

# the Outrigger

December 1991





# Outrigger Wins Koa Division in Molokai Hoe

By Steve Scott

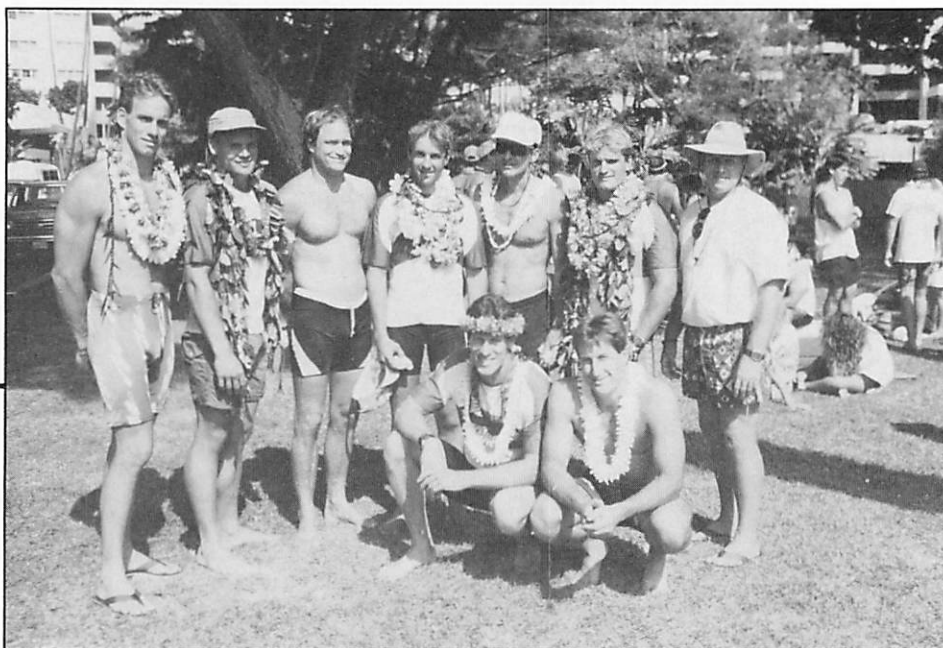
When the Outrigger Canoe Club does not win the Molokai to Oahu canoe race for men, the first question from most people is: "what happened?"

This year was no exception, with Outrigger finishing fifth overall and first in the koa division.

Outrigger's dominance in this event in recent history is undeniable, winning four of the last five races, so even I had to ask the question: "what happened?"

Going into this Molokai race, the Outrigger had been unbeatable during the long distance racing season. Outrigger won the Catalina to Newport canoe race for the first time, the only club team from Hawaii to ever accomplish that feat.

In local races, we were dominant in every race we entered, winning handily in Lanikai, Kona and the Skippy. As coach, I felt we had a crew that was as good as the record setting crew from Outrigger in 1988. So, what happened?



Winning the koa division at the 1991 Bankoh Molokai Hoe race were, front, Walter Guild and Chris Kincaid. Standing, Rob Harrison, Todd Sandvold, Bruce Black, Wyatt Jones, Tom Conner, Mark Sandvold and Coach Steve Scott. Not pictured: Kainoa Downing.

This year's Molokai to Oahu canoe race would have its fairest start ever, with a rope stretched across the starting line, finally giving crews a visible mark on which to line up. The start was still crazy though, and it took the better crews a while to break free of the pack.

After 10 minutes, there were three crews in the lead: Outrigger Canoe Club, Outrigger Australia and Hamilton Island. However, by Laau Point and the first change, the Outrigger had a lead of 75 yards over Outrigger Australia, and the crew of Mark Sandvold,

Walter Guild, Todd Sandvold, Rob Harrison, Wyatt Jones and Tom Conner were moving very well.

After the first change of Kainoa Downing, Chris Kincaid and Bruce Black, we settled in to a steady pace maintaining our lead

of about 30 seconds over Outrigger Australia.

The race continued this way for two hours, with Outrigger and the two crews from Australia maintaining their positions and steadily pulling away from the rest of the field.

