

# the **Outrigger**

November 1991



# Outrigger Women Win Koa Division in 13th Annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai

By Cathy Ho

Every year towards the end of September, paddlers all over the world start thinking about who will be winning the Na Wahine O Ke Kai.

This year, on the 29th day of September, it was Off Shore Canoe Club claiming its sixth straight victory with a winning time of 6:22:04. Healani was second in 6:33:27.

Outrigger was third overall, and first in koa, with a time of 6:38:53.

This 13th annual 41 mile race included 28 crews from Hawaii, Australia, Tahiti, Canada and the continental US.

Unfortunately, these 28 crews did not expect the conditions that were dealt to them by Mother Nature. There were no waves to surf and the winds were slightly kona.

Going into the Molokai to Oahu crossing, Outrigger had a good distance season with two seconds and one first place finish. However, we were looking for the icing on the cake.

Both Coaches Tom McTigue and Steve Scott were confident that the Outrigger women were ready for the challenge that Off Shore presented.

The 12-woman crew included Sara Ackerman, Katy Bourne, Kaili Chun, Paula Crabb, Tiare Finney, Kisi Haine, Cathy Ho, Malia Kamisugi, Terri Pynchon, Mary Smolenski, Katie Thorndike and Nicole Wilcox.

The Kaoloa was assigned the task of carrying the women across the channel and all 12 crew members had hopes of accomplishing what the Outrigger men had done just a year ago--winning in a koa canoe.

The 7:08 start from Hale O Lono Harbor proved to be a surprise. This year, to insure a fair start, the officials stretched a line with floaters across the front of the canoes. This marked the starting line.

When the green flag went up, Outrigger and Healani jumped out into a quick lead as Off Shore and Surfers Paradise were entangled. Unfortunately, they were able to quickly free up and take over the lead.

At Laau Point, the site of the first crew change, Off Shore was in the lead followed closely by Surfers Paradise of Australia and then by Outrigger. Taking a course heading to the back

side of Diamond Head, Outrigger was on its way to second place.

Finally, at the one hour mark, Outrigger passed the Aussies and was looking at the backs of Off Shore, the defending champions.

Four hours into the race, Healani started their push and stayed with Outrigger for quite a distance. The crew thought this is just what we needed. We'll push each other right past Off Shore.

However, Healani had other plans. They finally passed Outrigger, gained a tremendous mental boost, and never looked back. Now it was time for Outrigger to put its mental ability to the test and push to the finish line, in spite of a disappointing third place finish.

"I think the key to beating a team like Off Shore is committing to a year around training program," said McTigue. "It can't just be a six month commitment. We need to train like Olympic athletes. That's what Off Shore has and that's the direction we need to take in the future."

People need to realize that Off Shore can pick and choose their crew from anywhere in the world. They also had six Olympic level kayakers on their crew and three of them came from Sweden.

Our women deserve a lot of credit for putting their heart and soul into a race that has grown to such a competitive level. Hopefully, next year Outrigger can bring the trophy home to Hawaii.

The members of the open women's crew would like to thank all the women who put forth their best efforts this season. Paddling is a team sport.

We would also like to thank our coaches, Tom McTigue and Steve Scott, Club Captain Bill Bright and the Canoe Racing Committee for their dedication to keeping the Outrigger women's program thriving. ☺

Photos by Maribyn Kali



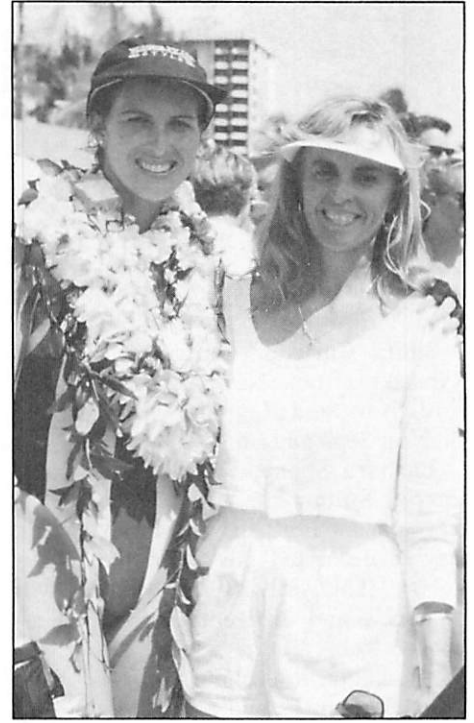
Outrigger's 1991 Na Wahine O Ke Kai crew was left, to right, Katy Bourne, Terri Pynchon, Nicole Wilcox, Sara Ackerman, Malia Kamisugi, Cathy Ho, Katie Thorndike, Kisi Haine, Kaili Chun, Paula Crabb, Tiare Finney and Mary Smolenski.



*Katy Bourne is greeted by her children, Kai, Britt and Tri.*



*Geoff Graf congratulates Cathy Ho.*



*Sara Ackerman received a lei from her mom, Diane.*



*Kisi Haine is greeted by one of her Special Olympians.*



*Katie Thorndike, Malia Kamisugi and Terri Pynchon celebrate after the race.*



*Trevor Crabb brought a lei for mom, Paula.*



*Tiare Finney had time to wave to helicopter pilot Irwin Malzman as he photographed the race.*