

Offshore comes up with extra(s) effort to set record

SB 9/25/89

□ In four key spots, they find the energy

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

Coach Billy Whitford of California's Offshore Canoe Club announced to his 12 paddlers at the Hale O Lono start of the 11th Na Wahine O Ke Kai — the 40.8-mile Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race for women — that Hawaii teams have never looked better.

It would take a good second effort for Offshore to win its fourth consecutive race, he said.

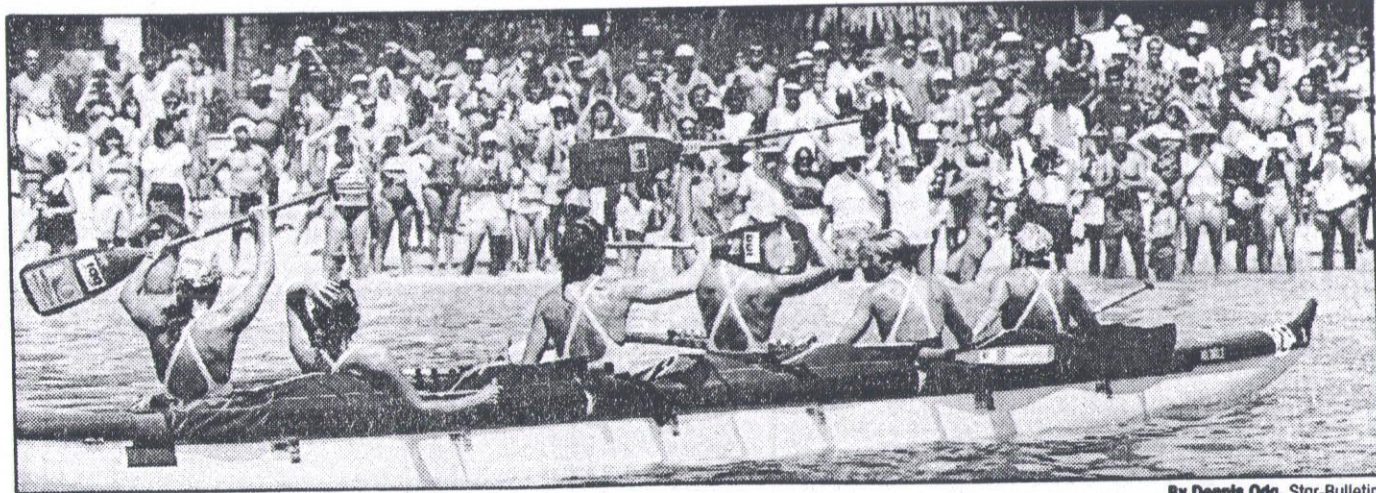
Offshore's women responded, powering away from the 22-boat fleet at the beginning and never slowing their pace.

Channel conditions were perfect, in the most part, calm waters broken only by an occasional surfing swell.

Nearing Koko Head with a comfortable lead, Whitford told the crew that a good "third" effort may result in a course record.

"Tough but a terrific motivator. Billy never lets up," co-steersperson Mindy Clark said.

Offshore again responded by picking up the stroke. "As we approached Dia-



By Dennis Oda, Star-Bulletin

mond Head breaking the record (6:12:11, by Outrigger Canoe Club in 1984) became a certainty," Clark said.

Off Waikiki Whitford informed the crew know that with another extra effort a six-hour crossing could be realized.

"We were 5:25 into the race and the finish was still a long way off," Leslie Davis said.

The Offshore women again dug deep and began their sprint to the finish. They arrived at the Duke Kahanamoku Beach in a record 5:59:36.

"A perfect ending to a perfect race," Whitford said.

Led by Healani Canoe Club (6:17:02), Island crews swept the next four spots. Outrigger placed third in 6:19:00, followed by Hui Nalu in 6:20:50 and by

Surfsports in 6:25:12. Each team consisted of 12 paddlers — six in the boat at any one time.

For Jo Jo Toepfner and Davis, Offshore's only paddlers completing all Na Wahine O Ke Kai races, yesterday's win was nice but not their most memorable. "Our first win in 1986 was special for me," Toepfner said.

See **OFFSHORE**, Page D-5

OFFSHORE: Extra effort for a record

Continued from Page D-1

Davis says Offshore's second victory was sweetest. "Repeating proved our first win no fluke — that Offshore was for real," she said.

But for Shelia Beuler, Anna Olsson and Dru Van Hengel — Offshore's three first-time Molokai paddlers — yesterday's race was like no other.

"Kayak heats are 500 meters, are held in flat water and take less than two minutes. Nothing like this," said Olsson, 25, a Swedish Olympic kayak medalist (gold and silver) at Los Angeles in 1984.

Top 10 finishers

1. Offshore Canoe Club (Newport Beach, Calif.) 5:59:36 (course record). Winning crew: Chris Acton-Brestel, Sharon Attlesey, Shelia Beuler, Mindy Clark, Leslie Davis, Pam Fletcher, Sue Hlavenka, Kim Nygaard, Anna Olsson, Bonnie Sherar, JoJo Toepfner and Dru Van Hengel.

2. Healan Canoe Club 6:17:02. 3. Outrigger CC 6:19:00. 4. Hui Nalu CC 6:20:50 (1st koa div.). 5. Surfsports CC 6:25:12. 6. Lanakila Outrigger CC (Calif.) 6:40:58 (2nd koa). 7. Kailua CC 6:42:07. 8. Santa Barbara CC (Calif.) 6:44:51. 9. Lanikai CC 6:48:18. 10. Waikiki Yacht Club 6:51:03.



By Dennis Oda, Star-Bulletin

Offshore paddlers, from left, Dru Van Hengel, Shelia Beuler, and Anna Olsson, celebrate. These three in this race for the first time.