It's 'Man Against the Sea'

"Personally, I'd like to see 15-foot waves in the channel with the wind blowing at gale force," said Outrigger Canoe Club's steersman Brant Ackerman, when asked about his preferred conditions for Sunday's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

"In my opinion, the Molokai race is supposed to pit man against the sea—a true test of roughwater canoe paddling. The winning should go to the crew which is most experienced in those rugged conditions."

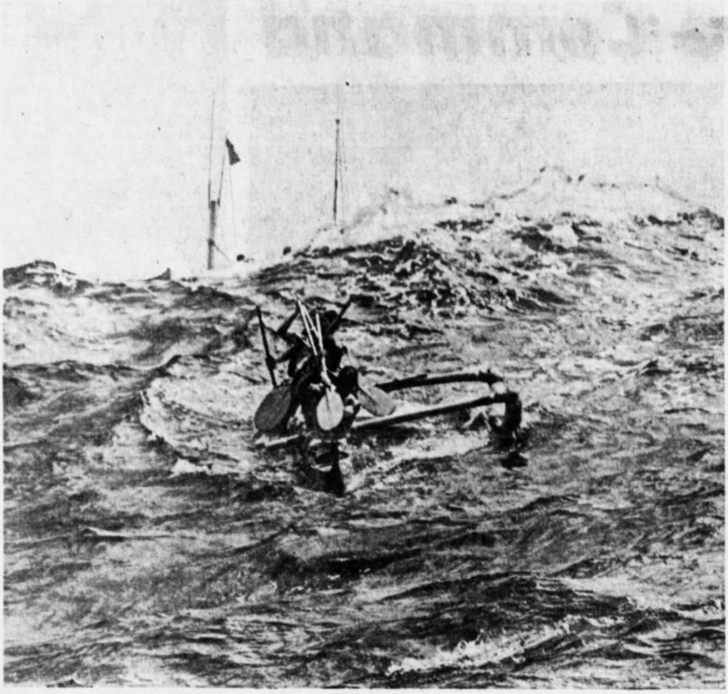
Jack Wyatt

The Outdoors

Thirty-seven canoes, representing 31 clubs—including five from Tahiti and one each from California and Canada—will depart Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor at 7:30 a.m. for the 50-mile cross-channel trek to Waikiki Beach. The first canoe is expected to arrive at the Ft. DeRussy Beach finish between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

"THIS YEAR, ALL canoes will be of Hawaiian design, as adopted by the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association," stated HCRA's Chris Faria, the man in charge of judges and scoring.

"The long-standing flap between Tahitian-style versus the Hawaiian-design canoes has been resolved. HCRA met with the Tahitians recently and it was agreed that when the Tahitians race in Hawaii they will abide by our rules, and when the Hawaiians race in Tahiti, we will compete by their rules."



HAVING A SWELL TIME—Paddlers in the annual Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race are in for a lot of ups and downs during their 50-mile trek from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki Beach.—Star-Bulletin Photo.

"There are about 10 crews in this race that could win it all," explained Ackerman, who steered OCC to victory last year.

"Hui Nalu and Waikiki Surf are always tough; the California team—Blazing Paddles—has an experienced crew, and the Canadians—they are really taking this race seriously. In a recent informal match-race off Waikiki, Canada stayed right up there with us."

ACKERMAN, WHO HAS paddled the race eight times for OCC, tells about the steersman's duties aboard a 40-foot outrigger canoe.

"My job is much like quarterbacking a football team," he explained. "I must constantly watch my competition and cover them when necessary. I also have to be on the lookout for good surfing waves.

"But steering is not only physically taxing but it mentally drains a person as well. By the end of the race I'm exhausted."

According to Ackerman, the steersman is the only member of the six-man crew who generally receives no relief. "I stay in the canoe for the entire six-to-seven hour crossing. Steering from one side of the canoe while battling the waves and the current really wipes out your body. But winning, or placing well, makes any pain all worthwhile," he sighed.

OCC GENERALLY follows a predetermined race plan. "Although weather conditions and competition may dictate our strategy slightly," explained Ackerman, "there just isn't time during the race to discuss major changes. Sometimes our decisions depend on what looks best at the time, and what has worked for us in the past."

After leaving Molokai's Laau Point, some crews elect to head north with the current and arrive at Oahu close to Koko Head and Black Point. Meanwhile, other teams prefer the rhumbline, or more direct route to Honolulu. Races are often won and lost on the course taken across Molokai's tempestuous channel.

Even Canada's canoe-oriented Indians from British Columbia's Vancouver Island are attacking the rugged channel this year.

"Our team is competing in Hawaii as a bonus for winning the Hyack Festival Canoe Race," Arvid Charlie, the talented Canadian Indian paddler and team captain, explained.

