

Hawaiian Canoe Club Dominates

By Kyle Galdeira

Special to the Star-Advertiser

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Aug 3, 2014



CINDY ELLEN RUSSELL / CRUSSELL@STARADVERTISER.COM

Crews took off at the start of the men's junior race during Saturday's Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta at Keehi Lagoon.

In 2001, Hawaiian Canoe Club of Maui won its first state title and marked the turn of the century by establishing itself as the team to beat within local outrigger canoe paddling ranks.

The juggernaut that is Hawaiian proved it is still worthy of sporting "No Ka Oi" emblazoned on its racing jerseys after securing a second consecutive state title -- and 11th in 14 years -- by dominating the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta at Keehi Lagoon on Saturday. The Kahului-based club racked up nine individual race wins and dominated the AAAA division (21-40 crews entered) with 389 points.

Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association rivals Kailua (341 points), Hui Nalu (308 points), Outrigger (290 points) and Lanikai (276 points), along with fourth-place finisher Kihei (300 points), could not catch up in the large division after Hawaiian won six of the first 19 races in building an early 46-point lead over OHCRA champion Hui Nalu and Kailua. With 17 races remaining, Hawaiian had bolstered its advantage to 67 points over Kailua -- a margin that proved insurmountable.

Hawaiian clinched the overall victory after its mixed 40 crew raced to gold in 3 minutes, 56.15 seconds and held off Hui Nalu (4:03.07) and Kailua (4:04.63). The crew of Bruce Uu, Mark Soon, JB Guard, Theresa Gerry, Michelle Arnold and Karen Mooiweer were greeted by a large human victory tunnel formed by club supporters as word of the imminent state championship spread.

"Some of us in this crew have been paddling since we were teenagers and we've formed a combination of awesome paddlers and friends for life," said Uu. "It's important to have fun, practice and remember the cultural aspect involved with paddling and everything else falls into place. Our kids are the strength of our program and the goal is to perpetuate this legacy once we're gone."

Hawaiian qualified 40 crews for the state competition -- the highest mark amongst all participating teams -- and used the advantage, as coach Diane Ho had hoped prior to the race, without making costly mistakes. Hawaiian has dominated the Valley Isle competition, as the dynastic club recently won its 30th consecutive Maui County Hawaiian Canoe Association championship.

Nearly 3,500 paddlers ranging in age from 12 and under to 65 and above, representing 50 canoe clubs from six organizations and five islands, competed in 41 events ranging in length from a quarter-mile to 1.5 miles. Competitors braved sweltering, humid conditions but were treated to smooth water that made for an even racing surface across the 14-lane course.

Oahu clubs entered the day with the "home water" advantage, but Hawaiian overcame any obstacles created by the travel and other logistics. In the three previous state regattas at Keehi (2008, 2010 and 2012), Lanikai won the first two instances by a combined four points and shared the title with Kailua two years ago. Conversely, the 2009, 2011 and 2013 state championship events held at Hilo Bay; Hanakaoo Beach in Lahaina, Maui; and Hanalei Bay, Kauai, resulted in Hawaiian notching comfortable victories with winning margins of 60, 59 and 24 points.

OHCRA member Keahiakahoe (131 points) fell short of repeating as AAA Division (13-20 crews entered) champion, and was surpassed by late surges from perennial power Keauhou (141 points) of the Big Island's Moku O Hawaii Outrigger Canoe Racing Association and Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i (140 points), which just completed its second undefeated Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a regular season in three years.

The Waikiki Beach Boys (125 points) dominated the AA Division (7-12 crews) and bested Puna (102 points) of the Big Island and fellow Hui Wa'a member Manu O Ke Kai (85 points).

Waikiki won the women's sophomore, junior and senior events to secure valuable points late in the day. In keeping with tradition, Waikiki shared Keauhou's koa canoe, because the Beach Boys do not have their own.

The Beach Boys capped undefeated seasons in the women's sophomore and senior events, the first of which featured an exciting battle with Hui Nalu. Waikiki and Hui Nalu were side-by-side entering the third and final turn of the 1-mile event until the Beach Boys pulled away down the final -mile stretch after employing what steerswoman Chelsea Bizik described as a "double kick" of power strokes that resulted in a nine-second victory. Waikiki also downed Hui Nalu in the 1.5-mile senior race -- this time by a more comfortable 16-second margin -- and handed the yellow-and-black clad squad its first defeat of the season.

"It's always nice to be in a koa canoe -- it's beautiful and moves so smoothly in the water," said Bizik, who was accompanied in Waikiki's victorious sophomore and senior crews by Dana Gorecki, Jessica Kaawa, Alanna Bender, Kelsa Gabehart and Rachel Bruntsch. "We had some good practices with our turns. We also don't have a koa during the season, so it was my first time (this year) in the boat."

