

# the **Outrigger**

NOVEMBER 1994





# OCC Finishes 3rd in Na Wahine O Ke Kai

Outrigger's women, coached by Steve Scott, finished third overall in the 1994 Na Wahine O Ke Kai race from Molokai to Oahu on September 25 in the fiberglass canoe, the Kalehuawehe.

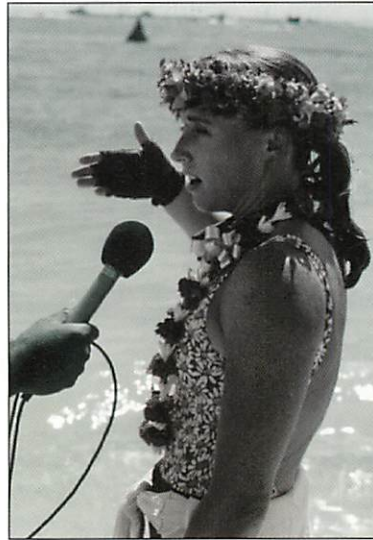
Defending champion Off Shore won the 41 mile race in 6:00:37, followed by Kailua in 6:07:28 and Outrigger in 6:08.47. A total of 47 crews competed in the relatively calm seas.

Members of the OCC crew were Sara Ackerman, Kaili Chun, Diana Clifford, Kisi Haine, Donna Kahakui, Malia Kamisugi, Lisa Livingston, Katie McCrary, Traci Phillips, and Nicole Wilcox.

The number of girls in each open crew in this year's race was decreased from 12 paddlers to 10. ☺

*Photos by Marilyn Kali*

Members of the crew were front, Traci Phillips, Malia Kamisugi and Kisi Haine. Standing, Coach Steve Scott, Diana Clifford, Nicole Wilcox, Katie McCrary, Lisa Livingston, Sara Ackerman and Kaili Chun. Not pictured: Donna Kahakui.



Traci Phillips is interviewed about the race.

Marc Haine gives sister, Kisi, a hug after she steered the crew across the Kaiwi Channel.



First timers in the Molokai race were Possie Dudgeon, Vanessa Lowe, Jennifer Lowe and Missy Mowat.





# Second Open Crew Finishes 8th Overall

By Geoff Graf

The 1994 Bankoh Na Wahine O Ke Kai will be remembered by those who participated in many different ways and for different reasons. But one thing that will be unforgettable to many, is how the Outrigger Canoe Club fielded a second crew that finished in eighth place overall and was the fourth Hawaii crew to finish in a field of 47 canoes that included all-star teams from around the world. Their finishing time was 6:29:28.

The crew paddled the Iwalani and consisted of Pam Clifford, Possie Dudgeon, Carolyn Hall, Debbie Ing, Jennifer Lowe, Vanessa Lowe, Missy Mowat, Norma Santiago, Mary Smolenski and Jennifer Thayer.

This crew included five members for whom this would be their first crossing of the Kaiwi Channel. For three members this was their first year of paddling and for two members of the crew, this was their first long distance race.

If this wasn't enough lack of experience for you, the steersperson

(Vanessa Lowe) is included in the first channel crossing, and first year paddling category. In fact, Vanessa had never been to Molokai before.

At the start, the crew of the Iwalani battled with the other canoes to reach Laau Point and the first change as quickly as possible. Once past Laau Point and into the Kaiwi Channel, the women never looked back.

With canoes and escort boats creating nothing but chaos in front of them, they put the hammer down and started challenging and then passing one canoe at a time. This included steering into and around a group of three canoes that never knew what hit them.

At the three hour mark, the crew had moved into position at the tail end of the front pack. With the leaders in sight, the realization of what they were accomplishing started to hit home. In any club other than the Outrigger, this crew would be the first crew and they were in first crew territory and still challenging.

Locked into a battle with Lokahi and Lanakila of California, the crew pushed the Iwalani north of the pack in

an effort to get to the water of Maunalua Bay and the changing tide first.

As they approached Portlock, they had distanced themselves from Lokahi and Lanakila. It was at this point that Vanessa knew that the "Force" was with her and the crew responded with their natural surfing ability.

As the Iwalani approached Black Point, the race to the finish was on. As the crew passed Diamond Head they were attacked by a "sneaker" wave that broke completely over them. While we watched in amazement, the crew emerged from this wall of water, still paddling as if they did it just to cool off.

Lanakila managed to slip ahead in the calm waters of Waikiki but it didn't really matter. The women of the Iwalani knew that they would finish in the Top 10 before the race started and they proved it.

