

Surf Spray

By Ron Haworth



The biggest surprise to come out of the Oahu Canoe Championships last Sunday was not the pinpoint accuracy of the Surf Spray predictions (10 big winners in a 15-race program), but the poor showing of usually strong Waikiki Surf Club.

It is seldom, indeed, that Waikiki Surf isn't subjected to a saliva test following a canoe regatta. But it is doubtful disappointed club members had any to spare after their paddlers were able to muster a meager nine points and finished sixth in a field of eight.

For the \$2 better, it brought back that unhappy day Noor bested the great Citation in a much publicized match race.

But a single bad race is no reason to conclude a great career has come to an end. Rail birds are likely to throw the last races out for reason of track pollution.

The thoroughbreds move to beautiful Kailua Beach Park for the finale of the season (State Championships) next weekend. It might be that the powdery track will suit some hooves more than the waters of Keehi Lagoon.

CONDITIONS at Keehi Downs are far from comfortable if one takes into consideration the plight of the fan.

This loyal following is asked to sit down in an infield of broken glass, hot tar and honking horns.

The nearest flower passed overhead draped around the red neck of a departing tourist reading the bar menu on a 747.

Santa Anita it ain't. Keehi has all the appeal of a forest after a fire. Even the roaches discriminate against it.

It is said that Keehi is a wonderful track for paddlers. It's deep and offshore gales provide every lane with identical hardships.

But this seems a minor benefit. Certainly more is involved in keeping the sport of canoe racing alive than

the men and women who lift the paddles.

Sports of all kinds would die if it weren't for the avid spectator. And he certainly has to be just that before subjecting himself to a day of discomfort at the Keehi Downs.

KAILUA, on the other hand, is the best canoe regatta site (our opinion) for all involved. The races are run parallel to the beach, and the pleasant surroundings afford families a day of excitement as well as a picnic.

Canoes can be beached and there is none of the painful passage from parking lot to canoe, across submerged rocks, that awaits the paddlers at Keehi.

If Kailua has a weakness it might be the parking tickets fans find at day's end. Even the trailer belonging to Leeward Kai wasn't overlooked by the men in blue at this year's Kamehameha races.

Any suggestions where to put a 40-foot canoe trailer will be welcome.

Last week's Surf Spray handicap was a tout's honeymoon. Along with the 10 winners there were numerous correct predictions of run-

ners-up. The second race of the day was handicapped 1, 2, 3, 4. The daily double came in with lengths to spare.

Healani's total score was missed by four points; Out-rigger's by two; Kai Oni's by one; Leeward Kai was on the money.

Hui Nalu and Kailua were handicapped a tie; they finished with a two-point spread.

Waikiki Surf . . . well . . . you can't win them all.

Watch for next week's Surf Spray Handicap.

SURF smatterings from Randy Rarick in far off South Africa brings readers up to date on the results of the East-London 500, a protest sponsored by Hang Ten and Gunston Cigaret Co.

After some real hot action in surf ranging to seven feet, the title went to Brad McCaull of California.

Rarick went all the way to the semifinals before bowing out after he and a South African went to the fifth wave in a tie-breaker.

Rarick had previously bested Australian Peter Drouyn to gain the semi place.

Rarick is extremely high on the treatment he and Drouyn and McCaull have received while visiting South Africa.

"We are treated with the utmost respect by everyone, and have been the guests of honor at many parties, including one hosted by the lord mayor."

Grievance Filed Against Kapp

AMHERST, Mass. (UPI) — The National Football League's Players Relations Committee has filed a grievance with the NFL Players Association against quarterback Joe Kapp for refusing to sign a standard player's contract with the New England Patriots, it was announced today.

Theodore Kheel, legal counsel for the committee, notified Bill Sullivan, president of the Patriots, of the action. A team spokesman said the action was "thoroughly unique. It's never happened before."

— Andy M

Men's Custom

Cho
Just Ar
KNIT F
Distinct
a distin
Perso
MOHA
"We'll
Satisfaction
1138 Bish

andy mohan

ANDY MO