

Kailua ends drought

With Peter Binney using leverage to make a tight turn, Lanikai Canoe Club paddlers, from left, Mike Pedersen, Binney, Rich Lambert, Kalani Irvine, Todd Hart and Jim Foti stay ahead of Outrigger, background, during the Men's Junior one-mile event. Lanikai won the event during the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championships at Keeki Lagoon.

Bruce Asato/The Honolulu Advertiser



Captures first HCRA state crown in 21 years

"The suspense was just too much. It made it really hard on everybody."

CARLEEN ORNELLAS,
KAILUA PADDLER AND WIFE OF
KAILUA COACH, CLIFF

By Dayton Morinaga
Advertiser Staff Writer

And the winner is ...

Is ...

Is ...

Kailua!

In a dramatic regatta that wasn't officially decided until 90 minutes after the final race was completed, Kailua Canoe Club won its first Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta since 1977 yesterday at Keeki Lagoon.

Taking advantage of a new

scoring system that awarded 15 points for a race victory and at least one point to every crew entered, Kailua scored 270 points in 31 races. Outrigger, the 1997 champion, was second with 262. Oahu champ Lanikai was third with 249 and Hawaiian of Maui was fourth with 207.

Kai Opua from the Big Island won the AA division (for clubs with 7 to 15 crews) for the second consecutive year with 135 points. Healani won the A division (for clubs with 6 crews or less) with 64.

"The suspense was just too much," said Kailua paddler Carleen Ornellas. "It made it really hard on everybody."

Due to photo finishes, the HCRA judges did not announce results of several races until after the regatta. Because of that, scores were incomplete throughout the day.

"We couldn't keep track of what was going on," said Kailua head coach Cliff Ornellas. "It had my heart going."

Ultimately, Kailua's overall consistency would prevail.

As expected Kailua's youth

crews scored early, accounting for 100 points in nine races. The girls 16-under crew placed first, and three others placed second (boys 12's, 13's and 18's).

"The kids did their share," said Cliff Ornellas. "But we knew we had to fight in the middle of the (regatta) if we wanted to win."

That's because Outrigger came out swinging and never relented. The Outrigger kids came up with two victories

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CANOE PADDLING



Aaron Suozzi/The Honolulu Advertiser

Cliff Ornellas, coach of the Kailua Canoe Club, wasn't camera shy as he emerged from his victory tunnel after it was announced that his club had won the state title yesterday in the State Canoe Racing Championship at Keehi Lagoon.

HCRA: Kailua captures state crown

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(girls 12's and boys 14's) to vault the club into contention.

"We were kind of behind the 8-ball coming in," Outrigger head coach David Buck said, referring to his club's 21 entries compared to 26 each for Kailua and Lanikai. "But I felt like we had an outside shot."

They did. Under the old scoring system that scored nine points for a victory and rewarded only the top eight finishers, Outrigger would have won the regatta.

In any case, Outrigger's women were again impressive, winning both the junior and senior races. Donna Kahakui, Nicole Wilcox and Kisti Haine paddled in both winning crews.

By then, Outrigger was announced as the leader.

"I kept saying, 'Something's wrong; something's wrong,'" said Carleen Ornellas. "My calculations said (Kailua) was ahead, but I didn't realize that they hadn't counted some of

the early races yet."

Those races would prove to be vital.

Lanikai kept pace by taking the men's junior and senior races with the same crew: Michael Pedersen, Peter Binney, Rich Lambert, Kalani Irvine, Todd Hart and Jim Foti. Lanikai has won the senior men's division — considered the top race in regattas — for seven consecutive years.

Lanikai would finish the regatta with six race victories — tied for tops with Outrigger — but two non-victories may have cost them. Both Lanikai's boys 16 and women's novice A crews were disqualified for burying the flagged-buoys while turning. Both would have placed fifth for 10 points each, but instead, got zero.

