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Outrigger wins Molokai Hoe

By Cindy Luis
Star-Bulletin writer

Wanted: Travel agent. Willing to deal with shipment of 400-pound outrigger canoes. Background in paddling a plus. Knowledge of French/Tahitian helpful. Bookings for England possibly needed. Serious inquiries only. Apply Outrigger Canoe Club, Honolulu, Hi.

Polite society would call them invitations. Outrigger Canoe Club knows them for what they are: challenges.

And, oh, the mileage-plus points Outrigger, the winners of yesterday's Bankoh Molokai Hoe, could rack up if all the 'invitations' were accepted. Tahiti. England. Arkansas. New York. Canada. California.

When the rest of the canoe world follows you across 40.8-miles of ocean from Molokai to Oahu, it's only natural to expect a home-and-home reciprocal agreement. Kaiwi Channel and the River Thames? Why not.

"It would be nice but I don't think it's in the budget; I know I won't be signing the check for

that trip," joked OCC's Walter Guild.

Still, the 14 non-Hawaii crews would like to have a home-water advantage such that Outrigger enjoyed yesterday. Knowing the quickest way to the Ft. DeRussy beach finish line was worth nearly five minutes for the defending champs; a non-record five hour, 32 minute, 46.73 second time was worth a record-tying 12th channel win.

Finishing 2-3, as they were exactly seeded, were Tahiti Nui (5:37.21) and Tahiti's FFPP (5:37.51). Oahu's Hui Nalu, successfully experimenting with heavy training in kayaks, was fourth in 5:40.19 with Imua #1 of California fifth in 5:55.17.

Kai Opua, from the Big Island, won koa canoe honors, besting six other traditional entries with a time of 6:13.40, 11th overall. Oahu's Haleakala was the last of the 48 nine-man crews to make the crossing from Hale O Lono Harbor, finishing in 8:18.02. Ka Mo'i, from the Waianae Coast, had

Molokai Hoe Finishers

Pl. Team	Time	Home	Class
1. Outrigger No. 1	5:32.46	Oahu	1-g
2. Tahiti Nui	5:37.21	Tahiti	2-g
3. FFPP	5:37.51	Tahiti	3-g
4. Hui Nalu	5:40.19	Oahu	4-g
5. Hui Nalu No. 1	5:55.17	Calif	5-g
6. Offshore No. 1	6:00.38	Tahiti	6-g
7. Healan Renegades	6:00.56	Calif	7-g
8. Outrigger Jr. Masters	6:01.26	Oahu	8-g
9. Outrigger Jr. Masters		Oahu	2-m
10. Kailua No. 1	6:11.54	Oahu	10-g
11. Kai Opua	6:13.40	Hawaii	1-k
12. Kai Opua Masters	6:14.57	Hawaii	1-m
13. Kamehameha	6:15.42	Hawaii	12-g
14. Hui Lanakila	6:15.42	Oahu	2-k
15. Atlantic Division	6:16.44	N.Y.	13-g
16. Outrigger Sr. Masters	6:17.03	Oahu	3-m
17. False Creek	6:18.20	Canada	15-g
18. Hanalei No. 2	6:19.00	Kauai	16-g
19. Puna	6:20.23	Hawaii	17-g
20. Faas	6:20.47	Tahiti	18-g
21. Healan No. 2	6:22.17	Oahu	19-g
22. Anueue	6:24.20	Oahu	3-k
23. Kailua No. 2	6:25.19	Oahu	4-k
24. Lokahi No. 1	6:25.46	Oahu	20-g
25. Hui Nalu No. 2	6:27.25	Oahu	5-k
26. Lahaina	6:27.45	Maui	21-g
27. Newport	6:30.54	Calif	22-g
28. Imua No. 2	6:31.21	Calif	6-k
29. Hawaiian No. 1	6:41.17	Maui	23-g
30. Hanalei No. 1	6:42.33	Kauai	24-g
31. Surfsports	6:43.08	Oahu	25-g
32. Offshore No. 2	6:45.22	Calif	7-k
33. Honolulu	6:50.00	Oahu	26-g
34. Kailua Masters	6:50.14	Oahu	4-m
35. Kihel	6:55.04	Maui	28-g
36. Leeward Kai	6:56.21	Oahu	29-g
37. Royal	6:56.51	England	30-g
38. Arkansas	7:07.14	Ark.	31-g
39. Hawaiian Masters	7:10.12	Maui	5-m
40. Waikula	7:15.26	Oahu	33-g
41. Hawaiian Warriors	7:15.52	Oahu	34-g
42. Wainani	7:17.25	Oahu	35-g
43. Manu O Ke Kai No. 1	7:18.44	Oahu	36-g
44. Lokahi No. 2	7:20.18	Oahu	37-g
45. Koa Kai	7:38.09	Oahu	38-g
46. Team Ontario	7:41.07	Canada	39-g
47. Manu O Ke Kai No. 2	7:51.02	Oahu	40-g
48. Halekalea	8:18.02	Oahu	41-g
DNF. Ka Mui		Oahu	g

-fiberglass; k-koā; m-masters (35-and-older; asterisks competed in fiberglass canoes).

