



THEY WENT A LONG WAY, BABY—Hui Nalu won yesterday's "Dad Center" canoe race, a 22-mile event from Lanikai to Waikiki. Members of the team (left to right) are Coach Myron Thompson, Lita Blankenfeld, Dennise Darval, Nancy Rochleau, Renee Young, Mary Harbold, Trish Gallagher, Lanakila Spencer, Dana Darval, Susie Thain, Kehau McGuire, Christy Gibson and Mary Franco.—Star-Bulletin Photo by John Titchen.

Hui Nalu 'Out-Distances' Field

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

"We lost our lead to Outrigger Canoe Club at Makapuu Point during a crew change," said a happy Dennise Darval, who, along with her sister, Dana, steered Hui Nalu Canoe Club to victory in yesterday's Dad Center Regatta, "but in two or three minutes we were on top again never to be headed. This was by far my most exciting race ever."

Hui Nalu's well-trained team of 12 women held off a strong challenge from the female paddlers of host Outrigger Canoe Club to win the 22-mile Lanikai-to-Waikiki race by one

minute and 15 seconds.

Hui Nalu turned the open ocean course in three hours, 20 minutes and 45 seconds. Outrigger placed second, Healani Canoe Club came in third and the Waikiki Surf Club placed fourth in the seven, all-women, team event.

"THE CREW CHANGES made the difference," said Myron Thompson, Hui Nalu's soft-spoken coach. "As far as I could tell we were the only club that changed all six of its crew at one time. We may have lost a little time on crew changes but it was minimal. Our girls really did a job today."

A beauty shop offering instant body rebuilding kits for blistered hands, aching muscles, sunburned faces and tangled hair would have done big business at the Outrigger Canoe Club finish yesterday afternoon as weary and bedraggled canoe paddlers was the look of the day.

But as tired as the women were, each of them could smile with achievement, having successfully completed one of the longest all-women's races in outrigger canoe history.

"Although a few of my girls became seasick, I'm still proud of each one of them," remarked Ellen Pabilano, the energetic coach of third place Healani Canoe Club.

"THE SEAS WERE choppy and the troughs deep in the waters around Makapuu Point and Black Point. But what an accomplishment and a thrill to paddle over the same

course as men, and in fast time. I for one am convinced that distance paddling for women is here to stay."

By falling behind early in the race, Outrigger Canoe Club's coach, Tom Conner, was forced to change his strategy. "My plan was to change six crew at a time, like Hui Nalu," Conner explained.

"But when we fell behind all I could do was play catch-up and change fewer women as quickly as possible. There is no question that Hui Nalu has a powerful women's crew, and that Outrigger has its work cut out for it if we plan to win next month's all-women Molokai-to-Oahu race."

Hui Nalu Canoe Club's winning crew consisted of Lita Blankenfeld, Lana Spencer, Mary Harbold, Trish Gallagher, Christy Gibson, Dennise Darval, Nancy Rochleau, Mary Franco, Susie Thain, Renee Young, Kehau McGuire and Dana Darval.

Canoe Racing

Dad Center

Lanikai to Waikiki

1. Hui Nalu Canoe Club (Lita Blankenfeld, Lana Spencer, Mary Harbold, Trish Gallagher, Christy Gibson, Dennise Darval, Nancy Rochleau, Mary Franco, Susie Thain, Renee Young, Kehau McGuire, Dana Darval) 3:20:45.
2. Outrigger Canoe Club (Suzy Johnston, Kalulu Downing, Anita Minter, D. Binfil, Tracy Phillips, Anne Hogan, T. Richert, Sus Ohidi, D. Kahakui, Connie McGuire, Helde Hemmings, Evie Black) 3:27:00.
3. Healani Canoe Club (Cathy Bernard, Alimi Beams, Beverly Yao, Lou Jane Lee, Tami Peterson, Patsy Vasquez, Pamela Larson, Janell Goo, Ellen Pabilano, Elsa Wright, Jonna Wickeser, Robin Nonaka) 3:24:22.
4. Waikiki Surf Club, 3:29:55. 5. Kalua Canoe Club, 3:13:09. 6. Lanikai Canoe Club, 3:40:38. 7. Honolulu Canoe Club, 3:41:02.

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