

Outrigger surges in title meet

□ After a lackluster season, it wins the OHCRA championship

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

Coach John Finney, the man who guided Outrigger Canoe Club to its fifth consecutive Oahu Hawaiian canoe racing championship yesterday at Keehi Lagoon Park, went from goat to hero in a single sweep.

"We got off to a dismal season's start (two consecutive losses). I was a shoo-in for the club's 'Goat of the Year' award," Finney said.

But in yesterday's championship —

a regatta where a win really matters — Outrigger's paddlers came through for their first-year coach with gusto. OCC crews won 10 of 30 events; placed second in 12 others and finished third three times.

Outrigger defeated rival Kailua 96-69 for the biggest winning margin of any OHCRA club this season. Hui Nalu placed third with 63 points. SurfSports topped OHCRA's small club division with 18 points.

Every club juggled paddler personnel, loading boats with their talented best in attempt to qualify crews for the state championships on Maui Aug. 5.

"I kept busy all day watching the competition — Kailua and Hui Nalu —

See **OUTRIGGER**, Page D-4