

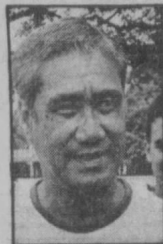
Healani crew unbeaten going into Oahu event

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

Clem Paiaina, Sr., Healani Canoe Club's president since 1947, is proud going into tomorrow's 11th Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Championships at Keehi Lagoon Beach Park.

Paiaina's son Clem, Jr., a Honolulu fire captain, paddles in the men's senior masters crew and coaches two Healani young adult teams. His grandson Kea Paiaina is steersman of Healani's Boy's 14s, one of three OHCRA unbeaten crews this season.



Clem Paiaina Jr.

"My grandfather may be the club president and my dad the coach, but they both come down hard on me when I do something wrong," Kea Paiaina said.

Healani's Boys 14 crew, consisting of Craig Souza, Kai Ah Sam, Kahale Hoke, Kauahi Sai, from St. Louis High School, and Barry Quillooy and Paiaina from Kamehameha, have won all six OHCRA races; last year, as 13s, they lost only once, and in 1987, as 12s, they won every heat but one. "No favorites on this crew. If anything, Kea gets chewed out by his dad more than any one of us," stroker Souza said.

"The best part," Kea said, "is that we're all friends, in and out of the boat. Many of the crew hang out at my house." The Healani boys are expected



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to extend their streak, winning tomorrow's Oahu regatta and following that with a win at State Championship Aug. 5 on Maui.

"I hope my boys don't let this publicity go to their heads and end up blowing the races," coach Paiaina said. OHCRA's two other undefeated crews are from Outrigger—the senior master women and the junior men.

Outrigger, which won the last four Oahu titles, Hui Nalu and Kailua are expected to battle for the club title tomorrow, leaving Healani fourth.

"A club has to have a full, or nearly full, slate of 30 crews to win. We're

missing too many crews," said the senior Paiaina.

In six OHCRA events this season, Kailua won three regattas with Outrigger and Hui Nalu each winning one. Last month at Nanakuli, Kailua and Outrigger tied for first place. Healani has one third and five fourth places this season.

It's no secret the strategy planned by OHCRA's 16 participating clubs tomorrow. The first priority will be to qualify as many crews possible for next month's states. And that means loading up all not-yet-qualified crews with top paddlers to get them ap-

proved.

"No matter how poorly the crews placed during the regatta season, a win at the Oahu Championships will get them in the states," Kailua's coach Harrison "Beanie" Heen said.

With only four places in each event allotted Oahu crews at the states, and with berths determined by crew performances during the regatta season and in tomorrow's championships, look for juggling of personnel by all clubs.

"An Oahu win is also a goal. This is the most important regatta of our Island season," Heen said.