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OCC Wins Na Wahine O Ke Kai



Gathered around the trophy are paddlers Norma Santiago, Muffer Scully, Katie Bourne, Kisi Haine, Jeanne Jenkins, Mary Franco, Karen Jones, Tracy Phillips, Paula Carbone, Lesline Conner, Tiare Finney and Sandra Stanley.



Jeanne Jenkins relaxes after the race.



Tracy Phillips is decked out with leis.

Outrigger's fabulous women's paddlers won their fourth Na Wahine O Ke Kai title in seven years, crossing the treacherous Kaiwi Channel from Molokai to Oahu in 6 hours, 50 minutes and 31 seconds, on Sept. 29.

Facing swells of 6 to 8 feet, and very choppy seas, in what they describe as the roughest of all previous crossings, the OCC women finished ahead of 20 other teams from Hawaii, California, Tahiti and Canada.

Outrigger led throughout the race, finishing a half mile, and more than 10 minutes ahead of second place finisher Off Shore Canoe Club from Newport Beach, Calif. Club member Chrissy Benham was a member of Off Shore's team this year. Third place in the race went to Lahaina Canoe Club from Maui which was steered by Anne Hogan Perry and coached by her husband Glenn Perry and Mark Buck, all Outrigger members.

OCC previously won the Molokai race in 1979, 1981, and 1984 when they set the record of 6:12:11. The race was cancelled in 1980 because of big surf and strong winds.



Coach Tom Conner, who has coached five of the six winning Na Wahine crews, is interviewed by the Advertiser's Carol Hogan.



Karen Jones made her first crossing.



Lesline Conner tells Chris Ferreira just how rough it was.



Mary Franco paddled in her 6th Molokai race, steering OCC to victory.



After bowing to the Aloha Week Court, Outrigger's winning crew lined up to be photographed by the news media.



OCC member Anne Perry, right, steered the Lahaina Canoe Club to a third place finish. Husband Glenn, center, is the coach. At left is her mother, Mrs. Hogan.



Katie Bourne greets 3-month-old daughter, Kai, and husband, Peter, after the race.



Chrissy Benham, center, who paddles for Outrigger during the summer, paddled for second place, Off Shore Canoe Club, of Newport Beach in Na Wahine. She goes to college in Southern California. With her are parents, Roy and Jackie Benham.