

Kai Oni Canoe Sets Record; W.S.C. 2nd

By CARL MACHADO

Back in 1915, J. Atherton Gilman received national acclaim as the first Hawaii boy to be named an All-America football player.

Yesterday at the Hawaiian Village, Gilman, who won his spurs as a tackle at Harvard, joyfully watched his son, Joseph, steer the canoe, Uwila, into the sand at Duke Kahanamoku Beach to win the Sixth Annual Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race in the record time of five hours, 56 minutes.

Young Gilman and his five-man crew—Nick Pezel, Jim Souza, Tom Schroeder, Chris Bode and Percy Nakachi, with assists from Ray Marugame, Stan Kewaeahu and Andy Manoa — representing the Kai Oni Canoe Club of Kailua, Oahu, bettered the former record of 7:54 held by the Outrigger Canoe Club, by one hour, 58 minutes.

The other eight crews listed with their steersmen finished the gruelling 37-mile race in the following order:

Waikiki Surf Club, Dutchy Kino; Kai Opua of Kailua-Kona, Al Gaspar; Healani, Francis Hosaka; Hui Nalu, Jabob Keliikoa; Hale Au Au, Aukai Sanford; Kamehameha (Hilo), Eugene Medeiros; Holomua, Robert Keaweahu; and Molokai, Alejandro Doo.

LARGE CROWD

As an estimated 5,000 people watched in the vicinity of the Kahanamoku Beach and many thousands more along Waikiki, the Kai Oni, which led all the way, shot from behind the Elks Club House at 1 p.m. to give the thousands of tourists, many of whom came from various parts of the world for Aloha Week, the first view of the racing canoes. The winner then hit the beach 16 minutes later.

For their winning effort, the Kailuans received first prize money of \$500 with \$300 going to the second-place Kona crew; \$125 to the Healanis and \$75 to the Hale Au Au crew.

Paul Jones, race committee chairman, and Sol Kalamala, clerk of course, voiced the opinion that the fast

time was due mainly to the free substitution rule, which went into effect this year.

"By allowing the boys to substitute (Kai Oni, winner, used three substitutes), there was no over-fatigue, no collapsing at the finish," they chorused.

"True, the boys were a bit shaky at the finish. Which was as it should be after paddling hard for nearly six hours in choppy waters. It appeared that condition and desire won for the Kailua crew."

STUCK IN THERE

"None of the crew took it for granted that we'd win even when we were about 300 yards ahead. We hit between 36 and 40 strokes a minute, I believe, and pushed, pushed ahead straight for Diamond Head.

"Bode got a cramp in the small of his back about 2½ miles from Molokai and had to be relieved. He came back strong an hour later, though.

"After about three hours at sea, the boys had some orange juice, water and some chocolate coated sweets.

"The farthest we had ever rowed in practice this year was from Kailua to Waikiki.

"The free substitution rule helped us a lot."

Bode followed Gilman's remarks with:

"The fast current helped. (Last year's race was rowed in smooth water). When I got that cramp I stuck my oar in the air asking for relief. I got out and was replaced without much loss. It was like a fast-changing relay system. Our team was in terrific shape and was ready for anything."

Frank Henrigues, canoe racing enthusiast from Kona, whose crew finished second only nine minutes behind, said that his boys "could not have made it even if it wasn't for the free substitution rule. We have two seventeen-year-olds and one boy who is 18. I hope the new rule stays."

Other officials and paddlers agreed that the free substitution rule is here to stay.