

# Record win for Offshore

## Fifth in row for Californians

By Paul Giblin  
Special to The Advertiser

Hawaii's paddlers will have to wait at least another year before reclaiming the world championship title in long-distance outrigger canoe racing.

Oahu teams had reigned in the 41-mile Na Wahine O Ke Kai race from its inception in 1979 through 1985. Then in 1986, the California-based Offshore Canoe Club began a string of annual victories that yesterday reached five in a row.

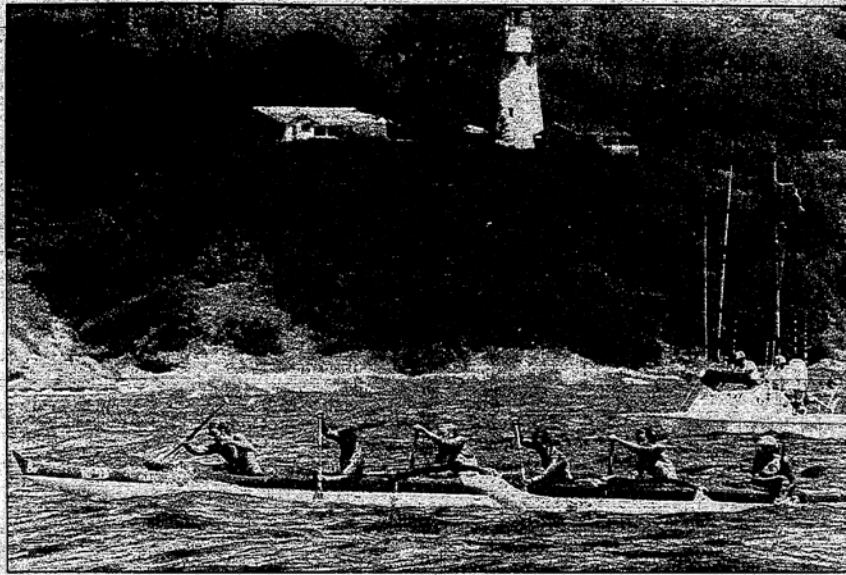
Offshore finished the Molokai-to-Oahu ride across the Kaiwi Channel in 5 hours, 44 minutes and 18 seconds to eclipse its own year-old record of 5:59:36 by more than 15 minutes.

The Oahu-based Healani Canoe Club slipped in ahead of last year's record at 5:49:40 to finish second this year, while rival Outrigger Canoe Club finished just 15 seconds off the old mark for third place in 5:59:51.

Offshore steersman Mindy Clark accepted victory humbly after touching shore at Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Waikiki. "We just had a nice tailwind and nice swells pushing us," she said.

Healani stayed well within eyesight of Offshore for the final stretch along the sunny Oahu coast, but the strong

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Advertiser photos by Bruce Asato



Offshore of California (top left) paddles past the Diamond Head Lighthouse en route to the finish line at Duke Kahanamoku Beach in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai race. Offshore, with a support boat nearby, heads for shore with victory in hand.



Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato

California-based Offshore Canoe Club won its fifth consecutive Na Wahine O Ke Kai race yesterday.

## Canoes: Offshore wins

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second-place finish left Healani crewmembers frustrated anyway.

"You always want to win," said steersman Luana Froiseth. "Coming in second and breaking the record is nothing. You want to come in first."

Healani spurred out to a three-length lead as a record-number 28 crews left Hale O Lono Harbor in Molokai at about 8 a.m., but Offshore took advantage of the mild 3- to 4-foot swells and overtook Healani early on.

"We just got excited at first and probably couldn't believe we jumped on Offshore like that and maybe settled in too fast," Froiseth said.

Any hope of a Hawaiian crew reclaiming the championship began to slip away about 1½ hours into the race.

At that point, Offshore held the lead with Healani and Outrigger close behind. The Hawaiian teams had hoped for

rough water, believing their experience surfing canoes on 15-foot swells would give them an edge over Offshore.

But the seas stayed calm.

Rather than trying to overpower the defending champions, the local crews opted to change course to try and take advantage of other sea conditions. Healani veered north to ride the current, while Outrigger went south in search of any wave that could be harnessed.

But neither Hawaiian team was able to sling-shot into the lead.

"We were in third at that point, so it really didn't make a difference. We had to try something rather than just paddling in," said Outrigger steersman Liz Perry-Dugan.

Meanwhile Offshore, which is based in Newport Beach and sports four Olympic paddlers including three from Sweden, stayed on the direct route through the channel.

"We just split the difference between Healani and Outrig-

ger. We figured they know the course and we'd let them tell us where to go," Clark said.

They went straight for the finish line with about 15 motorboats and two helicopters trailing along. Healani funneled in behind but never got close enough to set up a final dash for the beach.

Offshore crewmember Cathy Marino, a Kaiwi Channel rookie, downplayed the role of the mild sea and its effect on the finish.

"Any conditions are good when you have a group of girls who want to pull together and win," she said.

In the masters division, Outrigger No. 2 took top honors in 6:36:28 while Waikiki Yacht Club No. 2 placed second in 6:48:51, and the Big Island-Maui team of Kai Opua was third in 6:52:45.

California's Lanakila Outrigger won the Koa Division in 6:22:04. Healani No. 2 bagged second in 6:25:49 and Waikiki Surf Club took third in 6:28:30.

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# CANOES

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## Bankoh Na Wahine O Ke Kai

Molokai to Oahu

41-miles

1. Offshore 5:44:13. 2. Healani #1 5:49:40. 3. Outrigger #1 5:59:51. 4. Surfers Paradise (Australia) 6:12:16. 5. Surfsports #2 6:14:03. 6. Waikiki Yacht #1 6:16:46. 7. False Creek (Canada) 6:18:37. 8. Napili (Maui) 6:19:55. 9. Lanikai 6:20:04. 10. Lanakila Outrigger 6:22:04.

11. Hanalei (Kauai) 6:23:38. 12. Kai Oni 6:24:08. 13. Healani #2 6:25:49. 14. Waikiki Surf Club 6:28:30. 15. Manua Dei Ray (California) 6:29:52. 16. Lahaina (Maui) 6:32:46. 17. Outrigger #2 Masters 6:36:28. 18. Hui Nalu 6:39:42. 19. Keoua (Big Island) 6:42:20. 20. Kailua 6:42:26.

21. Paradise Outrigger (California) 6:45:09. 22. Waikiki Yacht #2 Masters 6:48:51. 23. Surfsports #1 6:51:15. 24. Kai Opuu Masters (Big Island) 6:52:45. 25. Puna (Big Island) 6:53:36. 26. Kai E Hitu/Haw. Masters (Maui) 6:59:34. 27. Kihei 7:00:03. 28. Lokahi 7:03:40.

### Masters Division

1. Outrigger #2 6:36:28. 2. Waikiki Yacht #2 6:48:51. 3. Kai Opuu (Big Island-Maui) 6:52:45. 4. Kai E Hitu/Haw. 6:59:34.

### Koa Division

1. Lanakila Outrigger (Calif.) 6:22:04. 2. Healani #2 6:25:49. 3. Waikiki Surf Club 6:28:30. 4. Lahaina (Maui) 6:32:46. 5. Hui Nalu 6:39:42.

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