



Advertiser photo by Carl Viti

Outrigger's freshman team powers its way to victory during yesterday's state championship.

Outrigger outrageous

Wins eighth straight state canoe title

By Paul Giblin

Special to The Advertiser

HILO — For at least another year, Hawaii's paddlers are left to ponder what makes Outrigger Canoe Club so dominant.

Is it Outrigger's streamline koa canoe?

Is it the Oahu club's strenuous training schedule?

Is it simply a matter of money?

Theories abound, although definitive reasons are in short supply.

Kailua Canoe Club paddler Bob Coble offered a guess after Outrigger won its eighth consecutive AAA title at yesterday's Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship regatta.

Coble said Outrigger's greatest strength is its sheer numbers. To beat Outrigger, other clubs around the state need to recruit more paddlers, he said.

"What it's going to take is to consistently get crews in every event," Coble said. "Then work with them and get them to place, not necessarily to win, but to place, second place, third, fourth, to get the points."

Outrigger assistant coach Steve Scott credited his club's win to determination.

"There's a lot of personal triumphs in there along with the team victory," he said. "I think we really do have a cohesive group, from the 12s right up to the masters."

Outrigger, the champion of the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, captured 15 of 31 events yesterday and scored 195 points to win the nine-club AAA division, which is for clubs with 15 and more crews.

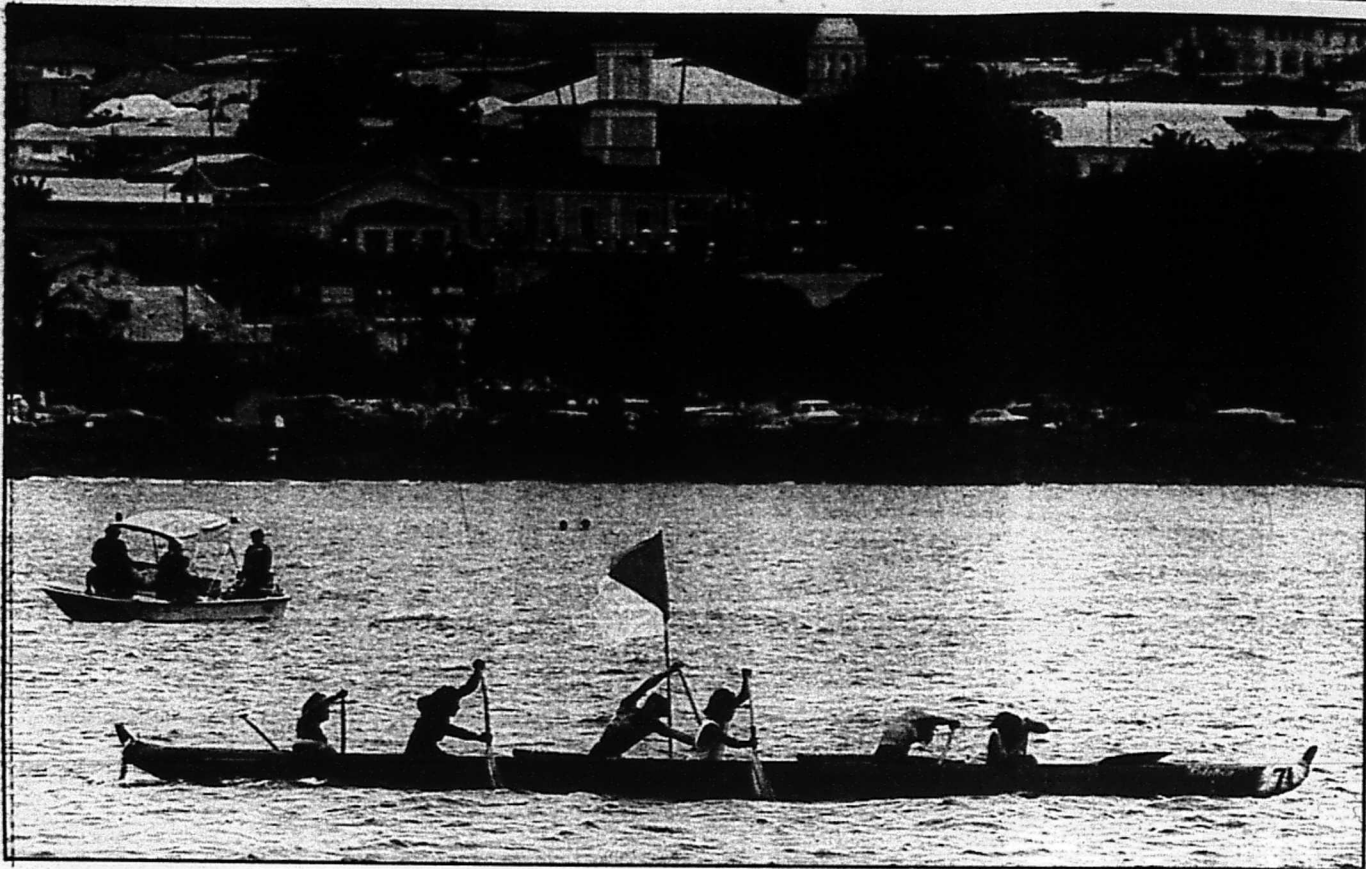
Big Island club Kai Opuia edged Oahu's Healani for second place, 101 to 100.

