

OCC, Hui Nalu Triumph

Outrigger Canoe Club's men and the women of Hui Nalu didn't tarnish their reputations as pre-race favorites in their respective Molokai-to-Oahu canoe races with impressive showings yesterday.

OCC won the 24-mile Kaena Point Challenge from Haleiwa to Pokai Bay for the third consecutive year. OCC's nine-man crew finished the race in their fiberglass *Manu Ula* in 2 hours, 48 minutes, 49.8 seconds, nearly six minutes ahead of runner-up Lanikai and over 19 minutes better than their '82 winning time of 3:07.53.6.

Hui Nalu's men were the first to finish in a koa canoe, coming in third overall, in 2:59.10.6. Kailua was third in glass, fourth overall, and Healani's koa placed fifth overall out of the 17-boat field.

THE HUI NALU women, "just out to practice making changes," according to paddler Sue Erickson, completed the men's course

then set off in two canoes an hour later to compete in the 9½-mile "iron woman's race" from Pokai Bay to Makaha Beach and back.

Hui Nalu's koa boat just missed breaking OCC's 1:04.16.4 time set last year, finishing in 1:04.43.5 while their glass canoe was second overall in 1:05.28.7. Lanikai's two entries finished second to Hui Nalu in both divisions, their koa third overall in 1:07.23 and their glass in 1:09.17.6, fifth overall out of 16 canoes.

OCC's women, who placed 1-2 last year, did not compete yesterday but are expected to be among the top Oahu finishers in next Sunday's Na Wahine O Ke Kai, the women's Molokai Channel crossing. Sixteen crews have entered the 40.8-mile race which begins at 8 a.m. at Hale O Lono Harbor and finishes at Oahu's Ft. DeRussy Beach.

The men's Molokai race is set for Oct. 9 over the same course.