

# Tahitian, OCC Crews Win Big Island Races

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KAILUA-KONA—If stiff competition was expected at Saturday's King Kamehameha Classic, it didn't show in the race results.

Rather, it showed in the no-shows in both the women's 24-mile race from Honokohau to Anaehoomalu and the men's 32-miler from Anaehoomalu to Kailua-Kona pier.

Officials had expected nearly double the number of entries for the two races and were disappointed in the turnout . . . but not the outcome. The eight women and 13 men's crews enjoyed a smooth, flat course under ideal race conditions.

"It was so smooth, we hardly needed the canvas," said Marc Blaine of the winning Outrigger Canoe Club men's team. "Except for a littl chop, it was real smooth."

OCC's NO. 1 fiberglass boat lived up to its pre-race favorite billing, finishing the nine-man race in three hours, 46.55 minutes. Tahiti's A.S. Pirae No. 1 was second in 3:49.35 with Lanikai of Oahu third in 3:56.26.

Several California crews had been expected to compete, but only Lanakila traveled from the Mainland. Imua and Off Shore, both with seasoned Olympic kayakers and rowers, were to have provided stiff pre-Molokai

Channel challenge for island crews but elected instead to wait until Oct. 9, the date of the Molokai Ho'e.

Rather than racing their new, much-lauded fiberglass *Kai Olino*, OCC went with the longer *Mauna Ula*, which has won the Molokai-to-Oahu race twice. The OCC 2 team used the new streamline "bullet" boat and finished ninth overall out of the eight glass and five koa canoes.

OCC's only challenge came from the Tahitian crew—and then, only during the first mile. A.S. Pirae stayed with OCC until the first relief paddler change and then fell behind to finish second overall, first in the koa class with the *Maehoa*.

IN AN 8-day-old rivalry, the women of Tahiti Niu got revenge for a second-place showing to Maui's Napili at the Liliuokalani Race. Tahiti Niu and its koa *Iwalani* topped Napili and its koa *Kaiopua* with a 3:13.26 finish. The Maui club was second in 3:16.07 while OCC was third in 3:17.32.

"We beat them last week; they beat us this time—both were good, fun races," said one Napili paddler.

"The girls have worked hard this season," said Napili Coach Dave Drown. "Of course, the big race is Molokai (Sept. 25). This Tahiti team won't be there but there will be other teams to beat."