PADDLING RESULTS

HCRA State Championship

At Keehi Lagoon

TEAM STANDINGS

AAAA—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 389; 2. Kailua, 341; 3. Hui Nalu, 308; 4. Kihei Canoe Club, 300; 5. Outrigger, 290; 6. Lanikai, 276; 7. Kai Opuia Canoe Club; 8. Lae‘ula O Kai, 152.

AAA—1. Keauhou Canoe Club, 141; 2. Na Keiki O Ka Mo‘i, 140; 3. Keahiakahoe, 131; 4. Hanalei, 118; 5. I Mua, 50.

AA—1. Waikiki Beach Boys, 125; 2. Puna Canoe Club, 102; 3. Manu O Ke Kai, 85; 4. Kahana Canoe Club, 77; 5. Keaukaha Canoe Club, 74; 6. Napili, 72; 7. Kaneohe, 64; 8. Na Kai Ewalu, 62; 9. Ka Mamalahoe Canoe Club, 39; 10. New Hope, 23.

A—1. Hui Lanakila, 55; 2. Kawaihae Canoe Club, 54; 3. Kai ‘Ehitu, 51; t4. Leeward Kai, 47; t4. Waimanalo, 47; 6. Waikiki Surf Club, 44; 7. Healani, 41; 8. Niumalu, 38; 9. Kamehameha, 33; 10. Kamehameha Canoe Club, 32.

11. Olelo O Keola, 31; 12. Anuenue, 30; 13. Kilohana, 29; 14. Wa‘akapaemua, 26; 15. Paddlers of Laka, 24; 16. North Shore, 24; 17. Keola O Ke Kai, 20; t18. Koa Kai, 19; t18. Lokahi, 19; 20. Puuwai, 15.

21. Kai Poha, 12; 22. Molokai 10; 23. Hana, 8; t24. Windward Kai, 4; t24. Kaiola Canoe Club, 4; t26. Koloa, 3; t26. ‘Alapa Hoe, 3; 28. Kamaha‘o Canoe Club, 1.

Girls 12—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Kalena Vaivai, Kaila Medeiros, Liana Vasconcellos, Nanea Andrade, Shannon Purdy, Olivia Almeida), 02:16.1; 2. Kai 'Ehitu, 02:20.9; 3. Hanalei, 02:21.5.

Boys 12—1. Keaukaha Canoe Club (Kaleoali'i Macanas, Kekoa Denne Kimi, Kahiau Walker, Nalu Lewis, Keone Agpoon, Honu Longley-Ka'aumoana), 02:08.6; 2. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 02:11.1; 3. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 02:17.5.

Mixed boys and girls 12—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Kaila Medeiros, Nanea Andrade, Kalena Vaivai, Laakea Garcia, Landon Kahalehau-Tonga, Ty Tau-a), 02:14.9; 2. Leeward Kai, 02:17.4; 3. Kawaihae Canoe Club, 02:19.1.

Girls 13—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Taysia Pimentel, Taylor Cho, Kale'a Paiva, Shannon Carpio, Kaya Givensel, Destynee Albiar), 02:17.1; 2. Waimanalo, 02:22.5; 3. Niumalu, 02:23.5.

Boys 13—1. Kai 'Ehitu (Malosi Laasaga, Iokepa Aponte, Hiram Anakalea Jr., Baba Weza, Swope Conn, Bronson Leslie), 02:00.1; 2. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 02:00.4; 3. Keaukaha Canoe Club, 02:01.1.

Girls 14—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Kaya Givensel, Taysia Pimentel, Kaysha Terry-AhKui, Hiilei Luuwai, Makena Dougherty, Victoria Naluai), 02:12.4; 2. Kai Opuia Canoe Club, 02:17.8; 3. Outrigger, 02:19.6.

Boys 14—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Makoa da Silva, Haena Balinbin, David Hoonan-Amby, Traesyn Shimoda, Wyatt Meyer, Devin Palazzotto-Cluney), 01:58.1; 2. Kihei Canoe Club, 01:59.6; 3. Kailua, 02:02.1.

Girls 15—1. Keahiakahoe (Harlee Jay-Pedro, Shaienne Estepa, Keaka Rodrigues, Tate Keliroomalu, Katelyn Kong, Shainna Estepa), 04:27.4; 2. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 04:28.5; 3. Waikiki Surf Club, 04:29.1.

Boys 15—1. Outrigger (Keolala'i Edwards, Hunter Johnson, Peter Cross Jr., Ethan Lewis, Ethan Siegfried, Cole Pelayo), 03:50.4; 2. Kailua, 03:51.1; 3. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 03:54.0.

