



By **RON HAWORTH**

### **Champs have fringe benefits**

Tomorrow afternoon ABC television will screen last December's International Surfing Championships at Makaha Beach. If the weather is bad, it will be watched by thousands, and presumably only a handful of these will think it anything but an amateur meet.

Technically and theoretically, they are correct. Factually, the belief is in error. But collectively, none will care.

The fringe benefits derived by an individual winning at Makaha in the senior men's division can be far-reaching and rewarding, with direct gains seen in the sure-to-follow offers from various surf-oriented manufacturers.

Success at Makaha can also open onto avenues of financial reward in areas not directly, or even remotely, connected with surfing.

Champions in most pro sports have good off-season jobs, and surfing has only followed suit in a minor fashion. But because surfing is not seasonal, it's become a surf-for-pay.

California businessmen have long seen the trend and jumped on the surf wagon. Here we're on Hawaiian time.

Plainly speaking, none of this payola is knocked by this column—as long as surfing admits it exists—because without it we might not exist.

### **Backs pro-amateur separation**

What we plug is professional-amateur separation. And, if we can believe our doubting eyes, this is exactly what the Western Surfing Association is in the process of accomplishing. If anything this is an ironic turn of the cards, as it was this very organization which beat the competition drum in California, thereby conceiving the obscure standards of today.

The WSA first established what an amateur surfer was. Quote: A surfer who engages in surfing solely for the pleasure of the physical, mental or social benefits he derives therefrom and to whom surfing is nothing more than an avocation.

The principal behind such a goal is worthy, but in this day and age of the sophisticated surfer, it rules out everyone but the old, tired type over 35... And we really don't care.

The WSA further states that any surfer competing or coaching for money, capitalizing on surfing fame, or competing against ineligible surfers without WSA permission, ceases to be an amateur.

A WSA spokesman said hopes are that this pro-amateur separation will be an actuality by 1969. Just where this will leave surfing contests, particularly those in the Islands, is not clear.

The Hawaii Surfing Association has no comparative scheme in the mill, but nevertheless expects side affects to appear locally.

### **Downing pro by AAU rules**

Jan Husic, HSA competition chairman, predicts the pro-amateur system to affect the Duke Invitational. She quotes Henry Yamasaki, Hawaiian AAU official, as classifying George Downing a pro under AAU rules.

If so—and if the AAU recognized the sport—certainly Fred Hemmings, Jock Sutherland, and Paul Strauch are also well past amateur grace.

If faced with the dilemma of keeping the Duke Invitational amateur by AAU code, would meet director Fred Van Dyke invite these proven surfers every year, and would Californians Corky Carroll, Mike Doyle and Rusty Miller continue to appear in the select 24?

Off hand we doubt if Duke ever surfed for a trophy in his life. His meet, above all, should remain an honor for amateurs to strive toward.

If surfing wants to remain pure, it is up to those powers that be to guide it through channels already created by the AAU and similar organizations.

When this becomes a reality each surfer will choose his course. Until then he can do much as he pleases.

It's our opinion that surfers active today will never face this fork in their travels.

One of the many honors to be heaped upon Duke is the naming of the new Outrigger Canoe Club koa canoe. Already more than a year in the building, this \$5,000 investment has been christened PAOA.

The canoe is being shaped under the gifted hand of George Perry and will be ready for the '69 racing season.

Canoe racing season gets under way June 9 with the running of the Kamehameha Day Races at Kailua Beach. Because surfing and outrigger racing are closely related in heritage, Surf Spray hopes to bring its readers an insight to the sport over the coming summer months.