

10,000 SEE BIG PROGRAM

Close Finishes and Thrills Furnished Fans; Myrtles and O. C. C. On Top

By LOUI LEONG HOP

Success spelled in capital letters!

That's the verdict of the fans and officials who participated in the 1933 celebration of Regatta Day Saturday afternoon at the Moana park channel.

It was a successful revival in that more than 10,000 Honoluluans flocked to the scene of the water circus.

It was successful artistically in that here, at last, Honolulu has an ideal course for boat racing.

It was a successful venture in that the committee, headed by Bob Sawtelle and Earl Thacker, reported that it had collected enough money to pay for all the day's expenses as well as wiping out the \$500 deficit incurred several years ago when a section of bleachers crashed on Pier 2.

And finally it was a general success in that the regatta generated increased interest in rowing. Oldtimers freely announced intentions of reorganizing the Healanis or rig up new clubs, while others were inspired to the point of predicting victories for their clubs next year.

Although there was no actual club competition for points and trophies, keen races were witnessed in almost every event. The Myrtles captured the blue ribbon event of the day, winning the senior barge race from the Police crew by about three lengths and chalking up the fast time of 6 min. 4 sec. for the seven eighths mile distance.

Won Barge Events

The Red and Whites, incidentally, annexed all first places in the barge events, including the featured Oldtimers' "sprint," which was over a half mile distance instead of a quarter mile, because several of the "has weres" complained that a quarter mile is child's play.

George D. (Dad) Center's Outrigger C. C. canoes cleaned up in their events although given real tussles by the Hui Nalus and Queen's Surf-riders.

Other interesting contests saw the territory's fastest outboard motorists and their boats in action, the trim yachts from the Pearl Harbor club in a 13 mile race, surprisingly conditioned and showing off Japanese crews which made debut in Hawaiian boat racing competition for the first time in history and high powered fishing sampans blazing away at full speed from off Diamond Head.

An added feature which went over big was the capsizing drill put on by the boys from the Itasca.

Being the first regatta at the Moana park channel, many unforeseen things occurred to delay some of the day's choicest races. However, the 16 events were over by 5:30 p. m.

Sampan on Fire

One of the unforeseen happenings, not known to the big throng until announced by Sam Van Culin, was in the sampan event. The starter's sampan, owned by Paul Beyer, caught fire a few minutes after the start and was damaged several hundred dollars. The race was recalled and the sampans started all over again later in the afternoon.

Outside of the blue ribbon event, the Oldtimers' race occupied the most attention in rowing competition. Gus Bechert's crew, which consists of himself at stroke, Bob Chillingworth at 5, Mel Nicoll and Bill McLean at 1, defeated the crew stroked by Bill Lyle. Others in this boatload were Bill Soper at 5, Henry Wicke at 4, Dan Vida at 3, Luther Hough at 2, and Henry Williams at 1.

Lyle's crew jumped into an early lead but soon after the first quarter mile, Bechert's gang showed that little something that wins races by sprinting over the finishing line fully a boat length ahead. The time was 3 min. 8 sec., plenty fast for men who didn't train for the event.

In the blue ribbon barge race, the Myrtles and the Police were neck and neck during the first half mile. However, the Red and Whites displayed a superior finish and paddled ahead by three lengths to win.

Among those present at the regatta were oldtimers and high officials of the territory. Judge A. G. M. Robertson, father of Regatta Day, sat in with the judges at the finish and approved everything that went on. Others well known in local rowing history were Henry Giles, Duke Kahanamoku, Charles S. Crane, David Conkling, Ben Hollinger, Clarence Olds, Cecil Benny, Charlie Kramer, Gaston Boisse and all those who competed in the oldtimers' event.

Several suggestions were offered by these oldtimers in regard to future regattas at this site. One suggestion was to place the finish at the Ewa end of the channel, thus

(Continued on Page 10)