



By **RON HAWORTH**

Surprise, but no shock

Healani's victory in the State canoe regatta was initially surprising, but not totally unpredictable. The Healani crews had been coming up to a big team performance and were easily the best at Kaneohe.

And Healani got some rather unexpected help through the dismal showing of the Waikiki Surf Club. Failing to win a single event, WSC tallied a meager nine points.

However, WSC was the over-all winner of the season with three regattas. Outrigger Canoe Club and Healani won one each.

Outrigger was first in total team points on the season with 174, and captured 24 blue ribbons.

WSC chased Outrigger and finished with 159 points and 18 victories. They were followed by Healani's 114 points and eight firsts.

Six of those Healani wins came at Kaneohe during the big State meet, which just goes to prove that canoe racing is not all that cut and dried.

Best performance of the year was by Outrigger's 18s. These six lads were never beaten, nor even threatened, in five regattas.

Neighboring Kauai and their senior men grabbed a third in the State regatta and could very well be expected to seek more glory this October in the Molokai race.

A new race this year on the post-season agenda is the 20-odd mile Lanikai-to-Waikiki paddle on Aug. 24. Sponsored by the Lanikai Canoe Club, the race will probably draw boats from all those clubs who annually paddle the 41-mile Molokai test.

Psychological help

The founding of this race fills a void created when the Lanai-to-Kaanapali event was scratched. This race should have been a boon to Maui, and in particular Kaanapali, but it was also on the expensive side.

Paddling between those two islands meant canoes and personnel had to be transported there and back. In contrast, the Molokai race sees everyone paying a one-way passage.

While the Lanikai-Waikiki race is too far in advance of the Aloha Week Molokai paddle to be termed a warm-up, it could help psychologically any youngster who might have his sights on the Molokai challenge.

Some of the clubs will experiment, testing novice distance paddlers. But regardless of the training strategy employed, every paddler will be out to finish no worse than first.

The club winning this race should not automatically be favored eight weeks hence to take honors in Molokai.

But if it's a young crew — watch out — youth and confidence can be a formidable opponent.

One thing this race will have is spectator appeal. The stretch between Makapuu and Koko Head will be within easy viewing from the elevated highway, and afford the passerby an excellent vantage point from which to see the paddler changes.

Nine men make up a crew, six in the canoe at one time. Substitution is unlimited within this circle of nine.

The Lanikai-Waikiki race falls on Duke Kahanamoku's birthday, so it was only natural for someone to approach the idea of making it an annual race honoring Duke.

If agreement can be reached with the Lanikai Canoe Club (and this seems assured) Kimo McVay will be host each year to a victory celebration for the winning crew.

Had Duke lived he would have been 78 this month. Duke's birthdate will not go unnoticed in the Islands.

Gov. John Burns will shortly proclaim Aug. 24 as Duke Kahanamoku Day. Also "Duke's World of Surfing" will be televised on KGMB on this date, beginning at 5 p.m.