



Advertiser photo by Carl Viti

Hui Nalu's winning crew in the 1/4-mile junior women's event (left to right): Sandy Combis, Becky Hara, Sharon Bourke, Sue

Erickson, Lindsay Styan and Marion Lyman-Mersereau. The crew's time was 11:36.75.

Outrigger's streak pays off

Late charge is good for OHCRA title

By Marshall Hughes
Advertiser Staff Writer

Riding the strength of six consecutive victorious crews, starting with the junior men's race, the Outrigger Canoe Club burst from a tight, three-way battle and won the 10th Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship yesterday at Keehi Lagoon.

Outrigger finished with 82 points, eight points ahead of second-place Kailua. Hui Nalu finished third with 59, Healani fourth at 50 and Lanikila fifth with 12.

Leeward Kai won the A division with 15 points. Anuenue and Hui Lanikila tied for second with 12 points.

Outrigger clinched the victory on the 29th race of the 30-race slate, the women's junior masters. Outrigger finished the 1-mile event in a time of 8:46.60, almost nine seconds ahead of the second-place Kailua crew, which was undefeated going into yesterday's championship.

Outrigger's overall team depth was a major factor in the women's junior masters' victory, with head coach Mike Fox making some personnel changes to qualify that squad for the state championship, to be held Aug. 6 at Keehi.

Had they not won the race, Outrigger's women's junior masters would not have qualified for the states. Unlike the Hui 'Wa'a association, which sends its top four Oahu championship finishers to the state race, the OHCRA sends its champion and three best other crews, based on year-

long performance.

Fox changed five of the six women in the women's junior masters crew, with only Kathy Clifford being retained.

"The way I look at everything, it's an educated guess, sort of a calculated gamble," said Fox of the personnel changes he made throughout the day. "You figure you have a 50-50 chance or a 75-25 chance and you make your decision from there."

Throughout the morning, Healani, Hui Nalu, Kailua and Outrigger exchanged leads in the battle of team points. By early afternoon, Healani had started to drop off the pace.

After 17 races, Kailua held a seven-point lead over Hui Nalu and an eight-point lead over Outrigger.

But Hui Nalu won the men's sophomore and women's junior races, and, after 20 events, they had tied Kailua. Outrigger still trailed by eight points.

Starting with the 21st event, the men's juniors, Outrigger took control by winning six straight races. After 23 events it was Kailua 56, Outrigger 55 and Hui Nalu 54.

Just three races later — the men's and women's senior masters and the women's open fours — Outrigger held a nine-point lead over Kailua and a 13-point lead on Hui Nalu.

OCC finished second, third, first and first in the last four races to win going away.

"We gave it our very best shot, I'm proud of my club because everybody hung in there throughout the regatta,"

said Kailua co-head coach Pat Erwin.

"We like to win this regatta more than any regatta because in the state race you don't know what you're up against," he added. "This is the most important regatta of the season for me. I don't think we've ever been higher for a regatta than this one."

In the end, Kailua couldn't match Outrigger's depth, which limited its options. "We went very straight (didn't change many people)," said Erwin.

Despite the bitter loss, Erwin dished out praise to his competition.

"Hats off to Mike Fox, the guy is a terrific head coach," said Erwin. "The guy has a lot of class. They're all our friends (in Outrigger) and there's no grudge between us. We're paddling because we love the sport, not because we want to beat Outrigger."

He also praised Hui Nalu, saying "I think another thing you guys have to remember is that it isn't just Kailua and Outrigger out here. Hui Nalu put on an unreal display of their depth today."

Hui Nalu head coach Darryl Hara was pleased with his team's effort, but conceded, "It still ended up the way we figured it would come out. I thought that Kailua might have a good shot to win today, but Outrigger was too strong and too deep."

CHAMPIONSHIP NOTES: With the Kailua women's junior masters team losing, that left the Outrigger's boys 11s as the only undefeated OHCRA crew this year. . . The start of the championships was delayed for just more than an hour while officials tried to realign some of the flags at the quarter-mile mark. . . Of the first seven races of the day, all involving paddlers 14 years and under, Healani won three races and Leeward Kai two.



Canoes

OAHU HAWAIIAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS At Keehi Lagoon

Team Standings— AA: Outrigger 82, Kailua 74, Hui Nalu 59, Healani 50, Lanikila 12. **A:** Leeward Kai 15, Anuenue and Hui Lanikila 12, Surfsports and Waimanalo 3, Makaha and Waikalua 2, Waikiki Surf 1.

