

# Waikiki Surf Club Wins Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race

By KENNY HAINA

Waikiki Surf Club, with veterans Dutchy Kino and Baldwin (Blue) Makua at the helm, became the first crew yesterday to win the Molokai-Oahu canoe race two straight years by finishing the 36-mile grind in six hours and nine minutes.

It was an exciting race all the way, according to race officials. The first five canoes to cross the finish line at Duke Kahanamoku beach did so within 10 minutes of each other.

Outrigger Canoe Club made a strong comeback in the home stretch to finish second

in 6:16. Kai Oni, 1957 winner with a record time of 5:56, made a gallant bid to win but faltered after leading most of the way to finish third at 6:17.

IN FOURTH place was Lanikai at 6:18, Hui Nalu was fifth at 6:19 while Healani copped sixth place with a time of 6:51. Kamehameha from Hawaii was seventh with a time of 7:10 and Molokai was the last of the nine entries to cross the finish line at 2:45 p.m. and a time of 7:31.

The Newport Dunes Canoe Club of Newport Beach, Calif., did not finish. Race

officials reported that the first Mainland entry in the eighth annual event swamped about half-way to the finish line.

One official said the Californians were hooked up in a tight battle for fourth place at the halfway mark with Outrigger, Waikiki Surf and Lanikai before they were capsized by a big wave.

The California boat was towed into port by the escort boat Niuhi, skippered by Addison Love and Sid Weirich.

Officials reported no casualties or other injuries to the Newport entry following the swamping.

WAIKIKI SURF, which won last year with a time of 6:08, also placed first in 1953 and 1955. With yesterday's triumph, Kino's paddlers permanently retired the Hawaii Alii perpetual trophy sponsored, coincidentally, by the Waikiki club.

The winning crew crossed the finish line at 1:23 p.m. More than 10,000 persons, stretched from the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor shoreline to the Hawaiian Village Hotel, saw the canoes finish.

Several thousand more spectators lined Diamond Head Road around noon as soon as the first canoe was reported off Portlock.

Kino is the only man to race in the annual event eight straight years. Blue Makua has competed in seven races.

Waikiki Surf started the race with a lineup made up of Kino, Randy Chun, Rubin Makua, James Koko, Jeff Chee and Blue Makua. They finished with Kino, Chun, Chee, Lee McGrean, Koko and Blue Makua. Allen Naone and Conrad Canha completed the crew.

KINO SAID competition was tougher this season because all the canoes stayed close. He reported that waves were rougher than last year.

Kino added that his crew took the lead from Kai Oni after rounding Portlock and hitting smooth water. No one paddled the entire distance. They changed off in units of three about every hour, Kino added.

He reported that they started later instead of the original time of around 5:30 a.m. because of high seas at Kawakii Beach.

The Waikiki Surf canoe Malie was escorted for the eighth consecutive year by the escort boat Mele, skippered by Guy and Bob Rothwell.

Race officials had nothing but praise for the enthusiasm and fine spirit exhibited by the California entry from Newport Beach.

"Their morale was high and they were in the race all the way until they were swamped," said a member of the race committee.

"The race last month between Catalina Island and Newport was a new experience for them and this was even a newer experience. They experienced much higher waves and choppy seas compared to the water in the Catalina-Newport area," said the official.

All crews were received by the Aloha Week king and queen and their court on a huge stage erected on the beach. Governor William F. Quinn, who served as grand marshal, welcomed the crews as they finished the race.

The race was sponsored by Aloha Week, Inc., and conducted by the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association. Paul Jones was in charge of the race committee.

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Robert Young

An official pours water for Conrad Canha as other Waikiki Surf Club paddlers stand around after finishing Molokai to Oahu canoe race.

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## California Crew Swamps

"We made the wrong move when we turned and went over," said 46-year-old Lorrin Harrison, captain and steersman of the Newport Dunes Canoe Club which competed in yesterday's Molokai-Oahu race for the first time.

"We just slid the wrong way and over we went," Harrison said in explaining the cause of his canoe being swamped just a little past the halfway mark in the 36-mile race.

"WE WERE IN contention all the way and I think we were in fourth position when we went over. Some of the

other boys even said we were in third place. But I know we were giving the other clubs a good race," Harrison continued.

"It's just experience that we lacked. Besides, the water here is much rougher than the Catalina-Newport crossing and we weren't used to it although we gave it our every effort," he said.

"Some of our boys thought we might have gone all the way if we didn't get swamped. But it's one of those things. I understand someone always gets swamped in this race and this year it was us."

"We know better now and

next year maybe we'll improve and manage to finish," said Harrison.

"Our boys are still in high spirits and we hope to come back again next year. I'm sure we will," he added.

"It was a good experience for us and we know we made a lot of mistakes. We were going along smoothly and picking up on the other crews until our mishap. I think we were using 40 to 42 strokes a minute," Harrison said.

The Californians are staying here for Oahu's week-long observance of Aloha Week before returning next weekend.