"THE 85-MILE Hyack race, held on the Fraser River, was a grueling event. Instead of 40-foot outrigger canoes, we used tippy 22-footers, that would swamp with the misstroke of a paddle. Racing from Molokai should be quite an experience for us."

From all reports, Charlie's "Angels," who have been working out in borrowed canoes off Waikiki daily, have caught on pretty fast.

"Our crew are all experienced, well-conditioned paddlers," said Charlie. "We plan to use our own style of paddling—a short quick stroke. Our only major problem will be handling your big seas. I've heard that your waves are awesome."

Spectators may view the canoe race finish at Ft. De Russy Beach starting at approximately 1 p.m. In addition to shore-side viewing, a large armada of spectator boats is expected off Waikiki. At least one firm—Kewalo Basin's Windjammer Cruises—will be scheduling a canoe arrival excursion, beginning at 11 a.m.

Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race Roster

BLAZING PADDLES (Calif.)—Pete Carolan, John Van Cleave, Chuck Lyda, Gordon Reed, Carl Teppner, Billy Whitford, Bill Stanley, Hugh Fisher, Collin Shaw, Gregg Smith, Bill Wazdyke.

BORA BORA (Tahiti)—Roster not available.

HANALEI HAWAIIAN CC (Kauai)—Nick Beck, David Goodale, Leslie Yokotake, Togo Hermosura, Bito Hermosura, Peter Cornwall, William Kinney, Gaylord Wilcox, Emilio Fernandez, Shawn Conant, Rex Burrell, Laine Tamura.

HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD OHANA CC—Melvin Akamine, Dennis Fukumoto, James Pahukula, Howard Young, Russell Campos, Theodore Kim, Craig Abalos, Wayne Soma, Michael Montero, Ronald Cozo, George Sensano.

HAWAII KAI CC—Stuart Hollinger, Bruce Fukuda, Craig Kanda, Daniel Vierra, Fred Hollinger, Leslie Akiyama, Kealii Flood, Edward Merritt, Dennis Oketani, Brian Sako, Quince Mento, Albert Chock, Melvin Matsumoto, Phillip Kahue, Wayne Yamaguchi, Ronald Pires, Joe Kumukoa.

HAWAII WARRIORS—Albert Bee, Allen Napoelean, Melvin Nakagami, Lewis Baitrel, Paul Strauss, Charles Kamai, Larry Walter, Robert Bolson, Alan Switzer, Jesse Wills, Thomas Kaaiai, Frederick Ornellas, Gary Yuen, Christopher Duque, James Cooper.

HEALANI CC—Lloyd Yamasaki, Ralph Hanalei, Gary Wong, Francis Pang, "Boy" Gerona, William Awa, Michael Vance, Moses Kawaloa, Frank Woodard, Mort Watson, Gary Murliema.

HUI LANAKILA—William Mitchell, Richard Bell, Henry Avau, Kalani McRague, Gilles Maitere, Robert Riley, Edward Hoopii, Jean Jacques Tehahe, Leighton Luke, Charles Ross, Allan Cadinha.

HUI NALU I—Steve Wood, Jim Bever, Bob Rocheleau, Bennett Ekhammer, Ray Lum, Dicky Freeman, Wally Liu, John Gebauer, James Kodama.

HUI NALU II—Nainoa Thompson, Joe Spielman, Bruce Blankenfeld, Kala Kukea, George Kissner, Leo Titcomb, Sonny Bradley, Tauataha Puaniho, Myron Thompson.

HUI O KAI KO'O—Butch Ukushima, Randy Fernandez, Mike Cushing, Marshall Giddens, Billy Reese, Terry Hamamoto, Lester Luahiwa, Dickie Chow, Billy Tsuji, Billy Luahiwa, Calvin Kapua, Jerry Kehler, Alan Itomura, Eddie Dearmore, Bill Medeklois, John Wong, Jeremien Dela Cruz, Dicky Young.

HUI WAA O HALAWA—Ago Afitoto, Junior Aviena, Paul Carvalho, Edward Chung, Ernest Chung, Kenneth Fukuhara, Charlie Machado, Tau Malae, Junior Maluatoga, Siilio Paie, Bozo Parker, Edward Pupuhi, Paul Pupuhi, Gilbert Silva, Edward Wong, George Kamaiopili, Thomas Kekahunai, Sefo McKenzie.

HYACK FESTIVAL—Arvid Charlie, Wayne Charlie, Peter Seymour, Ted Barsby, Wayne Morris, Bob Starng, Ron Daniels, Eric Steen, Richard Jones, Arnold Joe.

IMUA—Ed Frazer, Doug Green, Clint Reynolds, Tim Rush, Tom Dekker, Ed Miller, Mike Raineer, Brian Powers, Dennis Campbell, Graig Leeper, Dick Gebhoro, Greg Smith, Skip Frazer, Bill Wassdyke, Tony Garcia.

