



FIRST TO FINISH—Blazing Paddles Canoe Club of Newport Harbor, Calif., was first to finish in the annual Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu race. The winning crew consisted of Gordon Reed, John Van Cleave, Chuck Lyda, Billy Whitford, Carl Toeppner, Bill Stanley, Hugh Fisher, Colin Shaw and Coach Pete Carolan.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Alexis Higdon.

Cal Club Wins Molokai Race

By Jack Wyatt

Special to Star-Bulletin

Aloha Week officials may have gone too far extending courtesy to visitors. In Hawaii's premier canoe racing event—the annual Molokai-to-Oahu Race from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki Beach held yesterday—visitors paddled away with the two top prizes.

"Something just isn't right," sighed one disappointed Hui Nalu Canoe Club follower amid the festive crowd at the Ft. DeRussy Beach finish. "Here we were nice enough to loan the Tahitians one of our prized koa canoes and what do they do in return? Beat us with it. Of course, I'm just kidding but

that's a heck of a way for them to thank us."

Escorted from Diamond Head by a giant armada of pleasure craft, and cheered at the finish by thousands of beachside well-wishers, Blazing Paddles Canoe Club

Molokai race results in scoreboard, B-4

of Newport Harbor, Calif., became the first of the 35 outrigger canoes to finish the grueling 42-mile race at 1:13 p.m.

AND TO ADD further woes to local crews, less than five minutes later, Tahiti's Maire Nui

Canoe Club guided its borrowed outrigger canoe across the finish for a first place in the koa division and a third place over-all.

"We came to Hawaii for one purpose—to blow our arch-rival IMUA Canoe Club (California) off the course," said Blazing Paddle's outspoken coach Pete Carolan. "We accomplished that goal and the fact that we finished first over-all and won the fiberglass division just adds more spice to our rivalry." IMUA finished sixth over-all, 15 minutes behind Blazing Paddles.

The winning crew consisted of Gordon Reed, John Van Cleave, Chuck Lyda, Billy Whitford, Carl

Toeppner, Bill Stanley, Hugh Fisher, Colin Shaw and Carolan.

Blazing Paddles CC's elapsed time was five hours, 43 minutes and 52 seconds, four minutes faster than that of runner-up Lanikai CC.

"As a team we've only been working together for about a month," said Carolan, an ex-California lifeguard turned mural painter, "but during that short time we have really been training hard. The week before we left California, our crew was logging 42 miles a day in practice."

THE RIGOROUS training must have paid off as Blazing Paddles

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