

the **Outrigger**

December 1990



Outrigger Wins Molokai Hoe Race



Helicopter photo by Irwin Malzman

By Steve Scott

The Kaoloa is escorted past Kahala on way to finish line at Ft. DeRussy.

To most canoe paddlers, the mention of the Molokai to Oahu canoe race evokes thoughts and dreams of one day competing in outrigger canoeing's ultimate challenge.

For most crews, it's a goal to just finish the race, but for only a few is there a legitimate opportunity to finish first. Consider that over the last 10 years there are about 50 paddlers that have met the challenge and understand what it takes to be a winner in the Molokai to Oahu canoe race. During that time period, the Outrigger Canoe Club has won six races.

The 1990 Men's Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race would be the true character test for the Outrigger Canoe Club, after last year's disappointing seventh place finish.

The sign of a winner is not how he handles winning, but rather how he accepts losing. Winners bounce back with even more determination, and boy, did the Outrigger bounce back.

Going into the Molokai to Oahu canoe race, Outrigger had placed first in all but one distance race, setting records in two races, and the second crew had done well beating most other club's first crews.

With that type of competition at practice, each crew pushing the other, Outrigger would be ready for everyone they faced on the starting line at Hale O

Lono Harbor on October 7.

Outrigger's first crew raced in the Kaoloa, its koa racing canoe, and after the first few minutes of the race had paddled into the lead.

The starting crew of Kainoa Downing, Walter Guild, Bruce Black, Mark Rigg, Courtney Seto and Tom Conner held that lead of five boat lengths to the first change.

The change was made just past Laau Point, with Mark Sandvold, Chris Kincaid and Geoff Graf getting in the Kaoloa, and the race was on with a battle for first place with Outrigger Australia.

For an hour and a half, each crew pressed the other. After a bad drop for a change with Outrigger, the Australian crew was able to gain an advantage of a few boats. Outrigger came back up, when all of a sudden the Australian canoe took off on a swell traveling perpendicular to the course, sitting in front of the Outrigger.

As they passed, the Kaoloa hit the back manu of the Australian canoe, and with their crew leaning away from the impact, they flipped over. Surprisingly, they righted the canoe quickly and were back in the race within a minute, but they would no longer challenge the Outrigger.

With our course set for Black Point, we paddled hard into the outgoing tide

on Oahu. While the crew had hoped for an ocean where we could do some surfing, it was more like a washing machine with no clear swell direction.

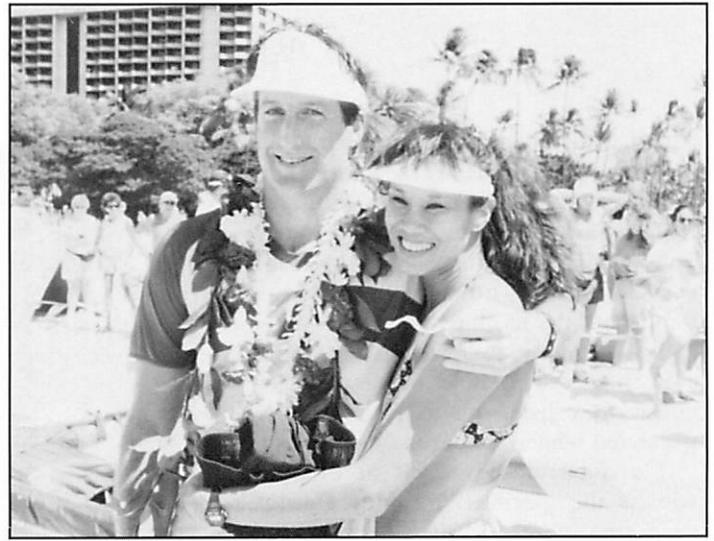
We just wanted to get past Koko Head and surf towards Diamond Head. With our competition south of us, they would have a harder time than we did getting close to Oahu, and we were secure knowing we had the race won as long as we didn't let up.



The Rigg family had a big welcome back for Mark.



Outrigger's winning crew with their trophy. Front, Bruce Black. Standing, Todd Sandvold, Kainoa Downing, Mark Rigg, Geoff Graf, Walter Guild, Tom Conner, Courtney Seto, Coach Steve Scott, Chris Kincaid.



Canoe Racing Chairman Chris Kincaid is welcomed home by wife, Genie.



Courtney Seto won his first Molokai race.



Steersman Tom Conner is interviewed.

This is where the dedication of this crew showed, because they pushed the rest of the way to the finish line at Ft. DeRussy.

The Outrigger Canoe Club had won the 40.8 mile event in 5:19:38, but the exclamation point to our victory came with OCC's second crew finishing fifth overall in 5:37:07.

With the level of competition from international and select crews, this was a substantial accomplishment from Wyatt Jones, Tom McTigue, John Eveleth, Todd Payes, Grady Bintliff, Todd Bradley Bruce Eliashof, Tom Harrer and Matt Kresser.