"We could have won the regatta without that," said Lanikai head coach Kalani Irvine. "It hurts because we screwed up. And by we, I mean the whole club. If we're going to win as a club, we'll lose as a club."

Kailua, which won just four races but placed second in four others, countered Outrigger by "stacking" two crews: women's open-4 and mixed masters. The women's open-4 victory proved crucial because Outrigger did not have a crew entered in that race.

"We knew whatever points we got in that would shut them out," said Cliff Ornellas. "So we wanted to go for all 15."

The crew of Cindy Nash, Makanani Wong, Constance Johnston and Loretta Toth responded. Two races later, Carleen Ornellas steered the mixed masters crew to a narrow victory over Outrigger.

"The pressure was on," she said. "But that was part of the strategy. We knew we had to come through."

Still, that victory hardly settled anything. After all the races were completed, two had yet to be judged: women's novice B and boys 13.

"This is not a love story," Cliff Ornellas yelled from his Kailua tent. "Don't have to

keep this secret."

But after 21 years, what's another hour? Seemingly the entire Kailua Canoe Club lingered around for the final results, and when it was announced that its women's novice B won and its boys 13's got second, the celebration was on.

"The state race has escaped us for a long time for some reason," said Cliff Ornellas. "But this group was special. I had that feeling from the start."

Kai Opua won the men's freshmen and women's senior masters and placed second in the men's senior race to outdistance Puna by 24 points in the AA division. Puna had defeated Kai Opua for the Big Island title two weeks ago.

Healani did not win a race, but placed in the top five in five races to claim the A division.



Results

Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta

At Keahi Lagoon

AAA Division (16 crews or more)

1. Kailua 270. 2. Outrigger 262. 3. Lanikai 249. 4. Hawaiian 207. 5. Hui Nalu 159. 6. Lokahi 121. 7. Malama Ula 119.

AA Division (7 to 15 crews)

1. Kai Opua 135. 2. Puna 111. 3. Kahana 109. 4. Waikiki Surf Club 107. 5. Kawaihae 96. 6. Keaukaha 88. 7. Ho'opili 78. 8. Koa Kai 68. 9. Keahiakahoe 66. 10. Napili 62. 11. Kona Athletic Club 58. 12. Kaiola 55. 13. Hanalei 51. 14. Kihei 46. 15. Na Kai 'Ewalo 40.

A Division (6 crews or less)

1. Healan 64. 2. (tie). Hui Lanakila. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i 49. 4. Kaneohe 47. 5. Waikiki Yacht Club 45. 6. Waikiki Beach Boys 43. 7. Kamehameha-Hawaii 37. 8. Kalihi Kai 33. 9. (tie). Anuenue. Keauhou O Kona. Molokai 30. 12. Keoua 24. 13. Lae Ula O Kai 21. 14. Honolulu 18. 15. (tie). Waikoloa. Windward Kai 16. 17. (tie). Leeward Kai. Pu'uwai 14. 19. (tie). Hana. Kamehameha-Oahu. Mana'e 12. 22. Manu O Ke Kai 11. 23. Kai Po'ha 10. 24. Kai Oni 8. 25. Makaha 6. 26. Kilo-hana 5. 27. Kailana 2.

Individual

1/4 mile

Male

12-under: 1. Hawaiian (Kekupa'a Naeole, Kamaka Fernandez, Sterling Thomas, Hookahi Alves, Alika Keohohina, Stephen Cramer) 1:52.79. 2. Kailua 1:53.19. 3. Outrigger 1:54.53. 13-under: 1. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i (Kee Kaauwai, Angel Huihui, Andrew Sexton, Ikaka Kakalia-Carden, Kawena Rosano, Baba Holbron) 1:46.20. 2. Kailua 1:46.66. 3. Hui Nalu 1:47.17. 14-under: 1. Outrigger (Aka Beaumont, Adam Dombush, Ross O'Carroll, Ryna Markham, Jedd Chang, Scott Bright) 1:39.33. 2. Keaukaha 1:39.92. 3. Hawaiian 1:43.90.

