

Kailua CC, Lokahi winners

Yesterday's canoe racing regattas — OHCRA at Waimanalo Beach Park and Hui Wa'a Association at Maile Beach — marked the season's mid-way for each group. Oahu's two organizations now focus on the few remaining regattas and their individual association championships next month at Keehi Lagoon.

While Kailua Canoe Club topped the OHCRA clubs, Hui Wa'a's Lokahi was again winning big — its fourth consecutive regatta by 30 points, or more.

"Although the score doesn't indicate this," Lokahi's coach Michael Cushnie said, "most individual races were close among clubs. Hui Wa'a is becoming a very competitive group."

Lokahi beat Koa Kai 70-40 for its narrowest winning margin yet.

The Ala Wai Canal-based club won 11 of the 31 races, placed second in one and third in six. During one mid-regatta streak Lokahi reeled off five consecutive first places.

"Racing isn't all that one-sided. After Lokahi, the competition gets pretty tight among the other 12 clubs," Hui Wa'a official Gardner Brown said.

Meanwhile, for OHCRA winner Kailua it was a day to celebrate. Not only did the huge Windward Oahu club come away with a 84-70 win over Hui Nalu Canoe Club of Hawaii Kai but it relegated Outrigger — its long time rival — to a lowly third place.

OCC is the five-time defending state champion. In the final six heats of the 30-race regatta, Kailua won four consecutive events and placed second in the last two. Although Kailua won eight races yesterday, its 11 second places carried it through for the regatta win.

Outrigger's double-trouble came with the announcement by OHCRA officials that OCC's 77-76 win over Kailua the previous week at Nanakuli Beach Park was nullified and became a 76-76 tie. That had been OCC's first and only win this season.

Reported by Star-Bulletin staff