Canoe Races

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crew to victory over the one mile course.

SPECTACULAR RACE

Healani, Kalopua and Honaunau finished in that order in what officials described as "a spectacular race of churning paddles."

The Junior Cougar Canoe Club won the Junior Men's two mile race in 17 minutes 38 seconds. Kai Opua was second and Hui Nalu came in third.

Winner of the novice men's half mile race was Honaunau.

Crews of Kona's two clubs, Kai Opua and Honaunau, showed results of strenuous practice as they placed in almost every event of the races held in their home waters.

Fully 1,000 automobiles, jeeps, trucks and bicycles drove into Kona today from as far away as Hilo.

The races began at 11 in the morning after a massive parade of more than 250 paddlers, coaches and officials.

Lorrin P. Thurston headed the parade as grand marshal and the Hawaii county band provided music both for the parade and for in between race entertainment.

Spectators from hefty great grandmothers to tiny tots bedecked the Kailua Bay sea wall lava rocks. They stretched from Hulihee Palace in Kona town to Waika Lodge to watch the most ancient Hawaiian sport.

Waters in Kailua Bay were calm and skies were overcast as canoes vied for honors.

1-4 FROM KONA

Besides the paddlers from Oahu's six clubs, some 150 paddlers from the two Kona clubs are vying for honors in today's version of the grand old sport of the Hawaiian kings and alii.

They are racing today in Kailua Bay, a short distance from Kealakekua Bay, where at one time outrigger canoes were numbered in high as 1,000.

Many of those canoes—including the now rare double outrigger — carried Captain James Cook when he arrived at Kealakekua Bay in the late 1700s as the first white man to see this island.

Captain Cook met what historians are reported to describe as an "unfortunate end" February 14, 1779.

STREETS SWARM

Today the tiny streets of Kona have been swarming with blue jeans, barefoot, shorts clad and t-shirted young men and women walking from dormitories, the girls live in two church halls to chow or from no place in particular.

Many have clambered around the hillsides of Kona in search of the precious ginger and other flowers for leis.

Many others have given in to other athletic urges by swimming in Kona Inn pool or body surfing in the surging ocean in front of Hulihee Palace, built in 1838. The palace was once a spot for Hawaiian royalty.

Cars and trucks have kept up a steady trek to the airport to pick up peddlers and vacationers who have arrived since Thursday on 34 special flights scheduled through Sunday, in addition to the five regular flights of both air lines.

CANOES RETURN

Seven canoes, shipped from Oahu for the race, have actually returned home to Kona to carry their Oahu teams to hoped for victories. Some of these seven canoes, such as Hui Kalia's Kaulana, and the Koolaupoko's Kona, were at one time raced by Kona clubs in events held here before the sport died out in 1935.

Other canoes that will race today are the Healani's Papaloa, the Waikiki Surf Club's Lanakila, Outrigger Leilani and Kai Nalua, and Hui Nalu's White Horse.

The two Kona clubs, Honaunau and Kai Opua, will race the Nalu and the 60 or 70 year old Kai Malino, respectively.

HEAVY OVERCAST

A heavy overcast has blanketed the Kona coast and cast a gray shadow over the area during the past few days, paddlers have gotten their last practice licks in. Oahu canoemen particularly have been the past few days studying the waters.

They describe Kailua Bay waters as "alive" compared to "dead" waters of Oahu.

Kona Clubs which paddled in serious competition last year for the first time since the early 1930s, are expected to give Oahu clubs a hard fight this year.

They have been practicing strenuously for this race.