

Hui Nalu to Honor 'John D.'

The Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's Hui Nalu Canoe Club will again sponsor the annual John D. Kaupiko Regatta, which will be held Sunday morning at 9 at Waikiki Beach.

And just as the Outrigger Canoe Club probably had the emotional advantage at the July 4 MacFarlane Regatta (having won the competition five years running), so will Hui Nalu probably be the club most likely to succeed.

Prominent among modern canoe racing's pioneers, Lukela "John D." Kaupiko — so nicknamed because his heart was said to be as large as Rockefeller's purse — was a beloved fixture at Hui Nalu, coaching the club for 27 years, from 1935 until his death in 1962.

AMONG THE old timers who will be on hand Sunday to pay tribute to Kaupiko — and to cheer Hui Nalu on — will be Bill and Sargent Kahanamoku, brothers of Hui Nalu's most famous member, the late Duke Kahanamoku; Enay McKinney, Red McQueen, Joe Akana, Splash Lyons, Kani Evans and Toots Minvielle.

But count on Waikiki's unpredictable surf and the luck of the draw to also play a part in determining who wins on Sunday.

Waves are outrigger canoe racing's great equalizers.

Unlike flat water regattas, where a club's success depends largely on the quality of its paddlers, surf racing, as Hui Nalu team captain Fred Hemming Jr. says, "is always exciting because of the element of chance the waves create."

THE DRAWING of a good lane (traditionally, those closest to Diamond Head) can substantially in-



'JOHN D.'—The late Lukela 'John D.' Kaupiko Sr., who coached the Hui Nalu Canoe Club for 27 years, will be honored by Hui Nalu and the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Sunday at Waikiki Beach.

crease a club's chances of catching waves. And a crew catching a good wave can literally surf its canoe from last place back into contention.

HCRA annals are filled with come-from-behind stories in surf racing.

But the very waves that can carry a club to victory can also become an outrigger's worst enemy.

Swamping is frequent (especially among younger crews) in surf racing, while "pearling," in which a canoe is sent bow-first into the sand, can easily shatter a valuable koa outrigger's hull.

Participating canoe clubs, which include (besides Hui Nalu and Outrigger), Kailua, Waikiki Surf, Healanii, Hui Lanakila, Hanalike, Koolau, Leeward Kai and Waimanalo, will therefore be allowed a choice of koa or fiberglass outriggers.

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