

Outrigger paddles to victory in state regatta

By Jan TenBruggencate

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HANALEI, Kauai — Outrigger Canoe Club paddled to victory in half of the 10 long-distance races yesterday to win the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's state championship regatta on Hanalei Bay.

Outrigger placed first in the AAA division — a category for clubs that entered crews in 15 or more races.

Several teams were in contention during the early races

on ¼- and ½-mile courses, but Outrigger's strength in the distance events made the difference. That was in spite of several disqualifications.

It made no difference in the standings, but Outrigger was disqualified in the final event of the day, the senior men's 2.5-mile race. Outrigger finished one canoe length ahead of Hanalei, but was disqualified for making a wide turn.

Kailua, which won the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship two weeks

ago, placed second. Hanalei was third and Hui Nalu fourth.

In the AA Division for clubs with seven to 14 crews, Healani placed first, Lanikai second and the Hawaiian Canoe Club third. Lahaina finished first in the A Division for clubs with six or fewer crews.

Nearly 4,000 spectators crowded the beach at Hanalei in a crush of brown bodies and wooden canoes set off against the splashy colors of banners, tents, swimsuits and beach umbrellas.

The 32 yachts anchored on the bay were moved to the sides of the 14-lane racing course, which ran from off the beach south of the Hanalei Pier directly west out into the bay. The choppy bay waters resembled a pincushion of lane markers, indicating the start, quarter-mile and half-mile marks.

Canoe clubs were ranged along the white sand beach behind their banners and under tents. All the canoes were koa, and they exhibited all the

warm colors of the native hardwood — the sunny yellows, deep reds and rich browns.

Out on the course, the canoes dipped and surged under the control of the paddlers. Canoes racing in the lanes closest to the pier were favored, because they were partly protected from the brisk wind by an aging stand of ironwood. But out at the turnarounds, all the canoes were unprotected from the wind.

Even at the distant turns, the cheering of the shoreline crowd

could be heard, although most paddlers weren't listening. They heard their crew members calling out instructions, urging them on. A swimmer at the edge of the course could hear the calls and the grunts of effort, could see the definition of straining muscles.

There were several protests during the regatta. Some teams complained when they were disqualified for a rule that had never been explained to them.

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Outrigger rules waves to win title

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The speakers in their part of the beach hadn't worked when strict enforcement plans were announced.

That controversy involved a rule that banned canoes from the course before a race. Several crews that hadn't heard of the rule crossed portions of the course on their ways to starting positions and were disqualified.

There were others. Protests are serious affairs in the state canoe racing championships. The protesting team must pay a non-refundable \$100 fee with its written protest.

"We wouldn't do it if we weren't serious about it and if we weren't sure we were right," a paddler said. "We raised part of the money selling T-shirts along the beach."

Such complaints were a small part of the event. Participants said they found Hanalei one of the best sites they'd seen for a state regatta, and there was talk of holding the state race here again next year.

Yesterday's results:

Team standings — AAA Division: 1. Outrigger; 2. Kailua; 3. Hanalei; 4. Hui Nalu; 5. Lokahi. **AA Division:** 1. Healani; 2. Lanikai; 3. Hawaiian; 4. Hui Lanakila; 5. Kai Opuu; 6. Kihei. **A Division:** 1. Lahaina; 2. Waimanalo; 3. Leeward Kai; 4. Surfsports; 5. Koloa; 6. Keoua.

Men

12 B: 1. Hawaiian Canoe Club 2:24.85; 2. Leeward Kai; 3. Kawaihae; 4. Outrigger. **12 A:** 1. Hawaiian Canoe Club 2:19.03; 2. Keaukaha; 3. Hanalei; 4. Outrigger. **13:** 1. Wailani 2:01.98; 2. Healani; 3. Waimanalo; 4. Kauai. **14:** 1. Loa'a 1:58.97; 2. Kailua; 3. Hanalei; 4. Hawaiian. **Novice B:** 1. Outrigger 4:03.14; 2. Koloa; 3. Kailua; 4. Hui Lanakila. **16:** 1. Outrigger 4:03.40; 2. Hanalei; 3. Surfsports; 4. Kawaihae. **Junior Masters:** 1. Outrigger 3:50.77; 2. Healani; 3. Kaiukeaouli; 4. Kailua. **Open Four:** 1. Kailua 4:14.57; 2. Manu O Ke Kai; 3. Hui Lanakila; 4. Kawaikini. **Senior Masters:** Healani, 4:04.60. **Novice A:** 1. Healani, 6:01.69; 2. Lahaina; 3. Loa'a; 4. Outrigger. **18:** 1. Outrigger 7:47.70; 2. Kawaihae; 3. Hui Nalu; 4. Hanalei. **Freshmen:** 1. Waimanalo 7:52.50; 2. Outrigger; 3. Kihei; 4. Wailani. **Sophomore:** 1. Outrigger 11:58.56; 2. Hanalei; 3. Hui Nalu; 4. Kai Opuu. **Junior:** 1. Outrigger 15:28.23; 2. Hanalei; 3. Kihei; 4. Kawaihae. **Senior:** 1. Hanalei; 2. Hui Nalu; 3. Kamehameha Hilo; 4. Lanikai.

Women

12: 1. Kailua 2:29.60; 2. Waimanalo; 3. Outrigger; 4. Kai Opuu. **13:** 1. Healani 2:27.42; 2. Queen Liliuokalani; 3. Kailua; 4. Lanikai. **14:** 1. Hui Nalu 2:19.31; 2. Healani; 3. Waimanalo; 4. Kailua. **Novice B:** 1. Keoua 2:20.72; 2. Hanalei; 3. Kailua; 4. Kihei. **Junior Masters:** 1. Outrigger 2:16.98; 2. Lanikai; 3. Hui Nalu; 4. Kailua. **Senior Masters:** 1. Kailua 2:24.61; 2. Lanikai; 3. Outrigger; 4. Hui Nalu. **16:** 1. Healani 4:46.61; 2. Hui Lanakila; 3. Kailua; 4. Hui Nalu. **18:** 1. Hanalei 4:52.63; 2. Outrigger; 3. Kailua; 4. Lanikai. **Novice A:** 1. Kahana 4:35.54; 2. Hui Lanakila; 3. Kailua; 4. Outrigger. **Open Four:** 1. Kailua 5:20.76; 2. Lahaina; 3. Lanikai; 4. Lokahi. **Freshmen:** 1. Outrigger 7:19.94; 2. Healani; 3. Hanalei; 4. Kailua. **Sophomore:** 1. Kailua 8:52.63; 2. Outrigger; 3. Hui Nalu; 4. Hanalei. **Junior:** 1. Hui Nalu 11:42.64; 2. Kailua; 3. Kai Opuu; 4. Hanalei. **Senior:** 1. Outrigger 13:18.58; 2. Hui Nalu; 3. Lahaina; 4. Kai Opuu.

Mixed

12: 1. Lanikai 2:36.44; 2. Lahaina; 3. Kamehameha Hilo; 4. Hui Nalu. **Adults:** 1. Kailua 4:11.19; 2. Puna; 3. Hui Lanakila; 4. Kawaikini.