



Advertiser photo by Cory Lum

Faa'a of Tahiti crosses the finish line and is greeted by a large crowd at the beach fronting the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel in Waikiki.

# So Faa'a, so good

## Tahitian crew triumphs again, and with ease

By **Dayton Morinaga**  
Advertiser Staff Writer

It wasn't even close.

For the second consecutive year, Faa'a won the Bankoh Molokai Hoe men's outrigger canoe race in impressive fashion.

Faa'a, the lone entry from Tahiti in the 77-crew field, finished the 40.8-mile course from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor to Oahu's Fort DeRussy Beach in 5 hours, 2 minutes and 50 seconds. It was the second fastest time in the 43-year

history of the race, just behind the record 4:55:27 Faa'a set last year.

"It was a battle," said Faa'a coach/paddler Lewis Laughton. "The Australian crew was right there pushing us with the other Hawaiian crews. But we have a lot of trust in each other. I think that's what got us ahead."

More than 11 minutes after Faa'a crossed the finish line, Outrigger Canoe Club of Honolulu arrived to claim second place at 5:13:53. Dana Outrigger of California (5:14:03) was third, Panamuna of Australia (5:17:26) fourth and Lanikai (5:19:36) fifth.

Several teams challenged for the lead early on, but eventually, the strength and conditioning of the Tahitians would prevail.

Tommy Conner, a veteran steersman and the lone Faa'a member

not from Tahiti, steered the winning crew the entire way — the final 38 miles or so without his steering paddle.

"It broke right near the start," said Conner, who previously paddled for Outrigger. "So I had to use a regular paddling paddle and that slowed us down a little bit."

Once adjusted to the new paddle, Conner and Faa'a broke away from the pack about two hours into the race. No one would challenge them thereafter.

"The main strategy of this race is to get in that canoe and give everything you have until the end," Laughton said.

Only choppy seas prevented Faa'a from breaking its record.

"Last year's conditions were

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# Crossing: Faa'a wins second

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much better," Conner said. "If we had those kinds of conditions again, we might have got the record."

The other clubs all but conceded victory to Faa'a and instead focused on the race for second.

"Give (Faa'a) a lot of credit," said Dana Outrigger's Tim Dougherty. "They just pulled away. From about the halfway point on, everybody was battling for second."

Added Lanikai's Todd Hart: "(Faa'a) looked awesome. They're awfully strong."

With the runner-up spot up for grabs, five clubs — Outrigger, Dana Outrigger, Panamuna, Lanikai and Hawaii Canoe and Kayak Team — were grouped together.

In familiar waters off its home base in Waikiki, Outrig-

ger made a strong move down the stretch.

"We were trailing all those guys and then we caught some good waves near the end and passed them," said Outrigger's Marc Haine.

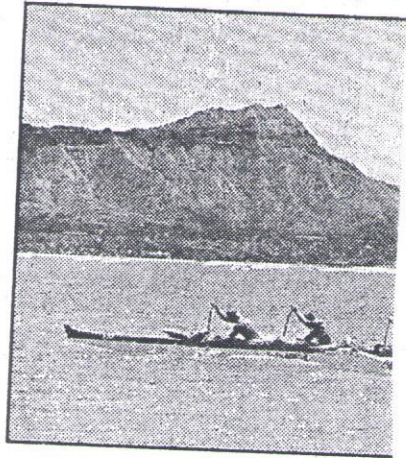
The surge pulled Outrigger side-by-side with Dana. Then, Outrigger's experience paid off further.

"We let them get ahead of us and we waited for a wave," Haine said. "We caught one right near the end that pushed us ahead."

Outrigger, which has won a record 14 Molokai-to-Oahu races, beat Dana by 10 seconds.

"You always want to win, but in this case, second place is still good," Haine said. "(Faa'a) is world class. They're the champs ... but we were the first Hawaii crew."

