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CANOE PADDLING

Lanikai is state's best canoe club

The Oahu organization wins the 50th Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Championship Regatta

By Brandon Lee
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The hype entering last Saturday's 50th Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta centered on a neighbor island club's shot at redemption.

From the very first race at Keehi Lagoon, however, it became clear that an Oahu club that had toiled steadily if unspectacularly since last year's disputed championship was intent on seizing vindication of its own.

At last year's championship on Maui, the Valley Isle's own Hawaiian Canoe Club was leading Lanikai Canoe of windward Oahu by six points when the regatta was called off due to darkness with two races still remaining. The races were never completed and no eventual winner was declared for the last championship of the previous millennium.

Since the controversial decision was handed down by HCRA officials last year, Hawaiian paddlers' general sentiment that they were robbed at the doorstep of becoming the second neighbor island club (Hanalei Civic of Kauai in 1982) to win a state championship has been well documented. The fact that Lanikai -- well within reach of Hawaiian -- was snubbed of an opportunity to win a second championship since 1996 received comparably little attention.

From the very first race of the first championship of the new millennium, however, Lanikai and its paddlers got everyone's attention.

Lanikai won that first race -- girls' 12-and-under -- and continued to perform solidly throughout last Saturday's championship. When the final results were tallied, and only after all 35 scheduled races were completed this time, Lanikai finished as the newly crowned state champion with a 17 point margin of victory over the nearest competitor -- Kailua Canoe Club. It was Lanikai's third championship in the history of the event (also 1966).

"This is very gratifying," Lanikai head coach Kalani Irvine said. "The fact that we were in a very close second last year and didn't get much attention only provided fuel for our fire. We took it to another level for the championship club-wide."

In breezy conditions that dealt a stiff headwind to crews heading toward the finish line, Lanikai racked up three more wins in the youth races and three in the open men's division to propel the club to victory. Lanikai has relied on the strength of its men's division for many years, but the stepped-up performance by its youngsters was huge for the club that experienced several narrow defeats during the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association regular season.

"Our kids were awesome," Irvine said. "We figured we'd take Hawaiian's punches in the youth division, but we weathered their storm and our kids counterpunched back."

Besides Lanikai's overall title, the championship saw a dominant performance from all OHCRA clubs involved. Association member Kailua finished in second with 278 points to Lanikai's 295. Despite having only 24 crews entered to Lanikai, Kailua and Maui champion Hawaiian's regatta-high 31, perennial association powerhouse Outrigger turned in quality performances throughout the day to finish in a tie for third with Hawaiian at 266.

In the divisions for smaller clubs, OHCRA members also finished in the top spots.

Highlighting that the Oahu association boasting the biggest number of clubs and paddlers is still the one to beat, Hui Lanakila won the AA division for clubs entering between nine and 17 crews with 179 points.

Keahiakahoe won the A division for clubs entering eight crews or less with 86 points.

"Considering that we had fewer crews than the other contenders, we're very happy with our performance," Outrigger head coach Kehau Kali said.

Other highlights on the golden anniversary of the championship were strong performances from a couple of Big Island clubs -- Kai O Pua and Puna, as well as the continued solid performance of OHCRA member Hui Nalu in the open women's division.

Kai O Pua managed a tight victory in the men's junior race, while Puna came through with one of its own in the men's freshmen. These were huge wins for the clubs that finished two and three,

respectively, in the AA division considering many expected Lanikai to sweep the four premier men's events (freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior).

Though Hui Nalu finished fifth in the AAA division with 204 points, the club came through with wins in the prestigious women's senior and junior races, as well as a second-place showing in the women's open 4. Hui Nalu entered the regatta as the favorite in the women's division, and it did not disappoint despite strong challenges from Kailua, and Lokahi -- the class of Oahu's other association, Hui Wa'a.

PADDLING

State Championships

At Ke'ehi Lagoon Saturday's results

Team standings

AAA Division: 1. Lanikai, 295 pts. 2. Kailua, 278. 3. (tie) Hawaiian and Outrigger, 266. 5. Hui Nalu, 204. 6. Malama Ula, 126.

AA Division: 1. Hui Lanakila, 179. 2. Kai Opuu, 159. 3. Puna, 158. 4. Lokahi, 148. 5. Kaneohe, 118. 6. Kawaihae, 105. 7. Hanalei, 92. 8. Napili, 87. 9. Kihei, 73. 10. Waikiki Yacht, 53.