This was a true team effort for the open crews. For some, it was vindica-

tion for last year's finish. For three (Seto, Sandvold and Graf) it was their first win. And for everyone who had paddled for the open crews at the Outrigger Canoe Club, it was finding out what it takes to win the Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race. ☺

OCC Crews Dominate Molokai Hoe

By Kristen & Todd Bradley

Along with other family members and friends of paddlers, I spent the morning of October 7 listening to KCCN Hawaiian music radio station. The station kept tabs on the Molokai race, listing current standings throughout the morning.

I was happy to hear that the first crew had a firm hold on first place, but as they listed up to 10th place, I wondered where the second crew was.

I arrived at the beach in time to witness the glorious finish of Outrigger's first crew, and then prepared for what I thought might be a long wait. Offshore finished second, Hamilton Island was third and Lanikai came in fourth.

As the fifth place boat came into view, I strained to identify it even though the announcer said it was Tahiti. It approached the beach and I knew I recognized the steersman wearing a white hat as my husband.

As the realization electrified the OCC crowd on the beach, no one even heard the announcer stumble over the identity of the crew: she said Tahiti and then Hamilton Island, and finally with surprise, Outrigger No. 2.

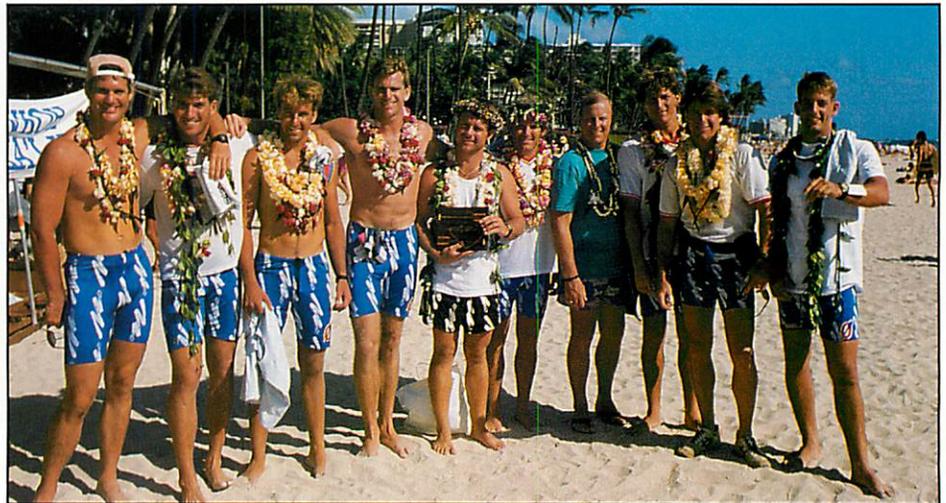
OCC's second crew, comprised mostly of novice paddlers, finished an incredible fifth. What follows is Todd's account.

After a great showing in the Pokai Bay Race against crews like Hui Nalu and Lanikai, we knew we had a shot at doing well in Molokai. Steve Scott continued to ride us hard both physically and mentally. It was tough to make either open crew and the second crew was cut to its final nine one week before Molokai.

The crew was Grady Bintliff, Todd Bradley, Bruce Eliashof, John Eveleth, Tom Harrer, Wyatt Jones, Matt Kresser, Tom McTigue and Todd Payes.

Our crew would be racing in the fiberglass canoe Iwalani and we were excited about having this boat, the best of its class. We knew it was now up to us.

The weather forecast for Sunday was 15-25 knot winds and 8-10 foot



Finishing fifth in the Molokai Hoe Race were Tom McTigue, Todd Payes, Wyatt Jones, Tom Harrer, Todd Bradley, Grady Bintliff, Coach Steve Scott, Bruce Eliashof, Matt Kresser and John Eveleth.

seas. This was the final ingredient we needed to do our job because we knew we had the ability to surf in rough seas.

Sunday at 4 a.m. I woke up the boys with a tribal yell and team cheer. After forcing down breakfast, we were in the van on our way to Hale O Lono Harbor. A pre-race check and a prayer and we were out to the starting line, accompanied by Dale Hope and Howard Word in our escort boat.

The Molokai Hoe starts are always exciting and never start officially. We lined up close to the first crew in koa and the ritual of inching the line began. Before the starter boat had a chance to get up front, the starting frenzy began and the race was on.

Our goal was to be part of the top five boats at Laau Point with a straight line course to Black Point. We reached Laau seventh and the boats in front of us split south and north leaving us on our own line all alone.

The sea was calmer than we hoped but we made do. I kept a straight course for Black Point and began to push the boys. With no competitors in sight, it's difficult to keep up the motivation. I kept reminding the boys to make every stroke and every change our best.

Ten miles off Koko Head, we saw

the Australian XXXX crew about 1/2 mile ahead of us. We kept our line and they moved south to cover us. We converged 15 minutes later and were even with them. After catching a couple of short waves, we left them behind us.

