

OCC Women Finish Third in Na Wahine O Ke Kai

By Genie Kincaid

At the 1988 Na Wahine O Ke Kai awards ceremony, OCC paddler Tiare Richert-Finney accepted the trophy for second place overall and, referring to her crewmates, she warned the crowd, "Look out, these girls are young and hungry and they're coming after you!"

Well, Tiare sorta had it right. Outrigger's 1989 women's crew was indeed very young and very hungry . . . but it sure looked different, too.

With only three paddlers, Kaili Chun, Genie Kincaid and Liz Perry-Dugan, returning from last year's crew (two relocated to the Mainland and seven are setting up nurseries), Outrigger dug in for another rebuilding year.



Sara Reilly enjoys a cold shower.

the first four canoes.

At Laau Point, Outrigger paddled its canoe, the Iwalani, north while the other three leaders went south.

The channel was pretty calm with swells pushing from north to south.

For most of the race, Outrigger was a mile north of the other crews and was leading Healani for second place. By the time the crew reached Diamond Head, it became apparent that Outrigger was in third place with a chance to run down Healani but that outcome was not meant to be.

However, Outrigger did outrace Hui Nalu, touted as the local favorite, and to put it mildly, we were absolutely stoked out of our minds with that wonderful result.

For Outrigger, the race showcased a changing of the guard among its women paddlers. With each passing week of practice during August and September, the girls had gotten stronger as a crew and showed promise with each of the regular distance season races.

And when the Molokai race was over and just another summer memory, every one of Walter's women's had raced hard and paddled proud for themselves, and for each other. And yes, it was a whole helluva lot of fun.

The crew is grateful to so many believers: to fellow crewmates, Doc Bintliff, Kaiulu Downing, Tiare Finney, Suzy Hemmings and Michele St. John for their moral support; to Bonnie Judd, Kris Smith and Kawika Grant for their care and effort from April until September; to Tom Conner, Wayne Faulkner, Greg Moss and Aaron Young for their help on the high seas; and to Keoni Kino, whose paddles were our weapons of war.

Lastly, but never least, our thanks to the Canoe Racing Committee and Outrigger Canoe Club for supporting our program. We look forward to another year and for an even better result.

In addition to the experience of veterans Lesline "Beulah #1" Conner, Kisi Haine and Norma Santiago, rookies Katie "Beulah #2" McCrary, Sara Reilly, Mary Smolenski and Dione Wilbur, added new strength and exuberance to the effort. Rounding out the crew were second year paddlers Coralie Miller and Cathy Ho.

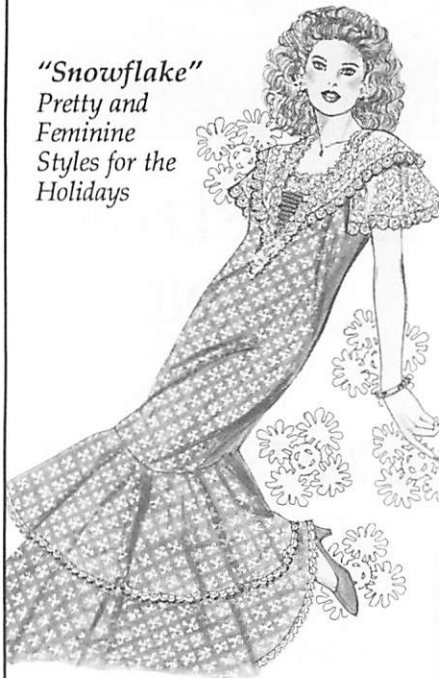
Coach Walter Guild took up the challenge of blending returning veterans with new talent and what a job well done. Outrigger finished with a time of 6:19, surprising local favorite, Hui Nalu Canoe Club, for third overall in the 11th annual Molokai to Oahu canoe race on September 24.

Offshore Canoe Club won its 4th straight victory in a record obliterating time of 5:59:36, becoming the first women's crew to cross the Molokai Channel in sub-6 hours. The mighty mites of Healani Canoe Club were second with a time of 6:17:02.

As expected, Offshore had taken an early lead, lurching to the front of the pack before Laau Point. Outrigger found itself in a three-way tie with Healani and Hui Nalu. The rest of the field of 22 entrants were well behind

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Members of Outrigger's 1989 Molokai crew were, front, Norma Santiago, Kisi Haine, Genie Kincaid, Coralie Miller, Liz Perry-Dugan; standing, Lesline Conner, Kaili Chun, Cathy Ho, Sara Reilly, Katie McCrary, Dione Wilbur, Mary Smolenski, Coach Walter Guild.



Dione Wilbur with dad, John Wilbur.



Kisi Haine



Mary Smolenski



Kaili Chun and Genie Kincaid


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