The OCC can stand proud in the achievements that all of the women in the long distance program helped to accomplish. A special thanks to Coach Steve Scott and all the support crews. 🏄

Members of the crew were front, Possie Dudgeon, Carolyn Hall, Missy Mowat, Jennifer Thayer, Norma Santiago, and Mary Smolenski. Back, Coach Steve Scott, Jennifer Lowe, Vanessa Lowe, Debbie Ing, Pam Clifford, Coach Geoff Graf.





# Masters of the Universe Finish 4th

By Tiare Finney

Ostrigger's masters women finished fourth in their division in the 1994 Na Wahine O Ke Kai race from Molokai to Waikiki on September 25.

The OCC "Masters of the Universe" finished a very competitive 24th overall out of a field of 47 in 6:49:50, behind Lokahi Masters 6:42:38, Kai Opua Masters 6:44:51 and Koa Kai Masters 6:45:18.

Paddling for the Masters were Evie Black, Katy Bourne, Paula Crabb, Ann Cundall, Peggy Danford, Tiare Finney, Jeanne Jenkins, Maureen Kilcoyne, Marilyn Kiner, Randy Nishimoto, Norma Santiago, Pam Zak. Heidi Hemmings was the alternate.

Following are some comments from the girls about the race:

*"1994 was my rookie year in the Masters Division. What I found there besides old friends and former teammates was an eager and capable group. Long hours and personal sacrifice were rewarded by new friends and fantastic fun times. We wanted to win our division but 1994 was not our year. However, with a starting crew of Crabb, Jenkins, Downing, Bourne, Finney and Black, we were well ahead of OCC's second open crew and 10th overall at Laau Point."*

—Tiare Finney

*"A memorable moment came for me about three quarters of the way through the race. My hands were feeling tender, and feeling somewhat exhausted, Paula, Jeanne and I were in the water to make a change. Out of the blue, Paula yelled out, 'I am having so much fun.' I smiled and thought to myself yeah so am I. Yes, I know everyone likes to be a winner, but you never lose*

*when you're having fun with your friends."*

—Kaiulu Downing

*"This was my 11th Molokai crossing. Sitting on the starting line I reflected back 13 years, for in 1981 I was paddling with the same girls as I was now. This was a feeling you could never lose or never replace. Our start was strong and smooth, never out of control—just working together."*

—Paula Crabb

*"Paddling this season has been like dark chocolate, one of my favorite experiences and yet, not as sweet as I'd like it. I wish it was March 29, 1994 so we could do it all over again."*

—Peggy Danford

*"Our race was a respectable one. The combinations seemed solid and the boat felt good and ran well most of the time. Our crew seemed mentally prepared and confident. We did not get much help from waves so conditioning, strength and blending were determining factors in winning. It was also obvious that the level of competition in the Masters Division has gotten a lot*

*tougher and the participants younger and stronger."*

—Marilyn Kiner

*"My gut feelings said we could win our division. So it's Monday noon and we didn't win, but the race was wonderful. We tried our best and our best will be faster next year. The Masters division gets more competitive every year and so will we."*

—Pam Zak

*"There are many reasons that led to our disappointment but no excuses. We just didn't have the horsepower that day. Our paddlers all gave 100% of what they had. We did not lack enthusiasm and spirit."*

—Coach Scott May

*"The night of the team dinner I was cut, much to my surprise. Being that I had previously won two Molokais and had never been cut from any sport, this proved to be a unique experience for me. I found myself quickly engulfed with a surge of anger, frustration and a deep hurt. After a few tears, I was able to take a deep breath and ask the Lord to guide me in what to do. The answer was clear—to be the best team player I could be. It wasn't easy, but the reward of being a team player far outweighed the sadness I originally felt."*

—Heidi Hemmings

*"We're rounding Diamond Head and on the home stretch. The adrenaline is still flowing, and we're determined to make it a strong finish. Finally, able to walk about on land and again realize that as a crew, our feat was accomplished. Great relief and joy. A small touch of disappointment. We'll all probably be back same time, same place, next year!"*

—Randy Nishimoto



Members of the Masters crew were, front, Peggy Danford, Pam Zak, Jeanne Jenkins, Randy Nishimoto. Standing, Coach Scott May, Paula Crabb, Maureen Kilcoyne, Evie Black, Katy Bourne, Ann Cundall, Marilyn Kiner, Tiare Finney and Kaiulu Downing.