A Division: 1. Keahiakahoe, 86. 2. Kaiola, 74. 3. Healani, 72. 4. Keaukaha, 70. 5. Hoopili, 67. 6. Waikiki Surf, 64. 7. (tie) Kahana and Kamehameha (Hawaii), 51. 9. Koa Kai, 44. 10. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 43. 11. (tie) Leeward Kai and Waikiki Beach Boys, 38. 13. (tie) Anuenue and Kamehameha (Oahu), 30. 15. Kalihi Kai, 28. 16. Keoua, 27. 17. Imua, 23. 18. Lae Ula O Kai, 21. 19. Manu O Ke Kai, 20. 20. (tie) Molokai and Windward Kai, 19. 22. Lahaina, 17. 23. Puuwai, 16. 24. (tie) Kumu Lokahi Elks and Na Kai Ewalu, 13. 26. Kai Oni, 12. 27. (tie) Hana and Kilohana, 11. 29. Waimanalo, 10. 30. Honolulu, 9. 31. Na Wa'a Hana Kahi, 7. 32. (tie) Hawaiian Outrigger and Keauhou O Kona, 5. 34. Kailana, 3. 35. Alapa Hoe, 1.

Boys

12 (1/4 mile): 1. Hawaiian (Joshua Naeole, Nainoa Awo, Thomas Salek, Kory Kahalekai, Konapilihi Porras-Ragsdale, William Taua), 2:10.78. 2. Hui Nalu, 2:13.63. 3. Keaukaha, 2:20.37. 4. Lokahi, 2:21.88. 5. Kailua, 2:23.92.

13 (1/4 mile): 1. Keaukaha (Kale Tim Sing, Bradley Kruse, Kunia Hassard, Kekoa Nako'oka, Aaron Hoke, Kelvin Jarneski), 2:05.68. 2. Lanikai, 2:06.74. 3. Kaneohe, 2:07.41. 4. Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, 2:08.98. 5. Hui Nalu, 2:09.85.

14 (1/4 mile): 1. Outrigger (Peter Van Lier Ribbink, Cutter Rolles, Jay Loui, Robby Field, Will Egesdal, Darragh O'Carroll), 1:53.11. 2. Hawaiian, 1:58.15. 3. Lanikai, 2:00.20. 4. Kaiola, 2:01.13. 5. Kaneohe, 2:03.99.

15 (1/2 mile): 1. Keahiakahoe (Neilan Madrid, Kea Sheldon, Taani Wolfgramm, Shaun Rodrigues, Justin Akana, Nahina Leeloy), 3:58.38. 2. Keaukaha, 4:02.49. 3. Hawaiian, 4:02.89. 4. Hanalei, 4:06.71. 5. Lokahi, 4:07.46.

16 (1/2 mile): 1. Outrigger (Jedd Chang, Adam Dornbush, Ross O'Carroll, Andy Cavanah, Matthew Moore, Scott Bright), 3:57.90. 2. Lanikai, 3:58.13. 3. Hawaiian, 3:58.67. 4. Keaukaha, 3:59.39. 5. Kaneohe, 4:00.49.

18 (1 mile): 1. Lanikai (Steve Murphy, Nick Torngren, Chris Driscoll, Milan Tresnak, Jesse McCarty, Ethan Creps), 7:59.91. 2. Keahiakahoe, 8:00.62. 3. Hawaiian, 8:12.81. 4. Outrigger, 8:27.40. 5. Leeward Kai, 8:37.27.

Girls

12 (1/4 mile): 1. Lanikai (Nicole Anderson, Kokee Cosina, Kierke Panisnick, Jordan Terry, Dawn Hunt, Lahi Young), 2:18.34. 2. Kailua, 2:22.47. 3. Keahiakahoe, 2:22.92. 4. Outrigger, 2:23.45. 5. Kaneohe, 2:26.82.

13 (1/4 mile): 1. Lanikai (Molly Aldred, Dana Yamashiro, Johanna Chapman, Tamara Dematos, Evan Dewey, Alexis Galbraith), 2:18.91. 2. Kailua, 2:19.80. 3. Hui Lanakila, 2:20.32. 4. Hoopili, 2:24.69. 5. Puna, 2:27.13.

14 (1/4 mile): 1. Outrigger (Ali Rigg, Haili Van Lier Ribbink, Kai Bourne, Avery Cavanaugh, Jennifer Tokin, Amy Lawson), 2:13.45. 2. Kailua, 2:24.97. 3. Lanikai, 2:26.13. 4. Hoopili, 2:28.00. 5. Hawaiian, 2:29.65.

15 (1/2 mile): 1. Keahiakahoe (Rachel Yau, Sanoe Lee, Regina Gora, Nicole Uperesa, Pua Heimuli, Megan Canne), 4:36.17. 2. Hoopili, 4:41.72. 3. Puna, 4:45.78. 4. Kamehameha (Hawaii), 4:50.49. 5. Kaneohe, 4:52.18.

