

CASTLE SWIM HAS FIRST WOMAN WINNER

By Ray Robinson

Thirteen year-old Kristi Torkildson, a Punahou student, became the first woman to win the Club's traditional Castle Swim on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 30. She and Bob Monsen were in an exciting head-to-head race most of the 1.2 mile course, and Kristi finished only seconds before Bob in 36 minutes and 51 seconds. Bob's time was :37:02.

Jimmy Austin was third in :39:08.

As OCC swimmers arrived on the Hau Terrace for check-in, "How's the water?" was the most frequently heard question. It was followed by, "And we don't mean is the water cold or warm, or is it smooth or choppy, we mean WHAT WAY IS THE CURRENT RUNNING?"

That's the determining factor, of course, in whether the swim will be hard or easy.

The normal interest is heightened by the memories of the very recent Roughwater Swim in which the current running from Waikiki to Diamond Head was so strong that dozens of swimmers wound up hanging on to the marker buoys for dear life. Hundreds had to be rescued and only a third of the swimmers finished.

The Castle Swim, which is for members only, began in the 1920s. It was originally open to the public and the course was from the site of the old OCC, where the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel now stands, to the steps of the new Club at Diamond Head. It bears the name of Harold Castle whose home was on the site of the Elks Club.

Dennis Blake, Swim Committee chair, who has conducted a thousand swim meets in the last 20 years, avows the parallel current runs Ewa to Diamond Head 85 percent of the time. However, another very well known and highly respected waterman (a fisherman) states his conviction that when the tide is rising, the flow is from Diamond Head to Waikiki, and when the tide is falling, the flow is from Waikiki to Diamond Head.



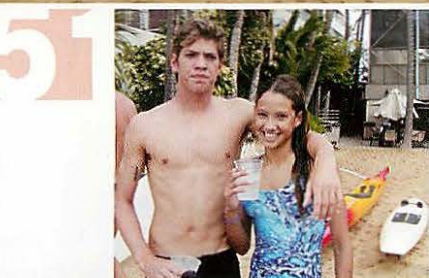
The top three finishers were Jimmy Austin, 3rd; Kristi Torkildson, 1st, and Bob Monsen, 2nd.



Swimmers gather at the Club for the start of the Castle Swim.

Castle Swim Results • November 30, 2003

Overall	Name	Time	Place/Division
1.	Kristi Torkildson	:36:51	1st, Overall
2.	Bob Monsen	:37:02	1st, M55
3.	Jimmy Austin	:39:08	1st, M20
4.	Ernie Leskovitz	:40:20	1st, M65
5.	Mikey Cote	:40:35	1st, Jr Boy
6.	Roger Cundall	:41:16	1st, M50
7.	Rachel Cote	:41:29	1st, Jr Girl
8.	David Stackhouse	:41:54	1st, M30
9.	Mike Kane	:42:00	
10.	Harrison Ishida Jr	:43:23	
11.	Marc Haine	:45:47	1st, M40
12.	Twain Newhart	:46:14	
13.	Taizo Braden	:50:14	
14.	Karl Heyer IV	:50:19	1st, M45
15.	Susan Brown	:50:34	
16.	Randy Carlson	:50:35	
17.	Chris Worrall	:50:51	
18.	Kimo Austin	:51:41	
19.	Sue Steinemann	:52:03	1st, W40
20.	Mark Jackola	:59:22	
21.	Jim Anderson	:59:27	
22.	Kari Vasey	1:00:48	1st, W45
23.	Vic Hemmy Jr	1:02:10	
24.	Brad Coates	1:02:10	
25.	Arnold Lum	1:03:08	
26.	Doug Kilpatrick	1:03:13	
27.	Colleen Heyer	1:03:40	1st, W35
28.	Bonnie Eyre	1:03:57	1st, W70
29.	Eric Crispin	1:05:02	
30.	Gary Sallee	1:07:08	
31.	Blake Johnson	1:08:26	
32.	Jim Zachery	1:14:18	1st, M70
33.	Ron Haworth	1:30:00	



Top: Mikey and Rachel Cote won the Jr. 'Rigger awards. Middle: Ernie Leskovitz and Roger Cundall won their divisions. Bottom: Aukina Hunt was waiting for grandfather Kimo Austin at end of race.

It's not hard to get an argument on the subject.

Fortunately, this race day morning, dawned cloudy, misty, cool and windless with the ocean flat and only a mild counter current. At the beginning, 34 swimmers hit the water shortly after 8 a.m. Kristi Torkildson was first to come up out of the water and cross the finish line.

Towards the end of the race, the wind picked up, the water got choppy (one swimmer said he drank a lot of it), and times slowed.

Father and son participants were Kimo and Jimmy Austin, and guess who finished first? Siblings Mikey and Rachel Cote won the Junior 'Rigger awards.

Taizo Braden came from behind and passed Karl Heyer IV after they were on the beach (the race finishes at the Club steps).

Thanks to all the escorts, helpers and to Beach Captain Don Isaacs for setting the course, and Swim Committee members Dennis Blake, Gerry DeBenedetti, Ginger Thornburg, Blake Johnson, Diane Stowell and Arnold Lum for making it happen.