Female

12-under: 1. Outrigger (Ali Rigg, Avery Cavanaugh, Hali Vanlier-Ribbink, Kai Bourne, Jennifer Tokin, Amy Lawson) 2:02.02. 2. Puna 2:02.34. 3. Hawaiian 2:02.91. 13-under: 1. Kawaihae (Cassi Collins, April Medeiros, Taira Pe'a, Georgi Napoleon, Lehua Wilson, Mikela Yarawamai) 1:56.68. 2. Kaneohe 1:59.93. 3. Outrigger 2:00.23. 14-under: 1. Moloka'i (Mahealani Rawlins, Lihau Castor, Kaehuokalani Spencer, Melani Rawlins, Ivalyn Kawamae, Keani Rawlins) 1:53.88. 2. Waikiki Surf Club 1:55.96. 3. Puna 1:57.80. Women Novice B: 1. Kailua (Cathy Hamasaki, Robin Kalama, Susan Maher, Kim Mamo, Loree Marquardt, Kelly Warren) 1:53.49. 2. Lanikai 1:53.97. 3. Waikiki Yacht Club 1:54.60.

Mixed

12-under: 1. Keahiakahoe (Carol Jenkins, Dairanna Haruguchi, Ronson Honeychurch, Lindsey Kamau, Willie Holck, Ka'eo Mau) 1:58.94. 2. Hawaiian 2:03.35. 3. Kamehameha-Oahu 2:03.64.

1/2 mile

Male

Men Novice B: 1. Lanikai (David Silva, Kai Bartlett, Stephen Freitas, Ryan Young, Gordon Scroton, Jay Rodgers) 3:33.01. 2. Kailua 3:36.73. 3. Kahana 3:39.47. 18-under: 1. Hawaiian (Luke Brown, Ehukai Awo, Tyzan Kaanana, Kilipaki Eugenio, Nick Tanaka, Judson McCandless) 3:46.60. 2. Leeward Kai 3:47.08. 3. Keahiakahoe 3:49.96. 18-under: 1. Malama Ula (Aaron Ward, Jensen Cramer, Jacob Abeytia, Adrian Boone, Bubba McLean, Kekoa Cramer) 3:38.97. 2. Kailua 3:43.08. 3. Moloka'i 3:44.02. Men Freshmen: 1. Kai Opua (Nue Yoderian, Britt Craven, George Leslie, Jarrett Aguilar, Steven Berengue, Kelly Warren) 3:36.17. 2. Hawaiian 3:36.42. 3. Puna 3:36.69. Men Masters (age 52-over): 1. Outrigger (Henry Ayau, John Finney, Poli Vaughan, Bill Mowatt, Tay Perry, Bruce

Ames) 3:49.58. 2. Keauhou O Kona 3:52.53. 3. Kailua 3:54.22. Men Masters (age 45-over): 1. Outrigger (Bill Bright, Dale Hope, Mark Buck, Jimmy Kincaid, Chris Crabb, Brant Ackerman) 3:42.09. 2. Kawaihae 3:48.25. 3. Kailua 3:49.19.

Men Fours: 1. Waikiki Surf Club (Tim Twigg, Smith, Greg Edwards, Tim McCandless, Jim Beaton) 3:45.51. 2. Outrigger 3:45.96. 3. Kai Opua 3:46.54. Men Masters (35-over): 1. Lanikai (Giovanni Camuso, Vince Olds, Bruce Lukits, Rocky Owens, Dwayne Webster, Steve Freitas) 3:31.79. 2. Hui Lanakila 3:34.76. 3. Outrigger 3:35.98.