In the 11-club AA division (seven to 14 crews), Big Island club Kawaihae scored 38 points to hold off Waikiki Surf Club (37) of OHCRA. Maui's Napili took third with 33, a point ahead of Kamehameha of the Big Island.

In the 22-club A division (six or fewer crews), Big Island club Kai E

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STATE CANOE CHAMPIONSHIP



Advertiser photo by Carl Viti

With Hilo town as its backdrop, a Wailani Canoe Club women's crew makes its final turn toward the finish.

Outrigger: Wins eighth title in a row

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Hitu scored 27 to easily outdistance Leeward Kai (13) of OHORA. Three teams tied for third with nine points each: Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i and Mana O Ke Kai of the Oahu-based Na Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a Association, and Anuenue of OHORA.

Some 2,600 paddlers from four islands participated in yesterday's regatta, which was staged along the black sand beach at Hilo Bay. Most races started under cloudy skies, but paddlers in the last few races also had to fight a driving rain.

The senior masters men's race, which came early enough to avoid the rain, proved to be the closest contest of the day. The top four teams finished within 1½ seconds of each other, or within about a quarter of a boat length.

Outrigger finished the half-mile course in 3 minutes, 46.13 seconds, followed by Big Island team Keauhou O Kona (3:46.58), Anuenue (3:47.00) and Kailua (3:47.37).

"I could hear guys on either

side of me. I could hear Anuenue and Kailua because they were next to me, but I couldn't hear Outrigger because they were two lanes over," said John Moore of Keauhou O Kona.

"If they had been right next to us, you never know what could have happened," Moore said. "It's a great race to have four boats finish within a second. When you finish, you can't tell if you're first, second, third or fourth."

The order of finish was more obvious in the 1½-mile sophomore men's race. Kamehameha of the Big Island, racing in the calm waters of lane No. 1, extended its slight lead down the stretch and finished in 10:55.43 to beat Outrigger by two seconds.

Shortly after, the same six-man Kamehameha crew entered the two-mile senior race. This time, they were in the rougher waters of lane 14, the farthest lane from shore.

"You tend to have less current and a smoother run in the close lanes. Of course, paddling good helps, too," said Kameha-

meha crew member Stanley Cann. "With only one or two races of rest, you're expected to go out and pull hard, even harder than before, because of the tougher competition."

Outrigger proved to be too tough in the senior race. The tattoo-adorned Outrigger paddlers jumped to a fast start and held off the pack the rest of the way to win in 14:31.36. Lanikai followed in second, Kai Opua placed third and Kamehameha wound up fourth.

Following the race, Outrigger's Bruce Black explained that the temporary tiger head tattoos he and his teammates wore on their right arms served as inspiration.

"You put it on so if you lose with something like this on, you make fools of yourselves," he said. "It's kind of a psyching thing. It's new. It worked."

Even without donning tattoos, children from Big Island club Kai Opua earned respect from their coach, Tony Rita. The boys' 16s placed third, the boys' 14s won, the girls' 14s placed fifth, the girls' 13s placed sixth and the girls' 12s

placed third.

"We're a small island. We don't have that many kids to choose from," Rita said. "After the third event, I was so hoarse, I was afraid I couldn't do my own event."

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Results

NOTE: Names of crew members of winning club were not provided.

