Weather Is Tops As Yates Regatta Gets Gala Start

KAILUA—King Neptune made good on weather predictions and was in a hospitable mood this morning as the day broke clear for the running of the second annual Julian R. Yates Hawaiian canoe racing championship at Kailua Bay with the sun climbing confidently into a blue sky overtopping a sparkling sea.

With a rising tide about race starting time, however, wind began to pick up, replacing the dawn-dead-calm with choppy sea.

Nevertheless, the air was light and variable as thousands of spectators gathered along the stretch of the sea wall from Hulihee Palace to the new wharf to witness the all-out parade of paddlers led by Hawaii County band before start of the races.

Paddlers wore their club colors of vivid red, blue, green, purple and gold and received a rousing ovation from the assembled crowd.

Waikiki Surf club is expected to go to the starting line an overnight favorite to take the Julian Yates perpetual trophy awarded to the over-all winner by amassing the greatest number of points in the regatta.

But the Outrigger club, present holder of the trophy, is reported to be very sharp and will bend every effort to repeat last year's performance.

Waikiki tied for second place last year, splitting honors with the Kai Opua club of Kona.

These predictions may be a trifle overconfident, as many race followers think there may be a dark horse in the eight scoring races on the 11-event program.

Hometown folks favor the Red and Gold of Honaunau in the blue ribbon senior men's six over a three-mile distance for the Kona Inn trophy.

Waikiki Surf won this event last year and holds the 1952 record for 25 minutes, 45 seconds.

Kai Opua club holds the 1952 record for the freshman six over a mile in 8 minutes, 19 seconds. They can repeat last year's win and retain the John D. Osborne trophy say Konaites.

Last night there was impromptu Hawaiian entertainment by paddlers on Hulihee Palace grounds. The eight participating clubs put on an excellent show for a large and appreciative audience.

Historic significance of the palace is considerable and, looking down with its aged-in-dignity appearance, provided an excellent setting for the outdoor program. The general feeling of goodwill, enthusiasm and interest on the part of participants and audience alike were sufficient to show that the evening had been worthwhile.

There will be a luau for paddlers, race officials and honored guests following the close of the regatta this afternoon when trophies will be presented. Tonight there will be a dance honoring all paddlers at Kona Inn.