



Advertiser photo by Carl Vitt

After nearly six hours of paddling a koa canoe between Molokai and Honolulu, a champagne shower is the pause that refreshes for Outrigger paddler John Finney.

## Outrigger paddlers win channel crossing

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Imua steersman Dennis Campbell said his team tried to prepare for rough seas by paddling canoes and surfskis in California surf, but "when it comes to this race, there just isn't enough time to prepare for riding in swells.

"We're great in flat water. But (today) we got stuck in troughs and couldn't get out. We weren't as good as they were."

Said Off Shore's Billy Whitford: "When the water got rough, Outrigger walked away with it. Brant just makes his boat run so well."

Ackerman's teammates heaped praise upon their steersman. "I think Brant makes a huge difference," Haine said. "He has a feel for the ocean. Brant knows waves come three to a set, and we'll catch the first one on a rush, have enough hull speed left to catch the second one and still catch the third. VAROOM!"

Said Ackerman: "We do our homework. We go out there and practice tipping over. We know we get it righted in 30 seconds, which is a whole lot better than three minutes."

Outrigger's experience also made it tough to beat. Going into yesterday's race, the nine crew members combined for 49 years of Molokai race experience.

Also, they were extremely fit. Through the entire race, they averaged about 72 strokes per minute. Imua, for comparison, averaged about 64.

"We just kept going up and up, and 70 to 72 seemed to be what the crew wanted," Ackerman said. "We trained hard early. We've been gearing for this race since May."

Said Bright: "Mentally, we were real strong in the middle of the channel. The tendency is to get fatigued — Koko Head doesn't seem to get any closer.

But we kept pushing."

"There lots of confidence in this crew," said Ayau, who made his 18th Molokai crossing. "Lots of aloha spirit. The mana."

The Outrigger paddlers got a huge aloha from a small navy of marine craft — yachts, fishing boats, kayaks and sailboats — that met them at Diamond Head. The welcoming party numbered between 80 and 100 crafts.

Ackerman said he was happiest with the fact that Outrigger defeated Off Shore's team of Olympic-caliber kayakers. "This is an Olympic year, those guys are in peak condition," he said. "It makes us feel pretty good that we, in a club situation with full-time jobs, can beat teams of all-stars."

The race was free of major mishaps, race chairman Mel Kalahiki said. One member of Off Shore's second crew sustained a cut left foot when he came in contact with a moving propeller. The race doctor bandaged the wound. The wound to Ted Vantiburg apparently was not serious and he rode in his escort until the conclusion of the race.

### 32nd Molokai Ho'e Oahu

1. Outrigger (k) 5:45:09.3
  2. Off Shore (k) 5:56:39.3
  3. Imua (k) 6:12:10.8
  4. Canadian Outrigger 6:14:28.9
  5. Hui Nalu (k) 6:18:00.3
  6. Ihilani Nuutere (k) 6:19:44.6
  7. Hui Lanakila (k) 6:21:09.9
  8. Lanikai 6:25:08.3
  9. Kamehameha (Hilo) 6:27:25.9
  10. Hanalei 6:28:14.2
  11. Kailua 6:34:32.8
  12. Anuenue 6:38:37.9
  13. Kai Opua 6:39:28.2
  14. Hanalei 6:39:41.6
  15. Lokahi 6:42:14.2
  16. Lanikai (k) 6:42:24.9
  17. Molokai 6:42:36.2
  18. Waikiki Beach Boys 6:43:56.6
  19. Kihei 6:46:53.6
  20. Healani 6:48:03.7
  21. Illinois Brigade 6:51:18.7
  22. Kai Opua (k) 6:51:39.1
  23. Waikiki Surf Club (k) 6:55:17.6
  24. Hui Nalu (k) 6:57:02.5
  25. Quebec 6:58:10.2
  26. Off Shore 7:01:03.6
  27. Koa Kai 7:03:43.4
  28. Leeward Kai 7:06:11.2
  29. Imua 7:06:17.9
  30. Na Kai Ewalu 7:08:14.8
  31. Napili 7:10:14.3
  32. Kamehameha (Oahu) 7:12:32.8
  33. Geronimo 7:21:09.4
  34. Hawaiian Warriors 7:24:10.4
  35. Kamehameha (Hilo) 7:27:39.8
  36. Hoolehua 7:33:03.3
  37. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i 7:33:29.7
  38. Kaimanu 7:42:39.3
  39. Hawaiian Warriors 7:56:05.6
  40. Kai Oni, did not finish.
- (k) indicates koa canoe. All others fiberglass.

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