

# Kanaka Ikaika Season Wraps Up

By *Genie Kincaid*

As the 1998 kayak and one-man canoe season comes to a close, Outrigger members dominate the field.

On April 6, conditions for the Oahu Championships were precarious. High winds had churned the seas. The 18 mile course from Makai Pier near Sea Life Park to the Waikiki Yacht Club challenged racers with five-foot swells as they rounded Makapuu Point.

"Looking at five foot faces of water wasn't fun at all," commented Donna Kahakui, who despite getting knocked off her canoe a few times by the rough conditions, easily won the women's division in the one-man canoe event.

Mark Rigg easily cruised to first place in the men's division. Joining him in the top five were Courtney Seto in second and Chris Kincaid in fifth.

Despite getting flipped by the ocean swells, Kelly Fey took the women's kayak division, with Nicole Wilcox second and Mary Smolenski, fifth. Nalu Kukea won the men's kayak division, with Jim Beaton, third, and David Buck, fifth overall.

The state championships on April 19 were a lot calmer, but as predictable. Fey, who usually joins the season midway, embarrassed the competition by finishing the 24

mile course from Kailua to Kaimana Beach 17 minutes ahead of her closest competition. Kukea beat out training partner, Wyatt Jones, for the men's kayak title.

As expected, Kahakui won the women's one-man division, having swept every race this year except one, when she finished an abysmal second. In the competitive men's division, Walter Guild and Chris Kincaid slugged it out right down to the wire, finishing fourth and fifth. Oh yea, and Rigg won. These guys aren't doing too bad for a bunch of over 40 types.

And now that the only race left to run is the Molokai Challenge, the Poai Puni Series has closed for the 1998 season. The series calculates overall points for each racer's best eight races of the 10 in the series. With the completion of the regular season, the Poai Puni leaders in the men's and women's divisions for kayak and canoe are all Outrigger Canoe Club paddlers. Mary Smolenski and Wyatt Jones finished as the top point getters among the kayakers, while Donna Kahakui and Mark Rigg led all the one-man canoe racers.

On to Molokai.

