

It's summer fun as Hui Nalu spans OCC for Oahu crown

By Andy Yamaguchi
Advertiser Sports Writer

The way Kala Kukea sees it, paddling an outrigger canoe shouldn't be like getting an audition with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"It's a fun summer thing. It's not like trying out for the NFL," said the 36-year-old head coach of Hui Nalu.

"Our philosophy is to get everybody to paddle," Kukea said. With a 210-member club, that means a lot of crew-shuffling from week to week. "Maybe it's not the best crews, but we want to get everybody involved."

With that philosophy, Hui Nalu split the season's first six regattas with Outrigger Canoe Club.

But yesterday was different.

With the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association title on the line, Kukea filled each of his crews with its best six paddlers and blasted arch-rival Outrigger out of the waters of Keahi Lagoon.

Hui Nalu rolled up 75 points to OCC's 54 for an easier-than-expected

team victory and a fourth consecutive Oahu title. Kailua was third with 43 points, Healani fourth with 38 and Lanikai fifth with 33.

Highlighting Hui Nalu's victory was a record-breaking — and, for Outrigger, back-breaking — effort in the junior men's race.

The crew of Steve Wood, Barry McKeown, John West, Rob Burns, Ray Lum and James Kodama covered the 1½-mile course in 12 minutes, 27.6 seconds — 11.5 seconds faster than the old mark set by Hui Lanai-ka in 1979.

"They've always had it. It just took time to get their act together," Kukea said of that crew, which hadn't won a race all season.

They gave Hui Nalu a 55-00 lead with just five races to go. And if that wasn't the knockout punch, it at least sent Outrigger reeling against the ropes.

OCC had been making a comeback, too. Halfway through the meet it trailed Hui Nalu 35-24, but Outrigger chipped away until it trailed 38-35 with eight races left.

Then Hui Nalu stiffened, edging OCC for second place in the men's open fours, storming to victory in the junior women and winning junior men. In just half an hour OCC's deficit went from three points to 15.

It wasn't a good day for Outrigger. Its boys' 12-under crew, which had won its race, was disqualified for a false start. "That hurt," said head coach Walt Guild. But halfway through the meet he remained confident. "I hate these down-to-the-wire races," he said.

As it turned out, Hui Nalu took all the suspense out of the day when it won both senior men's and senior women's races. And it looked like Kukea's time-sharing philosophy has paid dividends.

"In one crew I have 18 people, so you see how much I have to move crews around," he said. "If they come out and train all year and never get in a race they'll never come back. We might have a guy who's not so good — next year he'll come back and be our best paddler."

See results on Page D-2

HAWAIIAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION Oahu Pacific Regatta of Keahi Lagoon Hawaiian Championships 1980

Senior — 1. Hui Nalu 16:34.3, 2. Outrigger 17:02.2, 3. Kailua 17:12.3, 4. Healani 17:14.3, 5. Lanikai 17:16.3
Junior — 1. Kailua 17:01.5, 2. Healani 17:08.5, 3. Lanikai 17:15.5, 4. Hui Nalu 17:22.5, 5. Outrigger 17:29.5
Open — 1. Hui Nalu 17:30.5, 2. Kailua 17:37.5, 3. Outrigger 17:44.5, 4. Healani 17:51.5, 5. Lanikai 17:58.5
12 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 18:00.5, 2. Kailua 18:07.5, 3. Outrigger 18:14.5, 4. Healani 18:21.5, 5. Lanikai 18:28.5
10 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 18:36.5, 2. Kailua 18:43.5, 3. Outrigger 18:50.5, 4. Healani 18:57.5, 5. Lanikai 19:04.5
7 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 19:10.5, 2. Kailua 19:17.5, 3. Outrigger 19:24.5, 4. Healani 19:31.5, 5. Lanikai 19:38.5
5 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 19:42.5, 2. Kailua 19:49.5, 3. Outrigger 19:56.5, 4. Healani 20:03.5, 5. Lanikai 20:10.5
3 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 20:18.5, 2. Kailua 20:25.5, 3. Outrigger 20:32.5, 4. Healani 20:39.5, 5. Lanikai 20:46.5
1 & 2 — 1. Hui Nalu 20:54.5, 2. Kailua 21:01.5, 3. Outrigger 21:08.5, 4. Healani 21:15.5, 5. Lanikai 21:22.5

WOMEN

Senior — 1. Hui Nalu 10:09.4, 2. Outrigger 10:31.1, 3. Healani 10:52.8, 4. Lanikai 11:14.5, 5. Kailua 11:36.2
Junior — 1. Hui Nalu 11:01.1, 2. Healani 11:22.8, 3. Lanikai 11:44.5, 4. Kailua 12:06.2

