



BY KATHRYN BENDER, Star-Bulletin

The Lanikai Canoe Club crew paddles past the Diamond Head lighthouse on the way to its first win in 21 years in the Molokai Hoe. 5.

# Lanikai best at channel surfing

The outrigger canoe club wins the Molokai-to-Oahu race in record time

BY JACK WYATT  
Special to the Star-Bulletin

Lanikai Canoe Club paddlers proved their point by finishing first in the 44th annual Bankoh Molokai Hoe, the men's outrigger canoe race from Molokai to Waikiki.

Hawaii paddlers can beat the best of the foreign crews.

That feat hadn't been accomplished in four years but yesterday Lanikai, in its first Molokai Hoe victory in 21 years, covered the wave-swept 41 miles from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki's Fort DeRussy Beach in a course record of four hours, 53 minutes and three seconds.

"We caught some fabulous surfing rides, where our entire crew screamed and shouted for more," said John



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Lanikai steersman Jim Foti is congratulated after his crew finished in record time yesterday.

Foti of the five to eight-foot waves.

Lanikai topped two-time defending champ Faaa of Tahiti, which finished second yesterday, by a comfortable 8:36. It also bettered Faaa's course mark set last year by 2:24.

"I was 10 years old when, in 1974, Lanikai won its last Molokai race," said Kalani Irvine, a member of yesterday's winning team.

"It was a thrill then as a spectator aboard an escort boat, and a huge thrill today as a participant and winner."

Added Lanikai steersman Jim Foti: "We brought the trophy back to Hawaii where it belongs. We also returned pride to our Lanikai community."

Outrigger Canoe Club of Honolulu finished third in 5:03:00. Fourth place went to Waikiki Surf Club, also of Honolulu, (5:09:08) and fifth to Outrigger of Australia in 5:10:58.

A record 92 entries (88 finishers) took part. But wait. Depending on possible time penalties that may be assessed by race officials today for alleged rule

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# LANIKAI: Record win in Molokai-to-Oahu race

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infractions at the start, some standings might change.

At least 10 teams, including the top three finishers, were noted by officials to have improperly made crew changes after the start.

Teams found in violation are expected to have 10 minutes added to their respective finishing times.

If the top three teams are found guilty, Lanikai would still win the race but its record would be erased. Fourth finisher Waikiki Surf Club, which was not penalized, would move up to second place.

"All results are unofficial until hearings are completed," said Joan Malama, president of the governing Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

Said Foti: "Lanikai didn't cheat. We were legal in every way. We deserved the win, and the race

record."

Faaa and Outrigger also claimed innocence.

"Too bad canoe racing doesn't have a video replay like at National Football League games," said Tom Conner, Faaa's Hawaii steersman the past three years.

Soon after the start, the race developed into a three-boat battle between Lanikai, Faaa and Outrigger. The hard-paddling winners broke free about 20 minutes past Molokai's Laau Point never to be headed.

"Lanikai's win was no fluke," Conner said.

"Their paddlers are strong, focused and well-trained. Our problem? We needed more practice time in island waters."

The race start was congested and confused, mostly because of the large fleet and the blustery weather. Once free of congestion, the fleet paddled into some of the

roughest waters in years.

"Great surfing conditions for outriggers," said steersman Kala Kukea of the seventh place Hawaii Canoe/Kayak Team.

"We caught waves resulting in rides you wouldn't believe."

The Lanikai crew, consisting of Bo Eastabrook, Rich Lambert, Bob Nottage, Rock Owens, Mike Pederesen, Mike Smith, brothers John and Jim Foti and Irvine, paddled a Bradley fiberglass racer.

Outrigger Canoe Club, team 2, topped the six-boat koa division, finishing 21st overall in 5:36:23.

Australia's Mooloolaba, with its 10th place finish in 5:20:09, led the masters, 35 years and older, while Honolulu's Anuenue 2 topped the senior masters (45 years and over) finishing 30th in 5:47:12.

Nike Hungary, a crew consisting of European flat-water racers — placed 28th in 5:44.

## PADDLING

### Molokai to Oahu

■ Men's Bankoh Molokai Hoe  
From Hale O'Lo'lo to Fort DeRussy  
Yesterday's results, 41 miles

■ Open fiberglass—1. Lanikai I (Oahu), 4:53:03.00. 2. Faa'a (Tahiti), 5:01:39.16. 3. Outrigger I (Oahu), 5:03:00.40. 4. Waikiki Surf Club I (Oahu), 5:09:08.67. 5. Outrigger (Australia), 5:10:56.99. 6. Dana Point I (Calif.), 5:13:27.61. 7. Hawaii Canoe & Kayak (Oahu), 5:15:42.45. 8. Waikiki Beach Boys I (Oahu), 5:17:09.59.

9. Hawaiian I (Maui), 5:25:15.24. 10. Lanakila I (Calif.), 5:21:54.08. 11. Kai Opua (Hawaii), 5:25:15.24. 12. Hawaiian II (Maui), 5:28:06.14. 13. Hui Lanakila II (Oahu), 5:28:27.03. 14. Lokahi I (Oahu), 5:30:24.50. 15. Hamilton Island (Australia), 5:30:55.49.

■ Open koa—1. Outrigger II (Oahu), 5:36:23.42. 2. Lanakila II (Calif.), 5:52:05.37. 3. Lanikai IV (Oahu),

6:14:57.85. 4. Hui Nalu I (Oahu), 6:21:55.02. 5. Kihei (Maui), 6:27:28.92.

■ Masters—1. Mooloolaba (Australia), 5:20:09.79. 2. Outrigger III (Oahu), 5:27:01.65. 3. Malama Ula II (Maui), 5:38:40.03. 4. Tui Tonga (Tonga), 5:40:23.04. 5. Puna (Hawaii), 5:40:49.35.

■ Senior masters—1. Anuenue II (Oahu), 5:47:12.01. 2. Kailua V (Oahu), 5:49:23.97. 3. Dana Point II (Calif.), 5:51:58.41. 4. Keauhou II (Hawaii), 6:19:59.90. 5. Na Kai Ewalu I (Maui), 6:27:00.06.