

Triumphs Easily In Annual 6-Mile Race

Time for Diamond Head Classic, 52 Minutes, 45 Seconds; Andre Long Wins One Mile Open Event for Women

George Downing, recognized as Hawaii's outstanding surfboard paddler, won the feature event of the annual Diamond Head Surfboard paddling championship meet yesterday when he successfully defended his title in the Senior Six-Mile event. The meet was sponsored by the Waikiki Surf Club.

Player of Week

'Dad' Center Of Outrigger Wins Award

George (Dad) Center of the Outrigger Canoe club has been voted winner of the Williams Equipment company's "Player of the Week" award for the week ending Friday, Dec. 22, for outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of aquatic sports.

The award was voted to Center at this time as a salute to him on his 74th birthday. He was born on Christmas Day, 1886, at Kipahulu, Maui, during the reign of King Kalakaua.

"Dad" Center will always be remembered as long as there is swimming and surfing in the islands. He was one of Hawaii's first great swimmers and later won international fame as a coach

One of his greatest achievements in the field of swimming was to coach the United States team in the 1920 Olympics. He led Hawaii's team to the American tryouts at Chicago and seven Hawaiians qualified for the United States team.

Some of the swimmers he coached or helped to fame were Duke Kahanamoku, Buster Crabbe, Pua and Warren Kealoha, Wild Bill and Gay Harris, Ludy Langer, Helen Moses and Lily Bowmer.

During his heyday as an athlete, "Dad" Center participated in

Winning by half a mile, Downing set a new record for the course which is from the beach in front of the Waikiki Tavern, out to the buoy off Diamond Head, and back. His time was 52 minutes 45 seconds. The former mark established by Downing last year was one hour and one minute.

Downing beat Rabbit Kikai who was second to the finish line by at least eight minutes. John Toomey was third in a field of seven.

All three represented the Waikiki Surf Club.

Edward Whaley of WSC won the Senior 220 yard Open sprint race in 1 minute 9 seconds. To Tommy Schroeder of the Outrigger Canoe Club went first honors in the Junior One Mile race, his time being 12 minutes 23 seconds.

Andre Long of the Waikiki Surf Club annexed first honors in the Women's One Mile Open in 14 minutes 16 seconds.

In the race for men over 30, Woody Brown of the Waikiki Surf club led the field over the mile course in 11 minutes 27 seconds.

Result:

SENIOR (6 Miles)—Won by George Downing (WSC); second, Rabbit Kikai (WSC); third, John Toomey (WSC); fourth, Woody Brown (WSC); fifth, Roland Wilson (WSC); sixth, Thomas Schroeder (OCC); seventh Allan Yates (OCC). Times, 52 minutes 45 seconds.

Senior 220 Yards Open—Won by Edward Whaley (WSC); second, George Downing (WSC); third Rabbit Kikai (WSC). Time 1 minute 9 seconds.

Junior Mile for Men — Won by Thomas Schroeder (OCC); second, Robert Krewson (WSC); third, Lui Lee (WSC). Time 12 minutes 23 seconds.

Women's One Mile Open—Won by Andre Long (WSC); second, Esther Kalama (WSC); third, Lilo Hall (WSC). Time 14 minutes 16 seconds.

Men Over 30 (One Mile)—Won by Woody Brown (WSC); second, John Toomey (WSC); third Gene Smith. Time 11 minutes 27 seconds.