Hawaii Canoe Racing Association State Championships

At Hilo Bay

Team Results

AAA Division (15 crews or more)

1, Outrigger, 195 points. 2, Kai Opua, 101. 3, Healani, 100. 4, Kailua, 80. 5, Hawaiian (Maui), 78. 6 (tie), Lokahi; Hui Nalu, 57. 8, Hanalei, 41. 9, Kihei, 38.

AA Division (7-14 crews)

1, Kawaihae, 38. 2, Waikiki Surf Club, 37. 3, Napili, 33. 4, Kamehameha, 32. 5, Na Kai Ewalu, 31. 6, Keauhou O Kona, 27. 7, Lanikai, 21. 8, Kai Oni, 18. 9, Puna, 17. 10, Hui Lanakila, 14. 11, Honolulu, 6.

A Division (6 crews or less)

1, Kai E Hitu, 27. 2, Leeward Kai, 13. 3 (tie), Na Keiki O Ka Moi; Manu O Ke Kai; Anuenue, 9. 6 (tie), Kahana; Wailani; Keaukaha, 8. 9, Kaneohe, 5. 10 (tie), Windward Kai; Waikiki Beach Boys; Koa Kai; Kamehameha, 4. 14 (tie), Lae Ula O Kai; Keoua, 3. 16 (tie), Puu Wai; Waikoloa; Waimanalo, 2. 19, Kaiola, 1.

Race Results

MALE

1/4-Mile

12-under—1, Hawaiian (Maui), 2:00.44. 2, Leeward Kai, 2:03.96. 3, Outrigger, 2:04.21. 4, Healani, 2:04.44. 5, Na Kai Ewalu, 2:05.40. 13-under—1, Hawaiian (Maui), 1:50.83. 2, Healani, 1:54.81. 3, Na Kai Ewalu, 1:55.87. 4, Keauhou O Kona, 1:57.69. 5, Kailua, 1:58.24. 14-under—1, Kai Opua, 1:44.53. 2, Kamehameha, 1:45.26. 3, Napili, 1:46.76. 4, Kaneohe, 1:47.46. 5, Honolulu, 1:47.84.

1/2-Mile

Novice B—1, Hanalei, 3:35.22. 2, Kai E Hitu, 3:37.92. 3, Keauhou O Kona, 3:41.23. 4, Kailua, 3:44.22. 5, Kai Oni, 3:44.66. 16-under—1, Outrigger, 3:49.98. 2, Healani, 3:51.58. 3, Kai Opua, 3:53.17. 4, Kawaihae, 3:56.25. 5, Lokahi, 3:58.58. Senior Masters—1, Outrigger, 3:46.13. 2, Keauhou O Kona, 3:46.58. 3, Anuenue, 3:47.00. 4, Kailua, 3:47.37. 5, Keaukaha, 3:50.12. Open Four—1, Kailua, 3:55.27. 2, Kihei, 3:59.14. 3, Hui Lanakila, 4:01.76. 4, Hawaiian (Maui), 4:03.04. 5, Outrigger, 4:03.55.

1-Mile

Novice A—1, Waikiki Surf Club, 7:29.73. 2, Outrigger, 7:31.01. 3, Hanalei, 7:50.84. 4, Hawaiian (Maui), 7:56.58. 5, Napili, 8:01.31. 18-under—1, Outrigger, 7:36.97. 2, Hawaiian (Maui), 7:50.31. 3, Kai Opua, 8:03.64. 4, Lokahi, 8:11.31. 5, Na Kai Ewalu, 8:18.99. Freshman—1, Outrigger, 7:09.86. 2, Lokahi, 7:18.42. 3, Waikiki Surf Club, 7:19.72. 4, Lanikai, 7:22.07. 5, Kai E Hitu, 7:23.07. Masters—1, Outrigger, 7:19.16. 2, Kailua, 7:21.02. 3, Hui Nalu, 7:28.65. 4, Hanalei, 7:29.85. 5, Hui Lanakila, 7:31.41.

1 1/2-Mile

Sophomore—1, Kamehameha, 10:55.43. 2, Outrigger, 10:57.73. 3, Kai Opua, 11:14.41. 4, Lanikai, 11:17.93. 5, Kailua, 11:50.92. Junior—1, Outrigger, 11:07.04. 2, Kai Opua, 11:12.17. 3, Lokahi, 11:13.80. 4,

Kihei, 11:14.53. 5, Lanikai, 11:19.11.

