



ENDANGERED SPECIES—Healani's crew of junior women (right foreground) works frantically to bail water from their swamped canoe while Kailua, Outrigger and Hui Lanakila surf toward similar encounters with Waikiki's unpredictable waves at yesterday's John D. Kaupiko Regatta. Waikiki Surf Club, the only entry to negotiate the waves without mishap, won the event in a record four minutes, 17.7 seconds.—Star-Bulletin Photos By John Titchen.

WSC Paddlers Surf to Victory

By Jack Wyatt
Special to the Star-Bulletin

"As our canoe charged down the wave, the bow began to bury. I went to move back when, suddenly, the surf swept me overboard. The next thing I knew I was underwater, grappling for the surface."

Those wet words came from pretty Chris Abedor, one of Waikiki Surf Club's better woman paddlers, who was washed overboard while competing in the mixed open event of yesterday's John D. Kaupiko Memorial Canoe Regatta in the rough waters off Waikiki Beach.

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"All I could think of was holding on to my paddle," sighed a somewhat embarrassed Abedor. "And when I saw our canoe turn to pick me up, I was relieved. But I was also sorry that my accident may have caused us to lose the heat."

WAIKIKI SURF CLUB may have lost the mixed open battle of canoes but it won the war. The Ala Moana Park-based canoe club surged from behind to topple the regatta's host, Hui Nalu, by 11 big points.

Ten Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association clubs competed in 24 rough-water events off Waikiki. The tempestuous waves helped speed the 40-foot canoes to 16 regatta records while causing more than 30 canoes to swamp and at least two others to collide.

The final standings: 1. Waikiki Surf Club, 66 points; 2. Hui Nalu Canoe Club, 55; 3. Outrigger CC, 52; 4. Kailua CC, 25; 5. Lanikai CC, 20; 6. Koolau CC, 19; 7. Leeward Kai CC, 17; 8. Healani CC, 14; 9. Hui Lanakila CC, 13; 10. Waimanalo CC, 1.

"I haven't seen Waikiki so rough for a race for a long time," said Russ Apple, an HCRA official. "The big waves had both good and bad points. The surf made for a lot of new records, but it also could have caused some serious damage to those \$10,000 koa canoes. But the spectators really enjoyed the excitement."

AND SWAMPINGS there were. In nearly every event, at least one canoe fell victim to the waves. In the junior women's race, which was won by WSC in record time, four of five entries were dunked.

In addition to winning the championship with eight first places and four seconds, WSC, unofficially, also won the regatta's grand prize for enthusiasm. Waikiki Beach was painted with the red and yellow colors of WSC.

"If we don't beat our competition on the race course, then we sure topple them by whooping it up," said Blue Makua Jr., one of WSC's talented steersmen. "We love the big waves. Surf is our middle name."

WSC trailed Hui Nalu by 13 big points midway through the regatta. But, in the last half, both WSC and Outrigger CC pounced on the veter-



CRUISING—Waikiki Surf Club's crew of Randy Chun, Robert Moncreif, Kimu Hollinger and steersman Blue Makua Jr. are in fine form as they catch a wave en route to victory in the half-mile, "Open 4" event yesterday at Waikiki Beach.