12 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 11:31.1, 2. Kailua 11:42.8, 3. Outrigger 11:54.5, 4. Healani 12:06.2, 5. Lanikai 12:17.9
10 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 11:56.1, 2. Kailua 12:07.8, 3. Outrigger 12:19.5, 4. Healani 12:31.2, 5. Lanikai 12:42.9
7 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 12:01.1, 2. Kailua 12:12.8, 3. Outrigger 12:24.5, 4. Healani 12:36.2, 5. Lanikai 12:47.9
5 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 12:12.1, 2. Kailua 12:23.8, 3. Outrigger 12:35.5, 4. Healani 12:47.2, 5. Lanikai 12:58.9
3 & Under — 1. Hui Nalu 12:17.1, 2. Kailua 12:28.8, 3. Outrigger 12:40.5, 4. Healani 12:52.2, 5. Lanikai 13:03.9
1 & 2 — 1. Hui Nalu 12:17.1, 2. Kailua 12:28.8, 3. Outrigger 12:40.5, 4. Healani 12:52.2, 5. Lanikai 13:03.9

OCC

12 & Under — 1. Kailua 12:01.1, 2. Healani 12:12.8, 3. Outrigger 12:24.5, 4. Lanikai 12:36.2, 5. Hui Nalu 12:47.9
10 & Under — 1. Kailua 12:06.1, 2. Healani 12:17.8, 3. Outrigger 12:29.5, 4. Lanikai 12:41.2, 5. Hui Nalu 12:52.9
7 & Under — 1. Kailua 12:11.1, 2. Healani 12:22.8, 3. Outrigger 12:34.5, 4. Lanikai 12:46.2, 5. Hui Nalu 12:57.9
5 & Under — 1. Kailua 12:16.1, 2. Healani 12:27.8, 3. Outrigger 12:39.5, 4. Lanikai 12:51.2, 5. Hui Nalu 13:02.9
3 & Under — 1. Kailua 12:21.1, 2. Healani 12:32.8, 3. Outrigger 12:44.5, 4. Lanikai 12:56.2, 5. Hui Nalu 13:07.9
1 & 2 — 1. Kailua 12:26.1, 2. Healani 12:37.8, 3. Outrigger 12:49.5, 4. Lanikai 13:01.2, 5. Hui Nalu 13:12.9

THINK SCORING

1. Hui Nalu 75, 2. Outrigger 54, 3. Kailua 43, 4. Healani 38, 5. Lanikai 33, 6. Waikehi 32, 7. Hui Lanai-ka 28, 8. Healani 28, 9. Kailua 28, 10. Lanikai 28, 11. Waikehi 28, 12. Healani 28, 13. Kailua 28, 14. Lanikai 28, 15. Waikehi 28, 16. Healani 28, 17. Kailua 28, 18. Lanikai 28, 19. Waikehi 28, 20. Healani 28, 21. Kailua 28, 22. Lanikai 28, 23. Waikehi 28, 24. Healani 28, 25. Kailua 28, 26. Lanikai 28, 27. Waikehi 28, 28. Healani 28, 29. Kailua 28, 30. Lanikai 28, 31. Waikehi 28, 32. Healani 28, 33. Kailua 28, 34. Lanikai 28, 35. Waikehi 28, 36. Healani 28, 37. Kailua 28, 38. Lanikai 28, 39. Waikehi 28, 40. Healani 28, 41. Kailua 28, 42. Lanikai 28, 43. Waikehi 28, 44. Healani 28, 45. Kailua 28, 46. Lanikai 28, 47. Waikehi 28, 48. Healani 28, 49. Kailua 28, 50. Lanikai 28, 51. Waikehi 28, 52. Healani 28, 53. Kailua 28, 54. Lanikai 28, 55. Waikehi 28, 56. Healani 28, 57. Kailua 28, 58. Lanikai 28, 59. Waikehi 28, 60. Healani 28, 61. Kailua 28, 62. Lanikai 28, 63. Waikehi 28, 64. Healani 28, 65. Kailua 28, 66. Lanikai 28, 67. Waikehi 28, 68. Healani 28, 69. Kailua 28, 70. Lanikai 28, 71. Waikehi 28, 72. Healani 28, 73. Kailua 28, 74. Lanikai 28, 75. Waikehi 28, 76. Healani 28, 77. Kailua 28, 78. Lanikai 28, 79. Waikehi 28, 80. Healani 28, 81. Kailua 28, 82. Lanikai 28, 83. Waikehi 28, 84. Healani 28, 85. Kailua 28, 86. Lanikai 28, 87. Waikehi 28, 88. Healani 28, 89. Kailua 28, 90. Lanikai 28, 91. Waikehi 28, 92. Healani 28, 93. Kailua 28, 94. Lanikai 28, 95. Waikehi 28, 96. Healani 28, 97. Kailua 28, 98. Lanikai 28, 99. Waikehi 28, 100. Healani 28