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Bradley still the team to beat

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Much has changed, but much remains the same for the Team Bradley women's crew.

Even with a revamped lineup, Team Bradley continued its winning ways yesterday with a convincing victory in the Dad Center Long Distance Race for women's teams.

Team Bradley completed the 25-mile course from Kailua Beach to the Outrigger Canoe Club in 3 hours, 17 minutes, 36 seconds.

Team Bradley — which is named after canoe builder Sonny Bradley — is the four-time defending champion of the Na Wahine O Ke Kai women's championship race.



Team Bradley used a revamped lineup to paddle to a convincing victory in the Dad Center Long Distance Race for women yesterday.

ANDREW SHIMABUKU | The Honolulu Advertiser

However, only five of the 10 paddlers from last year's Team Bradley championship crew paddled in yesterday's win.

"This is still Team Bradley because we're honoring Uncle Sonny," returning paddler Mahealani Botelho said. "But one of our goals is to bring in new people and give them the opportunity that we have to feel love and strength and happiness while paddling."

Members of the winning crew were Botelho, Noelani Auger, Lauren Bartlett, Kelly Fey, Andrea Moller, Jennifer Binney, Kristin Foster, Alana Goo, Lori Nakamura and Nicole Spalding.

The crew is a mix of elite paddlers from O'ahu, Kaua'i and Maui.

The returnees from last year are Botelho, Auger, Bartlett, Fey and Moller.

"There's a lot of pressure," said Nakamura, one of the newcomers. "I still feel the pressure now. I feel like there's a lot of expectations to live up to."

Because of the unique blend of paddlers, Team Bradley rarely practices together. Instead, they depend mostly on self-discipline and solo training sessions on one-person canoes.

"We have a couple of fun, big training runs planned together, so that's huge," Bartlett said. "The more time together, the better. But we're all disciplined. We all do our homework and that's the main thing."

More than 50 all-female crews participated in the race. It was the first "warm-up" long-distance race for Hawai'i crews before the Na Wahine O Ke Kai on Sept. 27.

The crews battled rugged conditions off East O'ahu, but then got to ride waves in the last eight to 10 miles.

"We kind of just started off at our own pace and everyone was hammering into the wind for the first hour or so," Bartlett said.

Team Bradley broke away from the pack off Maunalua Bay.

Hui Lanakila placed second with a time of 3:23:55 — nearly one mile behind Team Bradley.

"They were way inside and we were outside, running the line we were told to run, and it was a good line," Hui Lanakila's Sarah Van De Vanter said. "But (Team Bradley) just got spit out right at Black Point and we never saw them again."

Members of Hui Lanakila's crew were Michelle Arnold, Mikala Bradley, Violet Carillo, Seraphina Eames, Heali'i Heine, Arlene Holzman, Jaimie Kinard, Sarajane Larkin, Claire Townsend and Van De Vanter.

Like Team Bradley, Hui Lanakila is trying a new lineup this year. Five of the 10 paddlers in yesterday's Hui Lanakila crew are returnees from last year's team that finished runner-up to Team Bradley in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai.

"I think it was a good practice," said Townsend, one of the newcomers. "Of our crew, there were five new girls, so going in rough conditions was probably a good thing."

Waikiki Beachboys placed third in 3:25:02, and Outrigger was fourth in 3:29:12.

Keahiakahoe's fifth-place finish (3:29:22) was impressive when considering that it was a masters 40-older crew.

Kailua placed 18th overall and first in the masters 50-older division with a time of 3:50:02.

The next major race for both men's and women's teams is the Queen Lili'uokalani Long Distance Canoe Races on the Big Island, Sept. 5 and 6.

FINAL RESULTS

OVERALL

1, Team Bradley, 3:17:36. 2, Hui Lanakila-1, 3:23:55. 3, Waikiki Beachboys-1, 3:25:02. 4, Outrigger-white, 3:29:12. 5, Keahiakahoe masters, 3:29:22. 6, Kailua-1, 3:32:17. 7, Hui Lanakila-2, 3:33:03. 8, Kaiola-1, 3:33:25. 9, Hui Nalu-1, 3:35:49. 10, Lanakila (California), 3:37:57. 11, Lae'ula O Kai-1, 3:39:24. 12, Waikiki Beachboys-2, 3:40:58. 13, Niumalu, 3:41:35. 14, Lanikai-1, 3:47:33. 15, Kaiola-2, 3:47:46. 16, Outrigger-red, 3:48:28. 17, Hawaiian, 3:49:11. 18, Kailua 50s, 3:50:02. 19, Healani-blue, 3:51:46. 20, Outrigger-masters, 3:53:25. 21, Hui Nalu-2, 3:53:34. 22, Lae'ula O Kai-2, 3:53:36. 23, Waikiki Beachboys-3, 3:56:51. 24, Hanalei, 3:56:54. 25, Keahiakahoe-red, 3:59:02. 26, Kailua-2, 4:00:15. 27, Kaiola-3, 4:01:09. 28, North Shore, 4:01:41. 29, Hui Lanakila-3, 4:04:26. 30, Lanikai-2, 4:04:32. 31, Lokahi-1, 4:05:43. 32, Keahiakahoe-white, 4:11:38. 33, Kailua-3, 4:13:15. 34, Kailua-youth, 4:13:51. 35, Niumalu 50s, 4:14:50. 36, Hui Nalu-3, 4:15:03. 37, Waikiki Yacht Club-2, 4:16:40. 38, Waikiki Surf Club, 4:16:47. 39, Keahiakahoe-black, 4:20:14. 40, Manu O Ke Kai, 4:21:46. 41, Ka Mamalahoe, 4:23:10. 42, Lanikai 50s, 4:24:15. 43, Waikiki Beachboys-4, 4:25:34. 44, Leeward Kai, 4:27:46. 45, Manu O Ke Kai-2, 4:29:16. 46, Healani-white, 4:29:53. 47, Outrigger-blue, 4:31:28. 48, Waikiki Yacht Club-1, 4:33:50. 49, Lanikai-3, 4:34:18. 50, Kailua-4, 4:40:03.

MASTERS 40-OLDER

1, Keahiakahoe, 3:29:22. 2, Kaiola-1, 3:33:25. 3, Outrigger, 3:53:25. 4, Kaiola-3, 4:01:09. 5, Manu O Ke Kai, 4:21:46.

MASTERS 50-OLDER

1, Kailua, 3:50:02. 2, Niumalu, 4:14:50. 3, Lanikai, 4:24:15.

YOUTH 18-YOUNGER

1, Kailua, 4:13:51.