16 (1/2 mile): 1. Outrigger (Sarah Field, Tiare Salassa, Katherine Loui, Erin Larsen, Chelsealani Converse, Kelsey Rigg), 4:31.18. 2. Waikiki Surf, 4:34.46. 3. Hui Lanakila, 4:34.71. 4. Hawaiian, 4:35.95. 5. Kamehameha (Hawaii), 4:37.02.

18 (1/2 mile): 1. Lanikai (Tina Handley, Tai Hawkins, Mina Elison, Hillary Broad, Olivia Webster, Rachel Spear), 4:25.21. 2. Keahiakahoe, 4:34.93. 3. Puna, 4:36.70. 4. Kailua, 4:40.01. 5. Keoua, 4:41.09.

Men

Novice A (1 mile): 1. Hui Lanakila (Derek Leek, Jed Gushman, Joseph Estrera, Malo Torres, Eric Philips, Scott McPhail), 7:58.25. 2. Outrigger, 8:01.99. 3. Kailua, 8:11.75. 4. Hanalei, 8:12.92. 5. Napili, 8:19.55.

Novice B (1/2 mile): 1. Hui Lanakila (Kekoa Beaupre, Reid Kawano, Rob Wengler, Jason Cosma, Dave Manternach, Randall Chong), 3:51.08. 2. Hawaiian, 3:51.58. 3. Koa Kai, 3:55.69. 4. Healani, 3:57.74. 5. Kahana, 4:00.71.

Freshmen (1 mile): 1. Puna (Steve Blyth, Aukai Chavez, Paul Kawelo Malama, Chad Cabral, Afa Tuaolo, Nathan Kaluhiwa), 7:30.59. 2. Lanikai, 7:34.51. 3. Healani, 7:34.84. 4. Kawaihae, 7:39.92. 5. Malama Ula, 7:43.02.

Sophomores (1 mile): 1. Lanikai (Mike Pederson, Mike Judd, Kalani Irvine, Kekoa Bruhn, Kai Bartlett, Jim Foti), 7:12.83. 2. Kai Opua, 7:13.10. 3. Hui Lanakila, 7:38.26. 4. Outrigger, 7:49.77. 5. Hawaiian, 8:01.35.

Juniors (1 mile): 1. Kai Opua (Kyle Youderian, Jarrett Aguiar, Britt Craven, Kevin Lindsey, George Leslie, Bruce Ayau), 7:36.22. 2. Lanikai, 7:38.56. 3. Puna, 7:43.92. 4. Malama Ula, 7:55.52. 5. Hanalei, 8:03.19.

Seniors (1-1/2 miles): 1. Lanikai (Mike Pederson, Mike Judd, John Foti, Kai Bartlett, Karel Tresnak, Jr., Jim Foti), 11:32.60. 2. Hui Lanakila, 11:49.30. 3. Kai Opua, 12:00.72. 4. Outrigger, 12:11.22. 5. Hawaiian, 12:20.10.

Masters 35 (1 mile): 1. Outrigger (Courtney Seto, Marc Haine, Walter Guild, William Bright, Scott Rolles, Karl Heyer), 7:42.23. 2. Hui Lanakila, 7:56.86. 3. Kai Opua, 7:59.32. 4. Lanikai, 8:14.67. 5. Kailua, 8:16.49.

Masters 45 (1/2 mile): 1. Hui Lanakila (Lindsey Todd, Ben Garces, Lloyd Yamasaki, Butch Maunakea, Dave Rey, Butch Ukishima), 3:42.19. 2. Outrigger, 3:57.45. 3. Kailua, 3:59.30. 4. Kai Opua, 4:01.55. 5. Lokahi, 4:04.90.

Masters 53 (1/2 mile): 1. Kailua (Hank Leandro, Pat Goldstein, Ed Dierdorf, Rem Mikus, Bob Thurston, Tom Conner), 4:02.81. 2. Lanikai, 4:08.93. 3. Outrigger, 4:09.89. 4. Kawaihae, 4:11.80. 5. Anuenue, 4:14.36.

Open 4 (1/2 mile): 1. Lanikai (Thomas Stanley, Ka'ai Bruhn, Peter Binney, Mike Smith), 4:11.54. 2. Kailua, 4:11.77. 3. Hanalei, 4:14.82. 4. Kahana, 4:16.85. 5. Hui Lanakila, 4:19.00.

Women

Novice A (1/2 mile): 1. Kaiola (Sonja Kunz, Danielle Ingersol, Val Wilson, Melissa Hall, Mary Godec, Angela Ledington Fisher), 4:26.14. 2. Hui Nalu, 4:31.13. 3. Kailua, 4:35.66. 4. Lokahi, 4:37.84. 5. Lanikai, 4:38.31.