**NOTES:** Members of Faa'a's winning crew: Jean Pierre Barff, Tommy

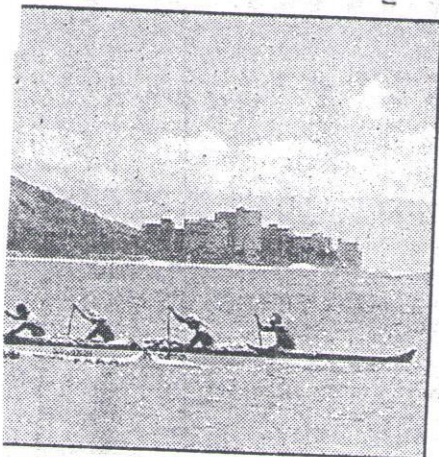


Faa'a paddles past Diamond H

Conner, Jean Hamblin, Lewis Laughlin, Tuura Mairau, Karyl Maoni, Armand Tauotaha, Hubert Teihoarii and Jimmy Tupea. ... Faa'a is now the fifth club to win consecutive races. Waikiki Surf Club, Outrigger, Healani and OffShore of California are the

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## d consecutive Molokai Hoe



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lead en route to victory.

others. ... Mooloolaba of Australia won the masters division, finishing 16th overall with a time of 5:45:01. ... Top canoe in the koa division was Outrigger 2 at 5:53:19. ... Kailua 4 won the senior masters at 6:09:36. ... Among yesterday's 77 entries were 38 from

Oahu, nine from Maui, seven from the Big Island, seven from California, four from Australia, four from Canada, two from Kauai, and one each from Molokai, Tahiti, Johnson Island, Tonga, New Zealand and England. ... Anuenue senior masters paddler Joseph "Nappy" Napoleon completed his 37th consecutive Molokai-to-Oahu race yesterday. He paddled with several championship crews at the Waikiki Surf Club before forming Anuenue 11 years ago. "I like the sport because it keeps me active," said Napoleon, 53. "I want to keep going as long as I can. I still feel good."

### Yesterday's Top Finishers

**Open Division:** 1, Faa'a, 5:02:50. 2, Outrigger 1, 5:13:53. 3, Dana Outrigger, 5:14:03. 4, Panamuna, 5:17:26. 5, Lanikai 1, 5:19:36. 6, Hawaii Canoe and Kayak, 5:20:59. 7, Waikiki Surf Club 1, 5:30:20. 8, Kai Opua 1, 5:31:49. 9, Lanakila Outrigger 1, 5:34:03. 10, Kailua-1, 5:34:19. 11, Marina Del Ray, 5:38:05. 12, Hui Lanakila 1, 5:39:13. 13, Loose Cannons, 5:40:54. 14, Hawaiian 1, 5:43:35. 15, Waikiki Surf Club 2, 5:44:38. 16, Lokahi 1, 5:46:38. 17, False Creek,

5:50:21. 18, Koloa, 5:51:58. 19, Napili 2, 5:55:41. 20, Waikiki Beach Boys 1, 5:58:26. 21, Waikiki Surf Club 3, 6:02:55. 22, Tonga, 6:04:33. 24, Pu'u-wai, 6:05:09. 25, Puna, 6:10:03. 26, Lotus 2, 6:11:32. 27, Kai Opua 2, 6:12:06. 28, Kamehameha-Oahu, 6:12:06. 29, Kamehameha-Hilo, 6:12:47. 30, Kalama Ohana, 6:14:28. 31, Malama Ula 1, 6:16:05. 32, Waikiki Beach Boys 2, 6:19:19. 33, Honolulu 1, 6:19:40. 34, Unplugged, 6:22:34. 35, Kailua 3, 6:22:39. 36, Lokahi 2, 6:26:56. 37, Hui Nalu 1, 6:28:30. 38, Koolau, 6:30:05. 39, Lotus 1, 6:31:51. 40, Kaneohe, 6:32:43.

**Masters Division:** 1, Mooloolaba, 5:45:01. 2, Outrigger 3, 5:49:42. 3, Capricorn Coast, 5:55:51. 4, Lokahi 3, 6:21:15. 5, Hawaiian 3, 6:24:28.

**Senior Masters Division:** 1, Kailua 4, 6:09:36. 2, Anuenue 3, 6:30:36. 3, Keauhou, 6:33:55. 4, Honolulu 2, 7:14:35. 5, Kai E Hitu, 7:18:35.

**Koa Division:** 1, Outrigger 2, 5:53:19. 2, Lanikai 2, 5:58:14. 3, Lanakila Outrigger 2, 6:07:49. 4, Kailua 2, 6:16:23. 5, Healani 2, 6:37:40.