KAILUA CC—Randy Sylva, Tim Dougherty, James Bruhn, Kamoa Kalama, Pat Erwin, John Cavaco, Alapai Kea, Bob Cates, Dan Farrell, Steven Souza, Wayne Fernandez, Dick Williams, Carlton Handley, Arthur Isaacs, John Sewerker, Kalani Young.

KAI OPUA—Warren Akau, Jerome Kanuha, Leo Santimer, Kawika Aduld, Ricky Torres, Eddie Shoepponer, Mike Atwood, Robert Moeller, Bill Rosehill, Stan Dezura, Richard Kimitete, Clement Kawuha, Kap Willis, Richard Duarte, Francis Cushingnam.

KAMEHAMEHA (Oahu) CC—Brant Porter, John Trusder, Greg Poole, Pia Teves, Andy Esrives, Jeff Farris, Barry Ewaliko, Robert Norton, Wade Terleo, Eric Hasiwara, Jason Tabata, Tom Kososki, Charles Heaukulani.

KAMEHAMEHA (Hilo) CC—Roster not available.

KOOLAU CC I—Gary Yuen, Kani Cavaco, Wain Piena, Troy Hays, Charlie Handley, Kalai Handley, Chris Myers, David Komini, Alika Echart.

KOOLAU CC II—Bruce Jacobsen, Charles Kalama, Reed Sumner, Charles Coelho, Bernard Victor, Nelson Valdez, Bill Blankenfeld, David Kalama, James Miranda.

LANIKAI CC I—Billy Young, Steve Cole, Eric Cooper, Kalani Dawson, Jimmy Fedzer, Mike Knott, Tim Knott, William Mix, Steve Newhouse, Doug Smith, Victor Song, Wayne Washburn, Nelson Someda, Frank Foti, Fred Muramoto.

LANIKAI CC II—Joey Adams, Chauncy Camara, Walter Makaula, Gale Berengue, Fred Berengue, Paul Gay, Greg Culver, Joe Perry, Steve Nottingham, Clyde Fox, Rocky Owens, Al Wilson.

LEEWARD KAI CC—Alex McNicoll, Sol Kaahaaina, Kelly Momoa, Earl Joseph, Francis Silva, Billy Kekauoha, Mitchell Keawe, Harry Basso, Sam Alama, Walter Faulconer.

LOAA—John Turalde, Paul Rokero, Robert Lopes, Charles Rokero, Shegi Tamashiro, George Wong, John Pacheco, Buddy Wilson, Mike Dang, Tom Taum, Doome Gerona, Cheyenne Turalde, Christian Mortensen, David Cosier, Steven Hazel, Doug Akeo, Brian Schanez.

MAIRE NUI—Roster not available.

MOANA KAI CC—Kent Kapaona, Gary Medina, Fred Hyur, Waletr Chulits, Derrick Ferreira, Ted Adres, Roger Balara, Dexter Okada, Raymond Au, Guy Suganuma, Barry Cabrera, Calvin Yim, Eric Panarosa, Michael Bagor.

MOLOKAI CC—Roster not available.

OUTRIGGER CC I—Steven Scott, Bill Bright, Mike Mason, Dale Hope, Jay West, Jay Pinchon, Mike Fox, Willie Hawthorne, Ed Pickering, Murry Hixson.

OUTRIGGER CC II—Tom Conner, Marshall Rosa, Tim Guard, Mark Buck, Brandt Ackerman, John Finney, Keahi Farden, Aaron Young, Alan Rosehill.

TERAMATAI I—Roster not available.

TERAMATAI II—Roster not available.

TIARE TAHITI I—Roster not available.

TIARE TAHITI II—Roster not available.

WAALELE—Roster not available.

WAIKIKI BEACH BOYS—Alex Apo, Ted Bush, Keith Keillor, Ben Garces, Blackie Kaiua, Moana Huddy, Nolan Hanohano, Rodney Rodenhurst, Charles Vause, Cal Caito, John Chang, Kalani Coito, David Peterson, Frenchy Luttgau, Bill Ward, Paul Melbourne, Ed Tsuii, Art Rehana.

WAIKIKI SURF CLUB I—Cedric Choy, Franklin Crozier, James K. David, Chuck Frisbee, Ants Guerrero, Terry Hee, Jacob Kaio, Hano Kajohi, Kalani Kia, Phillip Nakagawa, Nappy Napoleon, Sam Souza, Michael A. Tongg.

WAIKIKI SURF CLUB II—Dan Arruda, John Benson, Cedric Choy, Randy Chun, Richard Cruz, James K. David, Terry Hee, Kimo Hollinger, Lance Jaber, Keoni Kino, Kimo Kino, Blue Makua, Bob Moncrief, Phillip Nakagawa, Milton Tadaki, Wallace Wong.

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