

rough water swim

first to finish not winner

By **BRUCE BENSON**
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The roughest part of the second annual Rough Water Swim off Waikiki yesterday for Carl Thomas was that he didn't sign up for it before he dashed into the ocean.

Too bad for Thomas, because his time of 38 minutes 7 seconds was thrown out, and first place honors went instead to Jonathan Eger, 17, an official entrant, who posted the second-fastest time of 41 minutes 9 seconds.

Even at that, Eger, representing the Hawaii Swim Club, shaved a big hunk off last year's winning time of 55 minutes.

ONE HUNDRED and six swimmers plunged into an ocean that was

calm, with a gentle swell and light trade winds blowing, from Sans Souci Beach in Kapiolani Park at 2 p.m.

Spectators were hard pressed to get their cars and maneuver through Labor Day traffic to the finish line at the Hilton Hawaiian Hotel before the winners finished the race.

A crowd of several hundred applauded as the first swimmers swam to shore, then ran ten yards to a finish line flanked by official timers.

THE EVENT was sponsored by the City Parks and Recreation Department. A fleet of two motor boats, three outrigger canoes and a rowing dinghy accompanied the swimmers. Ad-

ditionally, each swimmer was followed by a surfer on a board.

Not everyone was happy with the swim. Gottfried Seitz, 75, who identified himself as an employe of the Parks Department, said race officials wouldn't accept his entry blank shortly before the start. One official said that last-minute registration activity was set aside for members of the Amateur Athletic Union only.

SEITZ WAS disappointed. "I'm in good shape," he said. "I've been on the beach since 1952 and I swim every day. This is how I preserve my life. I'm 75, hale and hearty."

Swimmers taking second and third overall were Brent Berk, 22, the former Punahou, Stan-



CARL THOMAS
... unofficial winner

ford and Olympic star, at 42 minutes 29 seconds, and Paul Clark, 16, at 43 minutes 11 seconds. They

came in at a pace of more than a stroke a second on a course that was two miles, 300 yards long.

Clark is a member of the De Anza Swim Club of California.

WINNER OF the Open Women's Division was Liz Hogan, 14, at 46:42. First in the Seniors Over 35 was Peter Cole, 40, at 47:42. Winner of the Masters Division was Bill Woolsey, 36, at 55:10. Woolsey is a former Olympian.

James Cotton, a citizen volunteer coordinator for the race, said that unofficial winner Thomas wasn't the only one to enter without signing up.

"A dozen people said, 'Well, can we swim anyway?' I told them that it's a free ocean," he said.