

Kayak, One-Man Canoe Season Ends on a High Note

By Bill Danford

On behalf of all the 1997 Outrigger kayak and one man canoe paddlers, a hearty mahalo to the entire membership, Club management, employee's, and the Board of Directors for their support throughout the season.

Kaiwi Challenge

After the dominance exhibited by Walter Guild and Mark Rigg during the Along The Shore Team Relay, May 6, beginning at Kaluakoi on Molokai, the only question was would they break the existing record of 4 hours, 55 minutes set by Tom Conner and Kala Judd in 1991.

The only twist or change in the race venue, was that the course was longer, and instead of ending at the Outrigger Canoe Club, it would be ending at Magic Island.

Oh! Did I forget to mention the Foti brothers of Lanikai Canoe Club, John and Jim? Not only did they win, but they set a new record of 4:43:19, and 41 seconds behind were Walter and Mark. This was the battle royal of the year spread over an arena measuring 38 plus miles with little elbow room.

Mary Smolenski, Nicole Wilcox and Canadian Lori Stewart won the women's division (set a course record of 5:43:50, followed by last year's winners Donna Kahakui and Hadley Gaffney.

The top six teams to finish in the Kaiwi Challenge will compete in a race from Halawa Valley around the north side of Molokai to the Kaluakoi beach front some time in August.

Those teams finishing in third through sixth are Chris Kincaid and Courtney Seto, Tom Conner and Mark Sandvold, Kala Judd and Steve Cole, and Marc Haine and Todd Bradley.

Outstanding individual performances were experienced by all. Another great achievement by all Team Outrigger competitors.

Starbuck's Solo One Man Canoe & Kayak Molokai Challenge

This is the grand daddy of open ocean racing for solo participants throughout the world. This year's event was held on May 18 on

a 32-mile course between Molokai and Oahu. The starting line is just left of the Kaluakoi Hotel or north and about 200 yards off shore.

Scores of escort craft assemble behind the line of competitors all anxious to get this day started.

The one man canoes start a half hour before the kayaks. Everyone is watching to see how the paddlers are dealing with the strong currents which normally pull paddlers to the North until they get farther out into the channel.

The paddlers balance on their kayaks anxiously waiting for the minutes to tick by so that they can release months of anticipation and a body pulsating with adrenaline.

The one man canoe race ended with the two most formidable opponents, John Foti and Mark Rigg slugging it out all of the 32 miles to the finish line. Mark set a new course record of 4:14 and breathed a sigh of relief for one more year. Walter Guild happily settled for fourth place in a race that was extremely fast but at the same time brutal.

Donna Kahakui won the women's division.

Courtney Seto, Todd Bradley, Marc Haine, Chris Kincaid, and Ralph Gray all showed up to race and race they did.

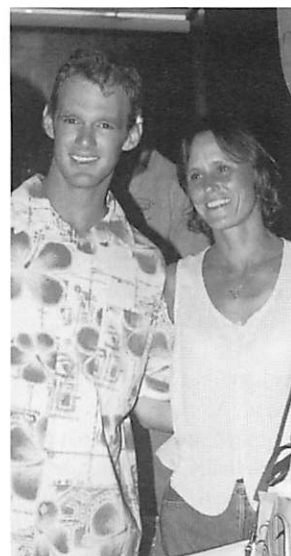
You can never leave out the outstanding rivalry and accomplishments of the defending kayak world champion Dean Gardiner of Australia or world champion in 1995 Herman Chalupsky of South Africa. They battled against each other all the way along with Mark Rigg, Kelly Fey and Jane Hall. Dean won the men's open division in record time 3:21. OCC's Kelly Fey won the women's division with a record time of 4:02. In fourth place was Nalu Kukea, the first Hawaii finisher followed by Kala Judd in fifth. Jim Beaton rounded out the top ten with a great performance as did David Buck, Wyatt Jones, Mark Sandvold, Tim Twigg-

Smith, Nicole Wilcox, Jimmy Kincaid, Tom McTigue and Mary Smolenski.



Photos by Robin Nonaka

Mark Rigg receives first place prize for winning Starbuck's Solo One Man Challenge.



Nalu Kukea, first Hawaii finisher, and Kelly Fey, first woman, accept perpetual trophies for Starbuck's Kayak Molokai Challenge.



Donna Kahakui won women's one-man division.

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