Female

16-under: 1. Kailua (Lauren Reis, Joelle Humel, Michelle Thompson, Malina Shtyan, Tina Handley, Ilikea Handley) 4:14.59. 2. Lanikai 4:21.09. 3. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i 4:23.22. 18-under: 1. Lanikai (Stephanie Dean, Maria Fregeau, Ahia Dye, Tyler Zienkiewicz, Makena Coffman, Thea VonGeldern) 4:13.32. 2. Hui Nalu 4:13.92. 3. Keahiakahoe 4:26.58. Women Novice A: 1. Hui Nalu (Kay Kay Cervo, Laura Lee, Lia Bullock, Mariliz Reilly, Sandy Stennen, Liane Dakuaku) 4:10.43. 2. Waikiki Beach Boys 4:14.61. 3. Outrigger 4:17.36. Women Freshmen: 1. Lokahi (Mikaka Hetland, Jennifer Thompson-Tuzon, Ine Bogart, Susan Colburn, Ginger Lockette, Iwa Bush) 4:10.17. 2. Kona Athletic Club 4:11.71. 3. Waikiki Beach Boys 4:17.27. Women Masters (52-over): 1. Lanikai (Mary Lerps, Georgia Mitchell, Alice Zacherle, Betty June Yap, Heather Botelho, Mollie Foti) 4:34.49. 2. Hui Nalu 4:39.29. 3. Outrigger 4:42.43. Women Masters (age 45-over): 1. Kai Opua (Noel Black, Carol Clifford, Linda Odell, Jeannie Knapp, Julita Fernandez, Sarah Kihori) 4:29.60. 2. Kalihi Kai 4:30.21. 3. Waikiki Yacht Club 4:33.31. Women Fours: 1. Kailua (Cindy Nash, Makenani Wong, Constance Johnston, Loretta Toth) 4:25.35. 2. Healan 4:30.04. 3. Lanikai 4:33.88. Women Masters (35-over): 1. Keaukaha (Susan Cordell, Amy Young, Barbara Bell, Debbie Cheever, Donna Herbst, Diana Barcena) 4:03.79. 2. Outrigger 4:07.39. 3. Kona Athletic Club 4:11.25.

Mixed

Masters (age 40): 1. Kailua (Pat Erwin, Kathy Erwin, Jack Laufer, Kamoa Kalama, Donna Meyer, Carleen Ornellas) 3:52.27. 2. Outrigger 3:56.21. 3. Keoua 3:56.60. Men and Women: 1. Ho'opili (Ekolu Kalama, Tania Dudort, Penny Martin, Robert Harley, Kathleen Keala, Mervin Dudort) 3:50.19. 2. Lanikai 3:51.24. 3. Hui Nalu 3:52.27.

1 mile

Male

Men Novice A: 1. Waikiki Surf Club (Curtis Smeller, Darren Harvey, Lars Enckson, Rob Rittenhouse, Mike Young, Chris Gibson) 7:42.13. 2. Kahana 7:49.36. 3. Kailua 7:52.98. Men Junior: 1. Lanikai (Michel Pedersen, Peter Binney, Rich Lambert, Kalani Irvine, Todd Hart, Jim Foti) 7:28.23. 2. Outrigger 7:31.44. 3. Kawaihae 7:54.40.

Female

Women Junior: 1. Outrigger (Donna Kahaku, Nicole Wilcox, Pamela Clifford, Kaili Chun, Kisi Haine, Starr Dawson) 8:56.69. 2. Healan 9:01.07. 3. Kai Opua 9:08.52.

1 1/2 mile

Male

Men Senior: 1. Lanikai (Michael Pedersen, Peter Binney, Rich Lambert, Kalani Irvine, Todd Hart, Jim Foti) 11:06.65. 2. Kai Opua 11:10.78. 3. Outrigger 11:15.58.

Female

Women Senior: 1. Outrigger (Donna Kahaku, Nicole Wilcox, Traci Phillips, Lisa Livingston, Kisi Haine, Sara Ackerman) 13:12.50. 2. Hui Nalu 13:20.15. 3. Lokahi 13:30.27.