Year-by-year

MEN'S MOLOKAI-OAHU WINNERS

Hale O Lono to Fort DeRussy, 40.8 miles.
 1987—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:32:46.
 1986—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:27:45.
 1985—Illinois Brigade (Illinois), 5:33:04.
 1984—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:18:19.
 1983—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:45:09.
 1982—Offshore (Calif.), 6:08:35.
 1981—Offshore (Calif.), 5:25:01.
 1980—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:52:26.
 1979—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:43:52.

Hale O Lono to Fort DeRussy (around wreck buoy), 41.01 miles.
 1976—Blazing Paddles (Calif.), 5:43:52.

Hale O Lono to Magic Island, 41.46 miles.
 1977—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:55:00.

Kaunakakai to Magic Island, 55.90 miles.
 1976—Te Oropaa (Tahiti), 7:53:40.

Hale O Lono to Moana Hotel, 40.41 miles.
 1975—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:39:07.
 1974—Lanikai Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:18:55.

Kaunakakai to Sans Souci, \$3.32 miles.
 1973—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 8:00:00.

Hale O Lono to Hilton Hawaiian Village, 40.8 miles.
 1972—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:01:46.
 1971—Healan Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:51:02.
 1970—Healan Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:24:00.
 1969—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:38:26.
 1968—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:55:16.
 1967—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:03:09.
 1966—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:37:13.
 1965—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:48:57.
 1964—Kailua Civic Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:56:00.
 1963—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:40:00.

Kawakui to Hilton Hawaiian Village, 38.96 miles.
 1962—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 7:04:00.
 1961—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 7:48:00.
 1960—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 5:29:00.
 1959—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:09:00.
 1958—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:32:00.
 1957—Kai Oni (Oahu), 5:56:00.
 1956—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 7:54:00.

Kawakui to Moana Hotel, 38.2 miles.
 1955—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 7:09:40.
 1954—Hui Nalu (Oahu), 6:05:00.
 1953—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:53:00.
 1952—Kukui O Lanikaula (Molokai), 8:55:00.



By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bull

SUPPORT—With its support team following, Outrigger prepares to make its final turn.

MOLOKAI HOE: Outrigger shows way

Continued from D-1
 equipment problems and was towed in.

Outrigger's fourth win in the past five years, seventh in 11, was a lot closer than the Waikiki-based club had hoped. "It was a battle from the beginning," said OCC steersman Tom Conner after going the entire distance without relief. "The Tahitians told us at the start, 'We'll follow you.' I told them, 'We'll follow you.' And the game began."

The 36th annual event began 27 minutes later than the original 7:30 a.m. start, with a new starting-line format: the stroke (No. 1 paddler) from each crew was to remain in the water until the green flag went up and then jump in the canoe. A number of the crews jumped the start, including several of the top 10 finishers. Officials discussed, then later dismissed, giving the flag jumpers a 10-minute penalty.

"We decided to try something new that would try to make for a fairer start," said Joan Malama, president of sponsoring Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

"It didn't work; we'll go back to the old format next year."

The change in starting format didn't change things much from the start. By La'au Point, around the time relief paddlers could make the first change, the lead pack had been established. Outrigger, the two Tahitian teams and Hui Nalu.

Taking more of straight-line course towards Diamond Head than when winning last year, Conner said there was never more than 100 yards between his canoe and Tahiti Nui. With some maneuvering on the small swells, he said he kept jockeying for position, throwing in a few fakes along the way before hitting mid-channel.

"I knew where the point to turn was for me," Conner said. "I made sure they (Tahiti Nui) was to our right. I made a hard turn (to the left), got a couple little pushes (from waves) and we went ahead for good."

"We improved our water changes for last year but the difference was that Outrigger surfs better than we do," said Tahiti Nui spokesman Charlie Villierme.

"That one point, when they m their turn, our steersman caught sideways on the way. F little waves they caught and t were gone."

By Koko Head, Outrigger widened the gap to a quarter-mile by its home waters off San So the gap had doubled. Tahiti Nui competition the became r. FFPP; with seven of last ye nine paddlers back, last ye runnersup held off the challe for another second place, this by 10 seconds.

Nearly three minutes later, Nalu stroked in for a semi-surging fourth place. Steersman i Kukea felt his experiment i kayak training was fairly succul.

"We did well, especially si we did little training in the together," he said. "We'll tal look at it for next season, m some adjustments and hop works better next year."

Kukea felt no need to m excuses for a fourth-place shing; no Hawaii team has bee Outrigger for first-place char honors since Lanikai in 1

Canoe crew crosses palms after crossing channel

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Outrigger Canoe Club paddlers congratulate each other upon winning the Molokai-to-Oahu race yesterday. Story, Page D-1.

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