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The starting gun for the first heat of the Hawaiian canoe racing championships sounded on the dot at 11 yesterday morning and the big event was under way.

By time for running the blue ribbon senior men's six over the three mile course, several upsets had been scored by the darkhorses in the meet.

In the early point scoring events, the Waikiki Surf club took the lead by winning the boys 17 years and under, over the mile distance. Hui Kalia was second and the Outrigger club placed third.

In the junior six man for the J. B. Mann trophy over two miles, the Outrigger club placed first, with Kai Opua a very close second, followed by Hui Nalu at the finish.

Kai Opua club came through to upset predictions in the junior women's six, winning the G. W. Murphy trophy in a brilliant finish as the crowd roared.

In the next event, the freshmen six man over the mile, the Healani club of Honolulu scored another upset by nosing out Hui Kalia with the Honaunau club of Kona placing third.

In the blue ribbon event of the day, the senior men's six over the gruelling three mile course for the Kona Inn perpetual trophy, the Waikiki Surf club, present record holders, repeated last year's performance by winning handily with Nui Nalu second, and Honaunau third.

The Outrigger Canoe club, challenger in this major event, capsized on the third leg and was out of the race.

Another mishap occurred in the novice men's six, won by Honaunau when the Waikiki Surf club turned over near the finish line and the boys were cooled off.

As the junior men's four over one mile went to the starting line with two events to be counted on the official score, it was anyone's regatta.

Prior to the races, Lorrin P. Thurston paid tribute to those who had been instrumental in reviewing these championships on the coast.

He made particular mention of Julian R. Yates for whom the regatta was named.