Five miles off Koko Head, we approached Kai Opuu, the Tahitians, Hui Nalu and Lanikai. Kai Opuu was 1/4 mile ahead of us and north and the other three were about a mile ahead and south.

I knew the current would be working against everyone at Black Point and Diamond Head and wanted to avoid being stuck outside where the current was worse.

We passed Kai Opuu at Portlock and then hit "the river" the strong line of current that comes around the corner from Diamond Head. The pack with Tahiti, Hui Nalu and Lanikai was now 3/4 of a mile ahead and south and I knew we had them beat if they stayed south. At Niu Valley, I made my move inside across the current. The pack was pulling ahead but I was confident that once they hit Black Point, they'd hit bad water.

Lanikai, ahead and south 3/4 mile, saw us and moved to cover. The oth-

continued on page 7

Masters Claim Molokai Victory

By John Finney

Dateline Tangier-

While aboard the QE II somewhere off the coast of Morocco, I have really had time to reflect upon and write my thoughts on the recent victory of the OCC Masters in the Molokai to Oahu canoe race held October 7.

This victory in the highly competitive masters men division (35 years and older) establishes another solid precedent to our claim of being the world's best masters canoe crew. It also represents the fourth victory for the OCC Masters since this division was created in 1984.

The crew, which is known within our Club as the "Dinosaurs" consists of an impressive number of former Molokai champions and journeymen paddlers.

Our line up for the race included Bill Bright, Bob Riley, Jack Feher, John Finney, Mark Buck, Brant Ackerman, Tim Guard, Henry Ayau and Greg "New Boy" Rudin.

Other members of the Dinosaurs include Mike Clifford and Steve Van Lier Ribbink who could not participate in the final race because of personal business.

The race was dramatic with difficult ocean conditions. Of course, veteran Molokai steersman Brant Ackerman did a masterful job of using the ocean and our fiberglass canoe the Holomalie to our advantage. We established an early lead in our division and held on to it.

We were in 10th place overall for most of the race. We finished 14th in 5:49:58 with only three minutes separating our crew from the ninth place finisher.

Bill, Bob and Tim served as principal strokeurs although Mark Buck and I ended up in the "hot seat" at critical stages. The "engine room" was ably powered by Greg, Jack, Henry and I.

The superb effort put in by the entire crew meant the difference between victory and disappointing defeat since the Marina del Rey Masters all-stars finished 16 seconds behind us in 5:50:14.

The OCC Masters Crew has established a winning "mind set" which has taken us to the top all year. Victories include the masters championships in



Outrigger's Masters Crew included Mark Buck, Greg Rudin, Bob Riley, John Finney, Brant Ackerman, Tim Guard and Bill Bright. Not pictured: Henry Ayau and Jack Feher.

the state regatta championship, the Queen Liliuokalani Race, the Skippy Kamakawiwoole title and finally the Molokai title.

We believe we have added another proud chapter to the OCC paddling legend.

I'd like to thank our support crew for the final race which included Jackie Maguire, escort boat; Cline Mann and David Buck, tactical advisors, and Mahi Riley, mothering and massage. Without their help, this effort would not have proven victorious. 🙏

Winter 10K Paddleboard Race Set, December 29

The 13th annual Winter 10K Paddleboard Race will be held on Saturday, December 29 at 10:30 a.m. at the Club. In addition, an 8K One Man Canoe race and an 11.5K Kayak race will be held.

The race is open to the public. Some Club paddleboards are available for use by members.

The paddleboard race is twice around a 5K course, thus allowing spectators at the Club to follow the race from the start, the halfway point and the finish.

Registration will be accepted on the

Terrace before the race, beginning at 9:30 a.m. An awards ceremony and luncheon will follow the race.

Heath Hemmings is the defending paddleboard champion, finishing one second ahead of Aaron Napoleon and two seconds ahead of two-time defending champion Chris Moore last year in a very exciting race.

Kevin Olds won the one-man canoe race last year and Geoff Graf won the kayak race. 🙏

OCC Crews Dominate. . .

continued from page 4

ers stayed south and as we reached Black Point, we passed them. We caught a great wave at the Lighthouse which put us right behind Lanikai. We took turns catching waves but at the OCC, we still hadn't been able to pass them. We ended up finishing fifth, just behind Lanikai in 5:37:07.

We had pushed ourselves to the limit and I feel my crew performed to the best of their ability. I would not hesitate to cross the Molokai Channel again with this crew.

Maybe the terms first crew and second crew are on their way to becoming misnomers. There are just two open crews.

It takes two good crews to push each other to be their best; and both crews agree, that it was the efforts of each crew that helped us both to achieve our victories. If we again pool the OCC's talent, I believe that next year both open crews will be on top.

The crew is very grateful to our primary helper Dale Hope and our boat driver Howard Word for their valuable help and inspiration during the race. 🎯