Novice B (1/4 mile): 1. Healani (Guinnevere Roberts, Heidi Kor, Ihilani Cummings, Tomoko Kiuchi, Jerzelle Ruiz, Tracy Hara), 2:16.60. 2. Kaiola, 2:17.39. 3. Kawaihae, 2:21.96. 4. Hui Lanakila, 2:22.24. 5. Kailua, 2:23.20.

Freshmen (1 mile): 1. Kai Opuia (Carrie Sue Hendricks, Nicki Lacey-Enos, Jymi L. Friday, Amber Lynn Pajimola, Noel Park, Jackie Taylor), 9:09.92. 2. Kailua, 9:22.21. 3. Lokahi, 9:25.95. 4. Waikiki Beach Boys, 9:31.19. 5. Kaiola, 9:33.51.

Sophomores (1 mile): 1. Kailua (Cindy Lou Nash, Kathy Erwin, Megan Clark, Connie Johnston, Donna Meyer, Loretta Toth), 8:47.37. 2. Lokahi, 8:49.93. 3. Hui Nalu, 8:59.67. 4. Kai Opuia, 9:19.70. 5. Hawaiian, 9:25.25.

Juniors (1 mile): 1. Hui Nalu (Linda Fernandez, Tammy Kaneaiakala, Gail Kaaialii, Cathee Maurer, Emily Godinet, Nicole Seu), 8:56.51. 2. Lokahi, 9:04.00. 3. Hawaiian, 9:05.06. 4. Outrigger, 9:06.24. 5. Kailua, 9:14.77.

Seniors (1-1/2 miles): 1. Hui Nalu (Julie Horner, Nikki Queyrel, Chris Jahrling, Gail Kaaialii, Megan Harrington, Kauai Pelekane), 13:22.27. 2. Lokahi, 13:36.13. 3. Kai Opuia, 13:48.52. 4. Kailua, 13:48.52. 5. Outrigger, 14:16.50.

Masters 35 (1 mile): 1. Healani (Laurie Seto, Melvea Hardy, Deneen McNicoll, Heather Cottrell, Marian Yasuda, Gail Murakami), 9:18.30. 2. Outrigger, 9:26.38. 3. Napili, 9:36.22. 4. Malama Ula, 9:39.77. 5. Puna, 9:40.51.

Masters 45 (1/2 mile): 1. Malama Ula (Pua Williams, Christine Cramer, Deborah Robison, Malika Wiezbowski, Anita Anderson, Nancy Cramer), 4:43.11. 2. Outrigger, 4:43.34. 3. Puna, 4:45.98. 4. Anuenue, 4:49.84. 5. Kai Opuia, 4:50.88.

Masters 53 (1/2 mile): 1. Outrigger (Ann Cundall, Patty Mowat, Susan Heitzman, Carol Cook, Barbara Bryan, Keanuenue.Rochlen), 5:00.68. 2. Hui Nalu, 5:01.52. 3. Hawaiian, 5:18.26. 4. Kawaihae, 5:25.15. 5. Kihei, 5:42.82.

Open 4 (1/2 mile): 1. Hanalei (Kara Stokesbary, Monique Seager, Marcia King, Kainoa Forrest), 4:56.35. 2. Hui Nalu, 5:02.88. 3. Puna, 5:05.75. 4. Waikiki Surf, 5:09.96. 5. Kahana, 5:13.12.

Mixed

12 (1/4 mile): 1. Hui Lanakila (Ramsey Brown, Sam Taylor, Paris Oamilda, Kawika Kamai, Kari Ann Kumashiro, Tamalyn Kumashiro), 2:19.82. 2. Kamehameha (Oahu), 2:20.61. 3. Hawaiian, 2:27.68. 4. Molokai, 2:34.89. 5. Hui Nalu, 2:35.33.

Masters 40 (1/2 mile): 1. Kailua (Sherri Broad, Adrienne Wilson-Yamasaki, Carleen Ornellas, Pat Erwin, Kamoia Kalama, Kai Kalama), 3:57.93. 2. Keoua, 4:00.24. 3. Hui Nalu, 4:05.29. 4. Kawaihae, 4:08.94. 5. Lanikai, 4:10.63.

Open 6 (1/2 mile): 1. Kamehameha (Hawaii) (Cherisse Kelii, Scott Jones, Ingrid Dockersmith, Donald Alfiche, Frederick Silva, Kapua Sawyer), 4:00.20. 2. Hui Nalu, 4:02.83. 3. Hui Lanakila, 4:08.80. 4. Kawaihae, 4:10.72. 5. Puuwai, 4:11.18.