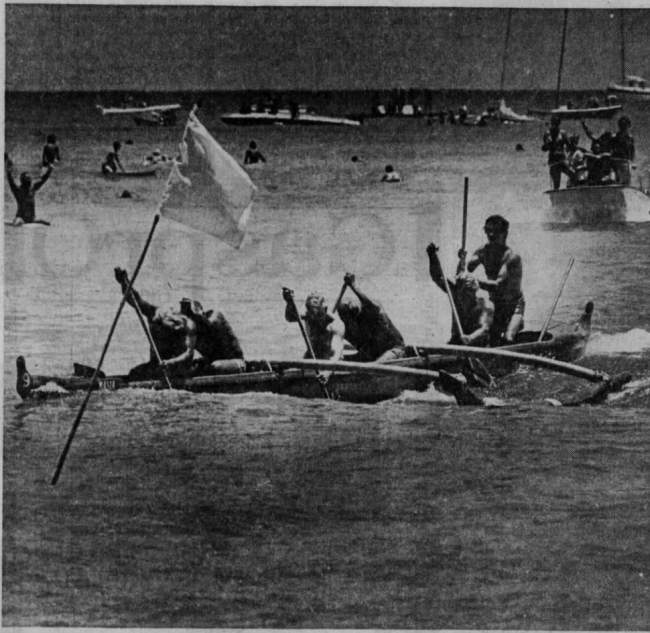


Old Paddlers Never Lose Magic Touch

They may be in the twilight of their paddling careers, but these 50-years-and-older types showed the young ones a thing or two yesterday in a special event at the HCRA's Walter J. Macfarlane Memorial Regatta at Waikiki. From left to right, in photo at right, are Waikiki Surf Canoe Club veterans George Downing, Rabbit Kekai, Jammer Kekai, Wally Froiseth and Baldwin "Blue" Makua. Another team member, Chris Bodie, was out paddling when the picture was taken. Below, with steersman Downing (standing) leaning forward to give the canoe a little more push, the "Old Guard" crosses the finish line first.—Star-Bulletin Photos by John Titchen.



Outrigger Paddlers Keep Streak Alive

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

"Thank God my paddlers came through. . . I sure didn't want to be the first Outrigger Canoe Club coach in five years to lose our own regatta."

With those grateful words, Nat Norfleet took a firm hold on the Walter J. Macfarlane Memorial trophy, which OCC sponsors — and has won for five successive years — and waltzed away.

Thousands of sun-baked paddlers and bikini-clad spectators gathered at Waikiki Beach yesterday for Hawaii Canoe Racing Association's eight-club, 24-event regatta which was held over a rough surfing course.

FOR ALL OF OCC's successes, however, Norfleet nearly became a sorrowful loser. Going into the final two events — the women's and men's senior races — Waikiki Surf Club, the regatta's darkhorse, held a two-point lead over OCC.

"When it comes to surfing regattas, those Surf Club paddlers are fierce competitors," said an HCRA official.

"Surfing canoes in big waves just seems to be their thing. Just look at the way they're pressing Outrigger

in their own regatta. It's as exciting as anything I've ever seen."

But WSC's surge was short-lived as OCC, in the final two heats, took two consecutive second places while WSC fell to fourth place in the senior women's event and placed sixth in the senior men's race. That left OCC clear paddling for its fifth straight Macfarlane Regatta win, this time by a comfortable seven points.

THE FINAL Macfarlane Regatta standings: 1. Outrigger Canoe Club (60 points); 2. Waikiki Surf Club (53 points); 3. Hui Nalu CC (50 points); 4. Hui Lanakila (33 points); 5. Kailua CC (28 points); 6. Healani CC (25 points); 7. Lanikai CC (21 points); 8. Koolau CC (12 points).

For Complete Results See Scoreboard, Page F-6

"We should have won the senior men's race, but I blew it," admitted OCC's steersman, Brant Ackerman. "Heck, we led at every flag of the two-mile event — all except at the finish when Kailua surged ahead."

"I elected to punch up on a wave and play it safe, and when it came time to bear off there was no wave left," Ackerman said. "For the good

of the club, it's often best to be careful, particularly when the regatta title is at stake."

Kailua, in winning the two-mile senior men's event, pulled off the regatta's biggest upset. With Randy Siyva, Tim Daugherty, Russell Wilbur, James Bruhn, Kamos Kalama and Alapai Ke in its crew, the Windward club topped Outrigger and the previously unbeaten senior men of the Hui Nalu Canoe Club.

"WE JUST caught a big wave, shot past Outrigger, and held on to the finish," explained a happy KCC paddler. "It felt just great to beat the favorites for a change."

The tempestuous Waikiki surf, unpredictable at times, required a true test of teamwork between steersman and paddlers. Races were won and lost yesterday by the crews' ability to surf their 40-foot koa canoes to the optimum. Several novice crews swamped their craft as a result of the high waves.

"Because of the surf, some of the crews were having trouble maneuvering their canoes around the turning flags," said HCRA race director Jim Castro.

"But I think that most of the lanes were pretty well laid out and equal.

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