

International surf meet to start Saturday

The International Surfing Championships, the oldest surfing competition in the world, will get under way tomorrow at 8 a.m. at Makaha Beach.

The meet will run through Jan. 1 with a day off on Christmas Day for the Diamond Head Paddle Race.

Heading the 263 surfers is the veteran George Downing, three-time winner of the famed classic.

The Outrigger Canoe Club, founded in 1908 "to perpetuate the sport of surfing and canoeing in the Islands," will have a 16-man team in the meet — nine seniors and seven juniors.

Fred Hemmings, twice Makaha champion and current World Surfing Meet champion; defending Makaha titlist Joey Cabell; Rick Steere, Butch Hemmings and Paul Strauch, a leading contender for several years, are among the bigwave riders who will represent Outrigger.

Hemmings has the distinction of being victorious four times in the International contest — two as a junior.

Competition will be in the senior men, junior men, women and mixed tandem.