2-Mile

Senior—1, Outrigger, 14:31.36. 2, Lanikai, 14:46.91. 3, Kai Opua, 14:53.80. 4, Kamehameha, 15:03.60. 5, Hanalei, 15:12.73.

FEMALE

1/4-Mile

12-under—1, Outrigger, 2:10.11. 2, Kawaihae, 2:10.37. 3, Kai Opua, 2:10.75. 4, Healani, 2:11.88. 5, Kailua, 2:13.26. 13-under—1, Kailua, 2:04.03. 2, Outrigger, 2:05.17. 3, Healani, 2:06.31. 4, Kawaihae, 2:06.85. 5, Manu O Ke Kai, 2:08.39. 14-under—1, Outrigger, 1:57.90. 2, Kahana, 1:59.45. 3, Na Keiki O Ka Moi, 2:01.19. 4, Kawaihae, 2:01.47. 5, Kai Opua, 2:03.07. Novice B—1, Lokahi, 1:51.24. 2, Kihei, 1:51.49. 3, Healani, 1:51.83. 4, Napili, 1:52.26. 5, Kawaihae, 1:52.48.

1/2-Mile

16-under—1, Hui Nalu, 4:23.82. 2, Outrigger, 4:24.04. 3, Lokahi, 4:25.42. 4, Keauhou O Kona, 4:32.30. 5, Kai Opua, 4:33.08. 18-under—1, Hui Nalu, 4:12.89. 2, Outrigger, 4:19.24. 3, Lokahi, 4:31.65. 4, Waikiki Surf Club, 4:33.83. 5, Healani, 4:36.20. Novice A—1, Kai Opua, 4:21.69. 2, Healani, 4:22.12. 3, Waikiki Surf Club, 4:23.79. 4, Hui Nalu, 4:25.71. 5, Kai Oni, 4:32.12. Senior Masters—1, Outrigger, 4:20.78. 2, Kailua, 4:30.18. 3, Healani, 4:30.61. 4, Hawaiian (Maui), 4:36.35. 5, Kawaihae, 4:38.95. Open Four—1, Hui Nalu, 4:21.16. 2, Na Kai Ewalu, 4:37.06. 3, Kai E Hitu, 4:40.88. 4, Healani, 4:42.65. 5, Keaukaha, 4:44.46.

1-Mile

Freshman—1, Outrigger, 8:31.23. 2, Hawaiian (Maui), 8:46.92. 3, Hui Nalu, 8:52.00. 4, Napili, 8:54.92. 5, Waikiki Beach Boys, 8:55.57. Sophomore—1, Healani, 8:10.92. 2, Outrigger, 8:13.55. 3, Kailua, 8:24.96. 4, Kai Oni, 8:28.58. 5, Kai Opua, 8:30.43. Junior—1, Outrigger, 8:37.70. 2, Healani, 8:51.24. 3, Lokahi, 8:53.23. 4, Napili, 8:53.80. 5, Kihei, 8:59.66. Masters—1, Puna, 8:34.25. 2, Hanalei, 8:45.47. 3, Healani, 8:52.86. 4, Kai Opua, 8:54.75. 5, Kai E Hitu, 8:58.13.

1 1/2-Mile

Senior—1, Outrigger, 12:36.96. 2, Healani, 12:37.49. 3, Kailua, 12:58.99. 4, Kai Oni, 13:09.67. 5, Kai Opua, 13:12.88.

MIXED

1/4-Mile

Special Olympic—1, Lokahi, 1:57.89. 2, Kamehameha, 2:06.43. 3, Outrigger, 2:19.68. 12-under—1, Hawaiian (Maui), 2:00.92. 2, Outrigger, 2:01.82. 3, Na Kai Ewalu, 2:05.64. 4, Puna, 2:06.46. 5, Kamehameha, 2:07.22.

1/2-Mile

Masters—1, Outrigger, 4:03.22. 2, Waikiki Surf Club, 4:04.19. 3, Healani, 4:05.47. 4, Kihei, 4:05.82. 5, Kamehameha, 4:12.88. Open—1, Outrigger, 3:55.86. 2, Hui Nalu, 3:58.52. 3, Kai E Hitu, 3:59.61. 4, Hawaiian (Maui), 4:00.29. 5, Kai Opua, 4:00.60.