Girls 16—1. Manu O Ke Kai (Eurica Diego, Shazary Sinclair, Kilia Chillingworth, Darcie Burke, Sarina Souki, Victoria Ann Avilla-Dabin), 04:27.8; 2. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 04:28.2; 3. Hui Nalu, 04:29.1.

Boys 16—1. Kailua (Sevin Lanting, Mokupaa Tincher-Day, Moses Kaawaloa, Kainalu Asam, Kai Kirkpatrick, Tyson Patterson), 03:47.9; 2. Keaukaha Canoe Club, 03:49.1; 3. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 03:50.2.

Girls 18—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Ashley Tanga, Hi'ilei Casco, Kahili Novikoff, Lihau Collier, Brenna Hoonan-Amby, Kaulu Luuwai), 04:14.3; 2. Waikiki Surf Club, 04:18.1; 3. Outrigger, 04:25.6.

Boys 18—1. Outrigger (Oliver Lewis, Kaiko Manson, Trevor Carlyle, Alike Philpotts, Kapono Fujitani, Kyle Chang), 07:50.4; 2. Hui Nalu, 08:01.9; 3. Hawaiian Canoe Club, 08:06.0.

Women novice A—1. Kahana Canoe Club (Jamie Kranberg, Allyson Johnson, Cynthia Conrad, Mindi Hawman, Melissa Kikkert, Suzi Tucker), 04:17.0; 2. Na Kai Ewalu, 04:27.4; 3. Kai Opuā Canoe Club, 04:28.1.

Men novice A—1. Kai Opuā Canoe Club (Gregory Payton, Shannon Hardy, Brian Cornel, Jimmer Tan, Bobby Galdones, Chris Sundstrom), 07:58.0; 2. Waikiki Beach Boys, 08:01.7; 3. Hui Lanakila, 08:02.2.

Women novice B—1. Outrigger (Britta Bourne, Tina Larson, Natasha Haine, Jennifer Fratzke, Tiffany Rabacal, Caryn Davies), 02:00.1; 2. Waikiki Beach Boys, 02:05.2; 3. Kailua, 02:05.5.

Men novice B—1. Kailua (Skoznee Pecora, Sean Barney, Scott Rathke, Brian Sultzer, Johnny Farfan, Gerald DeCorte), 03:48.1; 2. Kahana Canoe Club, 03:48.8; 3. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 03:49.4.

Mixed novice B—1. Na Kai Ewalu (Heather Hearon, Jonas Arcikausakas, Joshua Landry, Brandon Segal, Alissa Collins, Cat Vargas), 01:55.7; 2. Olelo O Keola, 01:56.0; 3. Hui Lanakila, 01:57.4.

Women freshmen—1. Kai Opuā Canoe Club (Nicki Lacey-Enos, Maile Leslie, Tiapepe Ulufaleilupe, Melanie Kelekolio, Cheryl Villegas, Alisa Prendergast), 08:37.9; 2. Hui Nalu, 08:40.4; 3. Waikiki Beach Boys, 08:40.7.

Men freshmen—1. Lanikai (Matt Crowley, Chauncey Cody, John Foti, Ka'ai Bruhn, Tapa Worthington, Jack Roney), 07:22.2; 2. Kailua, 07:24.8; 3. Kihei Canoe Club, 07:27.8.

Sophomore women—1. Waikiki Beach Boys (Dana Gorecki, Jessica Kaawa, Alanna Bender, Kelsa Gabehart, Rachel Bruntsch, Chelsea Bizik), 07:57.7; 2. Hui Nalu, 08:06.9; 3. Kailua, 08:42.4.

Sophomore men—1. Keauhou Canoe Club (Kainoa Tanoai, Kekoā Spoon, Trey Cox III, Ka'eo Peterson, Kua Nolan, Ikaika Hauanio), 07:16.5; 2. Kihei Canoe Club, 07:17.0; 3. Lanikai, 07:21.8.

Women junior—1. Waikiki Beach Boys (Jen Polcer, Alexia Lopez, Kimberly Ivey, Rachel Orange, Laura Birse, Eko Lapp), 08:31.1; 2. Hui Nalu, 08:45.0; 3. Kai Opuā Canoe Club, 08:51.5.

Men junior—1. Keauhou Canoe Club (Kainoa Tanoai, Trey Cox III, Chevis Conte, Kua Nolan, Ka'eo Peterson, Ikaika Hauanio), 07:26.4; 2. Kai Opuā Canoe Club, 07:32.7; 3. Kihei Canoe Club, 07:34.6.