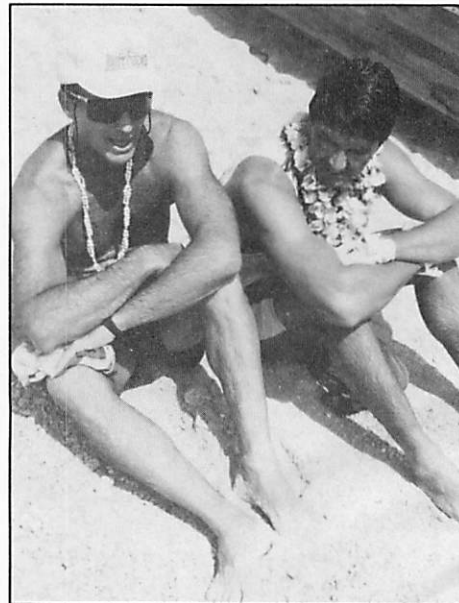
Our course was straight for Diamond Head, but as the dreaded southerly winds started, we progressively took a heading toward Koko Head, taking the Australians with us.

The longer water line of the Kaoloa makes it difficult to paddle in the short

Below: Molokai veterans Tommy Conner and Kainoa Downing rest after the race.



Left: Coach Steve Scott tells reporter, "what happened?"



side chop we were encountering and it was taking greater effort for the crew to maintain its hull speed.

By the three hour mark, the two Australian crews (in fiberglass canoes) had pushed past the OCC, with Hamilton Island making the greatest push of the day to assume the lead.

The three crews were locked in the tightest competition I've seen this late in the race, but we were all too far north and would hit the world of the outgoing tide.

When we reached Koko Head, the three crews were within 150 yards of each other, with Hamilton Island still in the lead. The Outrigger found itself literally along the cliffs paddling into the tide trying to get past Portlock Point.

Going across Maunalua Bay, we took the straight line to Diamond Head and the two Australian crews dipped inside. At that point, our race for first place was over. To move the Kaoloa in those waters had taken too much out of everyone.

Now, however, we had competition from the crews that had gone on the straight line. By the time we reached Diamond Head, Lanikai and Offshore had slipped in front of us.

Try as we might, the sloppy conditions at that point prevented us from making up any ground and the Outrigger finished fifth in 5:46:16.

A race that at the two hour mark was ours to dictate had vanished and we

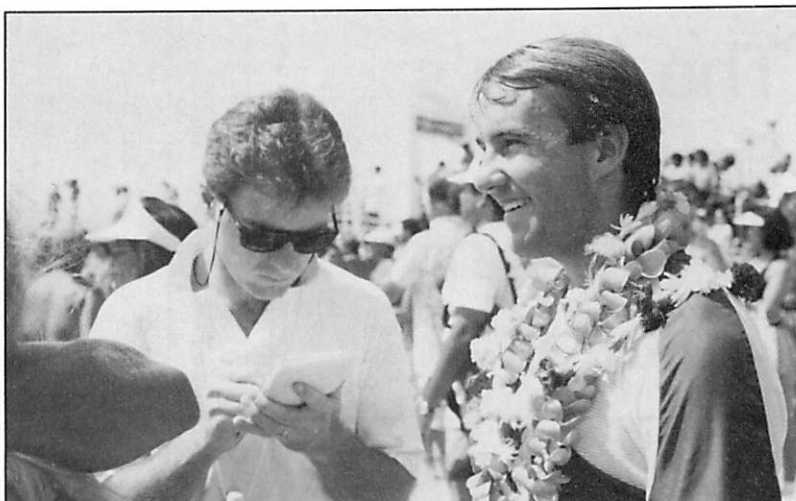
were left with the question, "what happened?"

This year's Molokai to Oahu canoe race saw the best competition in years, with the Outrigger and the two Australian crews clearly the best of the field.

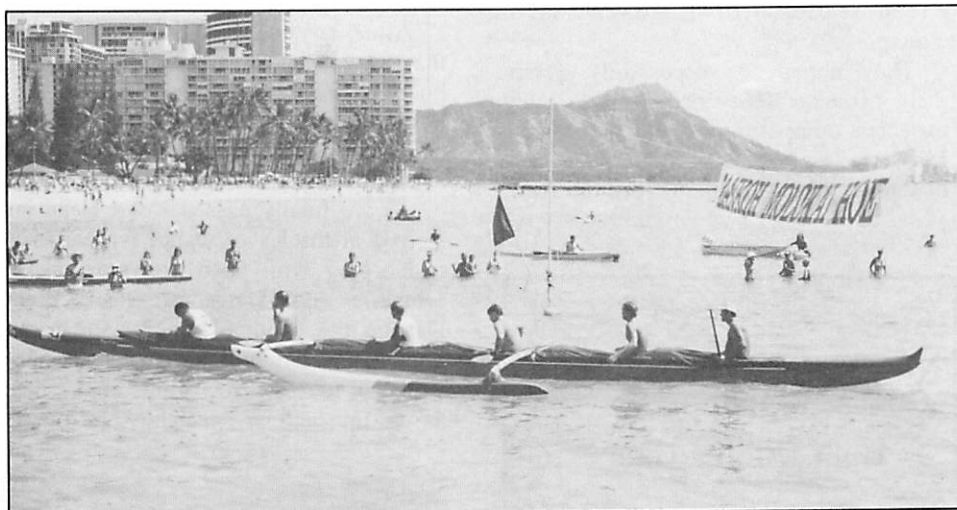
If there is any consolation, it is in the fact that the Outrigger is well on its way to establishing another great pool of excellent paddlers. There were three

new faces in the first crew that will be the nucleus of our next dynasty.

