Molokai canoe race, the Illinois Brigade, a nine-man team of world-class canoe paddlers from around the Midwest, won the Bankoh Molokai Hoeyesterday.

They did it despite not assembling as a team, or sitting in an outrigger canoe, or seeing salt water in surf all year until they got here eight days ago

They were the first team not from Hawaii, Tahiti or California to win the race.

A team from Tahiti, sponsored by that nation's government, led for three-quarters of the 40.8-mile race across Kaiwi Channel, But the Illinois Brigude, drawing on superior conditioning, caught the Tahitians outside the Kahala Hilton.

The lead changed hands four times before the Midwesterners, who had borrowed one of Outrigger's best fiberglass canoes, pulled away to win in 5 hours, 33 minutes, 5.0 seconds. Tahti was second in 5:35:21.8 and Off Shore of Newport, Beach, Calif., was third in 5:35:49.9

Outrigger Canoe Club of Honoiulu, the pre-race favorite with virtually the same crew that set last year's course record of 5:18:19, finished a surprising seventh. OCC was not even the first Hawaii finisher; Kailua, Kai Opua of Kona and Hanalei were fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

All 48 crews that started at Hale O Lono Harbor completed the race.

It was difficult to say which was the bigger stunner: the Illinois Brigade victory or Outrigger's failure to win. Indeed, word was going around before the race that OCC, which had won six of the previous 10

See Illinois on Page D-2

Illinois paddlers a surprising first

from page D-1

Molokai races, had the best two crews in the field.

for one-two." OCC's Chris Kincaid said. "not seven-eight."

equipment or swampings plagued Outrigger; on this day. they were simply beaten by better paddlers who perhaps took better headings.

"I'm more depressed than anything else," said Outrigger's Henry Ayau, a veteran of 20 Molokai crossings. And sur- world by his teammates, was in prised? "Tahiti, no. Illinois, this race for only the second veah."

in the pants. Until you read to 3-foot chop. their resumes.

All nine of them are prominent marathon canocists, which means they paddle in races ranging from two hours to three days, including portage, Between them, they have won 12 national championships in U.S. Canoe Association competition. One of them, Bruce Barton of Homer, Mich., made the U.S. Olympic team in 1976 and 80 in flat-water kayaks, reaching the semifinals in '76.

In marathon canoeing, they paddie in two-man, 1812-foot craft. "It's very similar (to Hawanan canoes)." Joe Johnson said. "Same body rotation . . . "

They call themselves the Illinois Brigade, but one might more aptly call them Serge's Great Lakes All-Stars. Only one of them is from Illinois. The We thought we'd be going rest are sprinkled from Rochester, N.Y., to Marinette, Wis., to Missoula, Mont. They got to No calamities, no broken know one another at races around the Midwest. Five years ago, one of them said, "There's this race in Hawaii . . .

Serge is Serge Corbin, a French-Canadian boat builder from Shawinigan, Quebec, Corbin, called one of the best marathon canocists in the time yesterday but steered Illi-Illinois, yeah, ain't that a kick nois masterfully through the 2-

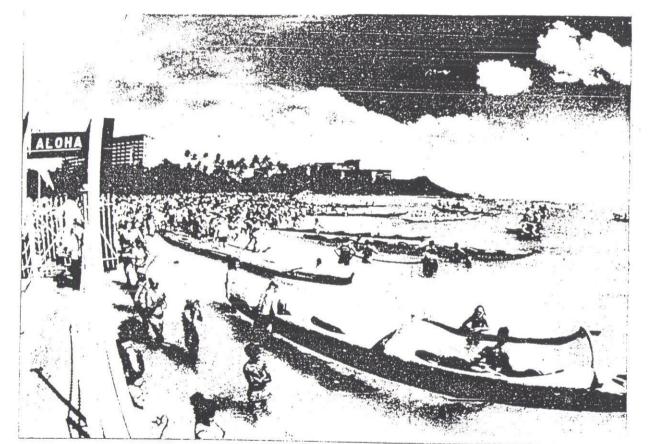
> "We're not practiced in big waves." he said, "but we learn

Said Fries. "He wasn't born here, but he's the next best

Illinois Brigade crew members are Corbin, Fries, Barton, Johnson, Al Rudquist, Everett Crozier, Kurt Doberstein, Tim Triebold and Jay Mitman.

Their best finish in four previous Molokai races was 10th.

"I think it's a great thing for the sport," OCC's Karl Hever said. "Maybe they'll take a canoe back with them. Maybe



The canoe capital of the world, at least for a day: the finish line at Fort DeRussy Beach.

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next year there'll be five Midwestern teams. Promote the sport, get the Germans back here. Maybe even the Russians will come here."

Molokai Hoe results 1 Limbis Brigade 5-33-05-0-2 Tederation Francisco

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