Women senior—1. Waikiki Beach Boys (Dana Gorecki, Jessica Kaawa, Alanna Bender, Rachel Brunsch, Kelsa Gabehart, Chelsea Bizik), 12:35.8; 2. Hui Nalu, 12:51.9; 3. Kai Opua Canoe Club, 13:28.5.

Men senior—1. Lanikai (Kekoa Bruhn, Manny Kulukulualani, Jim Foti, Ka'ai Bruhn, Matt Crowley, Andreas Gaeta), 11:23.7; 2. Kihei Canoe Club, 11:29.1; 3. Outrigger, 11:30.0.

Women masters 40—1. Kailua (Nicole Radford, Sarajane Larkin, Woreen Hamocon, Karen Kiefer, Ginger Lockette, Laurie Rubie), 08:42.9; 2. Hui Nalu, 08:45.3; 3. Puna Canoe Club, 08:55.9.

Men Masters 40—1. Keauhou Canoe Club (Keone Au, Daniel Legler, Lyle Palakiko, Andy Witherspoon, Bruce Ayau, Nue Youderian), 07:36.2; 2. Kihei Canoe Club, 07:58.1; 3. Hui Nalu, 07:58.4.

Mixed masters 40—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Mark Soon, Bruce Uu, Jb Guard, Theresa Gerry, Michelle Arnold, Karen Mooiweer), 03:56.1; 2. Hui Nalu, 04:03.1; 3. Kailua, 04:04.6.

Senior women masters 50—1. Outrigger (Lisa Livingston, Katy Bourne, Marcie Nowack, Paula Crabb, Kisi Haine, Kimberley Darling), 04:25.4; 2. Kihei Canoe Club, 04:29.0; 3. Lanikai, 04:29.7.

Senior men masters 50—1. Lanikai (Bruce Lukas, Chauncey Wallwork, Bill Oliver, Scott Freitas, Gio Camuso, Jeff Cummings), 03:38.0; 2. Manu O Ke Kai, 03:38.9; 3. Puna Canoe Club, 03:43.2.

Women golden masters 55—1. Outrigger (Linda Fernandez, Paula Crabb, Katy Bourne, Kimberley Darling, Wendy Wichman, Laurie Lawson), 04:30.9; 2. Kailua, 04:31.8; 3. Hui Nalu, 04:32.5.

Men golden masters 55—1. Keauhou Canoe Club (Hunter Anderson, Forrest Wild, Paul Daugherty, Rupert Adarme, Lambert Lee Loy, Ned Burns), 03:50.1; 2. Kailua, 03:52.0; 3. Kihei Canoe Club, 03:52.4.

Mixed masters 55—1. Lanikai (Lisa Sauer, Cindi Chess, Ann Dewey, Bruce Lukas, Benny Quitevis, Dave Hafele), 04:05.9; 2. Keauhou Canoe Club, 04:10.2; 3. Kihei Canoe Club, 04:10.8.

Woman masters 60—1. Hui Nalu (Lurline McGregor, Marcia Omura, Katie Scott, Teresa Lathrop, Lita Blankenfeld, Christine Gibson), 04:34.5; 2. Wa'akapaemua, 04:38.2; 3. Keahiakahoe, 04:47.1.

Men masters 60—1. Outrigger (Kenny Bailey, Jimmy Kincaid, Thomas Arnott, Mel Mau, Chris Crabb, Bernie Paloma), 03:58.4; 2. Hui Nalu, 03:58.8; 3. Keahiakahoe, 04:00.4.

Women 65—1. Keahiakahoe (Judy Thurston, Susan Heitzman, Nani Akeo, Sarah Jane Watson, Mimi Frank, Mary Martin), 4:48.97; 2. Kai Opua Canoe Club, 4:50.79; 3. Outrigger, 4:51.33.

Men 65—1. Outrigger (Mark Buck, Geoff Avery, Juvie Coito, William Mowat, Chris Crabb, Willilam Johnson), 04:02.7; 2. Keauhou Canoe Club, 04:04.1; 3. Keahiakahoe, 04:04.9.

Women open four—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Dane Ward, Meghan Dunn, Lauren Spalding, Kealani Kimball), 04:27.9; 2. Hanalei, 04:28.7; 3. Kamehameha Canoe Club, 04:40.6.

Men open four—1. Puna Canoe Club (Jeremy Padayao, Keola Sumera-Lee, Kekoa Sumera-Lee, Jonah Kalima), 03:45.0; 2. Kawaihae Canoe Club, 03:51.6; 3. Kihei Canoe Club, 03:52.9.

Mixed men and women—1. Hawaiian Canoe Club (Jason Donovan, Tim Lara, Kapiro Grace, Kelsey Nae'ole, Tiare Lawrence, Barbara Querry), 03:50.4; 2. Healani, 03:52.9; 3. Kailua, 03:56.7.