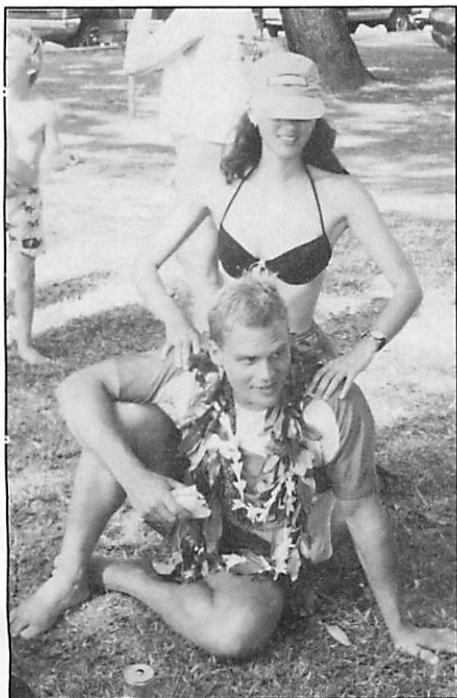
Now that's something for the Outrigger Canoe Club to look forward to-- races with no questions at the end. ☺



Wyatt Jones moved up to first crew this year.



The Kaoloa crosses the finish line at Fort DeRussy after the 40.8 mile race from Molokai on October 13.



Todd Sandvold gets a massage for tired muscles.



Outrigger's second open crew finished the Bankoh Molokai Hoe race in 12th place overall in 6:01:59. Members of the crew were Matt Rigg, Karl Heyer IV, Todd Bradley, Bruce Eliashof, Grady Bintliff, Geoff Graf, Todd Payes, Courtney Seto and Dean Maeva. They were coached by Steve Scott.



# The Dino's Finish Second in Molokai

By Bill Bright

This year's Masters crew of Brant Ackerman, Henry Ayau, Bill Bright, Mark Buck, Mike Clifford, Bill Danford, John Finney, Bob Riley and Greg Rudin, commonly known as the Dinosaurs, trained hard under the experienced leadership of Coach Aaron Young.

They hoped to successfully defend their Molokai Hoe masters title, with expected competition from the Marina Masters, last year's second place crew of top marathon paddlers from the main-



The Masters crew was, front, Brant Ackerman, Henry Ayau, Bob Riley; back, John Finney, Mike Clifford, Greg Rudin, Bill Bright, Bill Danford and Coach Aaron Young. Not pictured: Mark Buck.

land.

After an unexpected sluggish start, the crew started to pass several other boats on a direct line course from Laau Point to Diamond Head in relatively calm and hot ocean conditions with no swells to ride.

As we finally passed Koko Head and moved in the lee of Oahu, we ended up converging with open crews from Hui Lanakila and Tonga at Black Point. Despite the youth of these open crews, our determination and experience prevailed in the final few miles of the race, as we finished a respectable 21st overall

and second in the Masters Division in 6:21:17.

Unfortunately, the Marina Masters, on a different course, finished before us, avenging their defeat of last year.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Board and the Canoe Racing Committee for supporting us all year; Aaron Young for the many hours spent training us, co-paddlers, Tim Guard, Jim Kincaid and Terry Lee for training and racing with us all season, and our escort boat drivers and support help of Jackie Maguire, Greg Kemp and Jeff Kissel. ☺

## New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance

- Gourmet Dinner
  - Champagne
  - New Year's Party Favors
  - Ken Alford Orchestra
- Main Dining Room  
Tuesday, December 31

9 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
\$43.95 per person

Reservations Required  
921-1444



Paddling for the Senior Masters crew in the Molokai race were Tay Perry, Bruce Ames, Kent Giles, Tom Merrill, Mike Town and Scott May. Not pictured: Chris McKenzie, Jody D'Enbeau and Ken Stehouwer. The Senior Masters finished third in their division in 7:04:20 and were 46th overall.