

2001 OCC Crews Go the Distance

By Genie Kincaid

Outrigger's paddlers are reveling in the spirit of competition as the canoe racing season moves from regatta to distance. This year has been marked by the participation of more junior and novice crews than the Club has seen in the last 15 years.

The women's program is undergoing a resurgence of talent, and the men's program is showing growth in numbers.

The season kicked off with the Duke Kahanamoku Races on August 19 where the women raced a seven-mile course, making no changes in Kailua Bay, followed by the men who later that day raced the same canoes 24 miles from Kailua Bay to Waikiki. Despite rough conditions, Outrigger's women won the iron race by a huge half mile, while three other OCC women's crews did themselves proud, finishing 5th, 6th and 16th out of the nearly 50 crews that entered.

In the men's race that followed, Outrigger finished respectfully in 6th, 15th and 19th in the open event. The Senior Masters captured 1st place honors in the 45 & Over division.

On August 25, only the 18 & under men entered the Kailua Bay Challenge, a nine-mile iron event racing between Rock Island and the Mokulus. They finished 18th of the 43 crews that entered. This was only the boys' second distance race. In their first, the Kaena Challenge the week before, the boys did their first Le Mans start, where paddlers run down the beach, jump into their canoe and go. The only problem for these kids was at the "go" part, they "huli'd" instead. They were dead last by the time they got their boat upright and moving. Fearless as youth is, the crew ended up 9th overall, even beating the other men's crews from Outrigger.

What these paddlers may lack in experience, they more than make up in plain old hard work. The crew comes from the Boys 15, 16 and 18 crews and is coached by Scott Rolles and Ikaika Kincaid, who have won Molokai, three times and two times respectively, for the Club.

"These guys are special. They're driven, they work extremely hard, they're real achievers, and they're having fun," says their proud coach, Scott Rolles. "They are the future of the sport." That future will include the names of Gary Johnson, Cutter Rolles, Andy Cavanah, Mark and Will Egesdal, Bill Lawson, Makena Carr, Kyle Morgan, Robbie Field, Darragh O'Carroll, Jared Watumull, Kapono Brown, and Peter Van Lier Ribbink.

On August 26, very calm conditions ruled the Dad Center Race from Kailua to Outrigger. This race celebrates the memory of a very special man who was an outstanding waterman and coach for the Club. This year the course was changed, extending the race to 27 miles. Instead of turning into the Club after the Diamond Head buoy, crews had to turn on two Magic Island buoys before finishing upwind at Outrigger. Also, the racing crew was increased from nine women to 10 to be more consistent with the only

two other distance races with changes, Pokai Bay and Molokai.

This race is a favorite among women's crews throughout the state not only for the course, but because the Club's staff puts on one of the best post-race parties any where.

Outrigger's women finished 2nd, 10th and 24th of the 37 crews that entered. Kai Opua of the Big Island overpowered all other contenders, pulling away from the lead pack after Makapuu Point. Nevertheless, the women are continuing to build on their strong showing, and will do well in the upcoming Kona, Catalina and Pokai Bay races.

The diversity among the crews that are racing for Outrigger pretty much reflects the combination of youth and experience that constitutes this year's canoe racing program. Coaches Liz Perry, Mike Beyer, Andrew Glatzel, Scott Rolles, Ikaika Kincaid, Tom Arnott, and Bill Danford have been integral to successful planning and coordination, and as a result, more paddlers are gaining valuable experience. Luke Estes and Bret Chuckovich have been virtually indispensable, meeting each coach's and crews' need for canoes, Whalers, and other equipment.

This is one partnership making the most of all its segments as it goes the distance.

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Paula Crabb, Malia Kamisugi, Katy Bourne, Sara Ackerman, Traci Phillips and Kisi Haine racing to a second place finish in the Dad Center Race.



Outrigger's Iron Women



The 18 & under crew learned first hand what it's like to race a 40-foot outrigger canoe in the surf and stop around Rock Island in the Kailua Bay Challenge.