



"Shall we go out and watch the others come across the finish line?" Tiare Finney and Mary Franco.



Admiring the Perpetual Trophy are Lesline Conner, Jeanne Jenkins.



Reflection of a job-well-done: Tracy Phillips.



What a day! Left to right, Mary Franco, Lesline Conner, Muffer Scully and Mary Mason.



Jeanne Jenkins takes a well-deserved snooze.

# The Dad Center: How It All Began

By Joan Kaaua

Ten years ago, three OCC members: Mark Buck, Archie Ka au'a and Tom Conner got together to discuss plans for a first . . . a distance race for women.

With the approval and support of our Board of Directors, a course was set, from Hawaii Kai to the club. A gentle man, a man who for many years coached women in swimming and paddling, Dad Center, would be the person for whom the race would be named.

Ten years ago, women racing from Hawaii Kai to our Club was considered quite a distance. Today, it's not much of a workout for our dedicated wahine paddlers. Ten years ago the thought of women making ocean changes made a few males nervous. Today, it's a part of their racing program that seems as natural a thing to do as picking up their paddles and getting into the canoe from the beach.

Our wahines quickly caught on to ocean crew changes and won the first Dad Center race. Other club crews have taken a little longer to master this maneuver and stories are still told by paddlers who have had coaches in the water to assist them. The coaches, a little too anxious, shoved the wahines up and out of the water . . . over the canoe . . . and into the ocean on the other side!

The Outrigger crew that won this year's Dad Center race has built quite a reputation for themselves. They flew to Kona to compete in the Liliuokalani Distance race . . . and won. They returned the following week to compete in another distance race, the King Kamehameha Classic . . . and won. They participated with 21 other crews in a first-time scrimmage, both men's and women's crews competing against each other, and won the women's division and came in 7th overall, beating several men's teams.

We are very proud of our wahine team. We wish our ladies well and thank them for a fabulous season.