

# Sports Afloat and Ashore

By Jerry Ober

(Ed. note: The following eyewitness account of the Hilo Regatta came in too late to make the September "Outrigger." It is published here because it goes into interesting details not included in our September account of the event.)

The Summer Outrigger Canoe Racing Season came to an end with the running of the Annual State Championship Regatta held this year on August 18th at Hilo. With the end of the season came the end of Outrigger's hopes of placing high in the final scoring.

The Championships were not a great day in the Club's annals of canoe racing. Outrigger managed only two first places. They went to the highly successful Boys 12 A and the less predictable Boys 16. Beyond these two welcome winners came Women Sophomore, Men Sophomore and Junior Women, all in third place finishes. (Outrigger did not place 2nd in any event!) In fourth place were the Boys 12 B and the Men's Novice B. That was all the scoring for Outrigger in the entire regatta.

As is often the case, there is more to the story than the numerical scores indicate. In every sport there are breaks; sometimes you get them, sometimes you don't. Outrigger was on the minus side of the breaks in this regatta. Often the finish of a race will look like a hopeless log jam at the line, anyone's guess who finished first. Outrigger had its share of these moments; maybe not for first place, but for second or third. But somehow that bright red manu got lost when the counting was done at a steady rate.

Other problems cropped up. The Freshmen Men, a particularly well trained crew, fell victim to one of the oldest problems of the sport: another canoe with a steersman who got out of his lane and collided with our crew, knocking them out of contention. Those are the heartbreakers. Other factors were currents and winds in the unfamiliar Hilo Bay. These are the obvious reasons for OCC's uninspired showing. There are others far more complex and harder to sort out.

The two winning crews — Boys 12 A and Boys 16 — are to be congratulated on their fine performances. The Boys 12 A started the season as

winners, went into a mid-season slump, then came back strong. On the winning 12 A's were: Patrick Ayau; Toby Morris; Billy Bugbee; Greg Crane; Jay Zukerkorn, and steersman Pua Rochlen.

The Boys 16 had an up and down season, often close but not first. Their only win prior to the State Regatta was in the Leeward Kai meet. They suffered personnel problems as the summer progressed, losing paddlers to mainland trips and pre-season football practice, but put it all together for the Hilo affair. The winning crew was made up of: Jay Anderson; Billy Foytich; Mark Rigg; Mike Haxton; Ricky Lemke, and steersman Kainoa Downing.

## The Duke Kahanamoku Race

The week following the State Championships, the first of the 1973 long distance races was held. This event, honoring the memory of the late Duke Kahanamoku, is a 24-mile course of thrills from Kailua Beach Park around Makapuu Point, Sandy Beach and Diamond Head to the finish at the Hawaiian Village Beach. Conditions this year were "moderate," which is still enough to christianize those unfamiliar with the course.

Our Club had intended to enter three canoes in the race, but that plan was fouled up by the failure of the power boat that was to have escorted the *Kakina*. So it was that we ended up with two crews, one made up primarily of paddlers from the Freshmen crew of the regatta season, and the other made up of younger paddlers from the season's 14- and 16-year-old crews, the latter captained by Fred Hemmings, Jr. The loss of the first crew, made up of paddlers from the Senior, Junior and Sophomore crews, was a blow to the Club's hopes of placing high in the race. As it turned out, the Outrigger Freshmen crew did quite well, taking fourth place. The Boys crew took 8th overall.

Winners of the race were the Wai-kiki Surf Club paddlers, who continued to place well after their most successful senior men's season. They

were closely followed by a "beach boys' " crew from a group called the Warriors. The Warriors took second place but were disqualified for failure to weigh in their canoe before the race. Host club Lanikai took second and third.

Paddling with the OCC Freshmen were: Milton Beamer; Dale Hope; Doug Straehley; John Crocker; Mike Mason (who steered all the way); Jody D'Enbeau; Tuck Siegfried; Marshall Rosa and Bill Mowatt. Helpers were Coach Archie Kaaua and Albert Lemes. In the Junior boat were: Jim Bugbee; Bill Foytich; Karl Heyer IV; Rick Lemke; Tom Henke; Kainoa Downing; Robby Muller; Scott Rolles, and Fred Hemmings, Jr. Helpers were: Donny Mailer; Cline Mann and escort boat owner and driver, Fred Swartz.

Incidentally, some interesting statistics have been compiled concerning the time taken to complete the course from Kailua Beach Park to the Village. The Outrigger crew won the first running of the event in 3 hours, 44 minutes and 8 seconds. In 1968, as in 1969, the race finished at the Moana Hotel. Since 1968, the Waikiki Surf Club has been a consistent winner. Their best time — 3:23:00 — was made this year. Outrigger's 1973 Freshmen canoe, which finished in fourth place this year, made it in 3:31:00, while the Junior Boys crew took 3:43:09, both times better than the winning OCC crew's time in 1968 despite the fact that this year's crews had to paddle half a mile farther. Either the crews or the canoes must be getting better, and we'll opt for the crews. (Could weather and water conditions have anything to do with it?)