MALE: 12s (¼ mile): Leeward (Kamala Nahinu, Malcolm Kekawa, Byrn Corn, Wendel Kamealoha, Chucky Bolt, Vincent Burton), 2:09.34. **13s (¼):** Healani (Craig Souza, Kai Ah Sam, Brant Vida, Ryan Hoke, Nelson Sai, Kealii Palaina), 1:56.65. **14s (¼):** Healani (Dwayne Bautista, Neal Rapozo, Kosngog Klurer, Jesse Alverio, Keoni Brash, Ronald Dickson), 1:54.78. **16s (½):** Kailua (Donavan Leandro, Ikaika Kincaid, Hekili Shuman, Chris Sheeder, Stacy Nakamura, Kelli Heen), 3:50.21. **18s (1):** Outrigger (Wyatt Jones, Hunter Eggers, Jonathan Glaser, Craig Campbell, Guy Hicks, Heath Hemmings), 7:54.29. **Novice A (¾):** Kailua (Todd Hart, Jim Abelee, Jim Joy, Dan Lau, Bob Coble, Kimo White), 6:02.98. **Novice B (½):** Anuenue (George Godfrey, Lance O, Jeffrey Samante, Jose A. Valentin, Robbie Kane, Dan DeFries), 3:47.97. **Freshmen (1):** Anuenue (Aaron Napoleon, Raven Aipa, Wallace Rezentes, Boy laea, Jr., Darryn Napoleon, David Napoleon), 7:50.76. **Sophomores (1½):** Hui Nalu (Harold Akeo, Bob Rochelaau, Darryl Hara, John Mailolo, Matt Higgins, Kala Kukea), 11:44.97. **Juniors (2):** Outrigger (Mike Fox, Grady Bintcliff, Bruce Black, Mark Rigg, Giv Bintliff, Tom Conner), 15:55.14. **Seniors (2½):** Outrigger (Kainoa Downing, Mark Rigg, Chris Kincaid, Walter Guild, Scott Rolles, Tom Conner), 19:44.80. **Junior Masters (1):** Outrigger (Henry Ayau, Bill Bright, Bill Danford, John Finney, John Mounts, Brant Ackerman), 7:41.38. **Senior Masters (½):** Outrigger (Chris McKenzie, Tom Merrill, Ken Stewhouwer, Norman Ho, Mike Town, Bruce Ames), 4:06.59. **Open 4s (½):** Kailua (Randy Silva, Kamoa Kalama, Pat Erwin, Billy Wittford), 4:02.59.

FEMALE: 12s (¼): Kailua (Desiree Epil, Ali Kaina, Robin Jacobs, Kaliko Amona, Mahina Souza, Pa'ahana Kincaid), 2:28.35. **13s (¼):** Healani (Candelaria Reyes, Elena Savainaea, Traci Wong-Leong, Carina Tagupa, Malia O'Hara, Staceylynn Awa), 2:26.49. **14s (¼):** Hui Nalu (Christina Jahrlig, Cecilia Spielman, Kawehi Ah Moi, Tasha Aipa, Melanie Behm, Jenny Fine), 2:13.06. **16s (½):** Outrigger (Ceedee Sheehan, Malia Kamisugi, Diane Wilbur, Malia Buck, Tara Osborne, Jackie Muller), 4:29.47. **18s (½):** Kailua (Kristen Ornellas, Umi Malama, Ingrid Llewelyn, Kara McHale, Kirsten Metzger, Dondi Dawson), 4:43.03. **Novice A (½):** Hui Nalu (Denise Janko, Kathleen Scott, Nalani Blaisdell, Robin Dang, Julie Hengel, B.J. Moffett), 4:28.56. **Novice B (¾):** Outrigger (Debra Zabriskie, Paula Jenkins, Kaili Chun, Anna-Maria Grune, Anna Goss, Laura Soller-Miller), 22:02.90. **Freshmen (¾):** Outrigger (Tia Payes, Katie McCrary, Genie Kincaid, Terri Pynchon, Mary Smolenski, Monte Costa), 6:55.34. **Sophomores (1½):** Healani (Laurie Seto, Kelly Fey, Lorey Bode, Laurel Clay, Carolyn Jean McKinnie, Robin Nonaka), 8:42.60. **Juniors (1¼):** Hui Nalu (Sandy Combis, Becky Hara, Sharon Bourke, Sue Erickson, Lindsay Styan, Marion Lyman-Merserein), 11:46.75. **Seniors (1½):** Outrigger (Muffer Scully, Sandra Haine, Diana Clifford, Kay Bourne, Piilani Schneider, Mary Lemes), 13:45.49. **Junior Masters (1):** Outrigger (Sandra Haine, Finney Richard,