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Women's Canoe Raci Outrigger



Photo by Joss Outrigger III women paddled hard in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai.

By Genie Kincaid

Coaches Tom McTigue and Liz Perry rallied 30 women to field 3 open crews in the 20th Annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai race from Molokai to Oahu on September 26. Crews were ably steered by Kisi Haine, Robin Nonaka, and Na'u Kamalii, finishing 5th, 22nd and 47th respectively out of 58 crews.

Although the defending champions from Australia, the Panamuna Riggeroos, fielded a crew, the personnel were not the same women who won in 1998. By electing to stay home to compete in their national trials for the Sydney Olympics, the Molokai race was wide open for local crews to do well. So well in fact, four of the five top finishers were from the Islands.

Wailua Canoe & Kayak of Kauai finished 1st in 5:55:21, followed by Hui Nalu-1 in 6:00:34, Waimanalo in 6:01:55, and Off-Shore in 6:10:04.

The common thought among the paddlers was that even if Aus-

tralia showed up at full strength, the local crews still would have done well—never has the level of competition been so strong and so deep among so many canoe clubs.

Part of what makes the Molokai race so exciting is the gamble crews take in selecting their course to the finish. This year our crews decided on a route just slightly south along the run line. However, the day's conditions favored the northern route which proved to be the difference. Nevertheless, Outrigger's crews

Outrigger 1 finished 22nd overall in the Alapaina in 6:41.43 Kaili Chun, Karen Hansen, Katy Bourne, Pam Clifford, Genie Kincaid, Brook Berrington, Liz Perry, Susan Heitzman, Trisha Nagatani. Not pictured: Robin Nonaka, Ann Marie Mizuno.



Enjoying refreshments after the race were Jen Bossert, Brooke Berrington, Genie Kincaid, Katy Bourne, back; Conne Sutherland and Carolyn Hooten, front.



Outrigger III crew finished fifth overall in the Iwalani in 6:14:19 Diana Allen, Sara Ackerman, Traci Selling, Hadley Gaffney, Jen McTigue, Mary Smolenski, Lori Seto, Paula Crabb and Kisi Haine. Not pictured: Sasha MacNaughton.



Outrigger II finished 47th overall in the Hokuloa in 7:12:56 Vien Schwinn, Pam Davis, Janna Arakaki, Na'u Kamalii, Mary Nurse, Caron Broderdorf, Kim Allin, Ann Cundall, Aniko Kurczinak, Steph Reynolds.

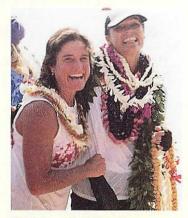
Canoe Club Na Wahine O Ke Kai

raced hard, gained some invaluable experience, and proved the women's canoe racing program is intact and vital.



All through the regatta and distance season, the women paddlers, coaches and support personnel worked hand in hand with the men's racing program to be one united team, and an outstanding representation of the excellence of Outrigger Canoe Club. That spirit of teamwork made this a very successful and memorable summer.

On behalf of the coaches and the racers, a sincere mahalo nui loa to: the Canoe Racing Committee for all the time-consuming logistical work that goes into organizing a successful program; to Courtney Seto, Walter Guild and Kala Judd for donating so much of their time rigging our equipment to perfection and preparing every paddler for a safe crossing; to Jim Beaton and Jimmy Kincaid, the very best, most positive course clerks a crew can have from its escort crew; and last but not at all least, to our fellow Club members for making it possible to have a canoe racing program at all. Thanks for being there for us at the finish line.



Kisi Haine and Steph Reynolds

Photo by Robin Nonaka

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Susan Heitzman was greeted at finish by husband Charles.



women gather at Hale O Lono Harbor for the start of the Bankon Na Wahine race.