

The Tinman Returns

By Leighton Taylor

"My body shone so brightly in the sun that I felt very proud of it . . . I shall take the heart, for brains do not make one happy, and happiness is the best thing in world." (The Tin Woodman in Frank L. Baum's "Wizard of Oz.")

Midday on July 11th there will be a lot of proud and happy people standing around with their bodies shining in the sun wondering whether they have brains. More than 750 men and women will have competed in the Third Annual Tinman Triathlon to be held in the waters and on the streets of Honolulu. While some may argue about the accuracy of the name "Tinman Triathlon" (it is slightly imprecise in the sexual, metallurgical and literary categories), all will agree that it is an excellent Hawaiian example of the growing popularity of triathlon sports.

There are more than 120 triathlon (swim-bike-run) events scheduled on the Mainland for this summer, including the West Coast's International Triathlon Circuit. The respected senior event of them all, the Ironman Triathlon, (also a sexually and metallurgically imprecise name) is held in

October at Kona.

But the more popular Hawaiian event is the summer Tinman. It actually began in 1980 as a training aid for some dedicated Ironman entrants and has now become a full-fledged annual event complete with corporate sponsor—Miller Lite beer. Shorter in distance than the Ironman but challenging in its fast pace, the event is limited to 750 men and women. The race starts at 6 a.m. July 11 with an 800-yard swim paralleling Ala Moana Beach Park. Racers leave the water at the Magic Island showers and jump on their bicycles for a 25-mile loop out to Hawaii Kai on the Honolulu Marathon course. The bike leg finishes at the Honolulu Marathon line in Kapiolani Park to begin the third event, the 10-kilometer run up Kapahulu Ave. to Monsarrat, down Kilauea, through Kahala, back around Diamond Head for the final finish at the Marathon line in Kapiolani Park.

In 1981, the winning time for the event was 2:04; but given good conditions this year, the first-place finisher is expected to complete the triple course

in less than two hours. Avid competitors now working out for the event have run time trials, and 1982 Biathlon winner Don Mueller finished in 1:59.

The Club will be represented in the race, and all Outrigger finishers are asked to submit their finishing times to the editor at the front desk so that we can record their success in a forthcoming issue.

While some may argue the suitability of the name, it is true that most participants share with the Tin Woodman of Oz the concern for rusty joints, the condition of their heart, and the esteem of their brains and happiness.

Other more sedentary Outrigger members are planning the First Annual Butterman race to consist of a half-hour shower, riding the Waikiki No. 2 bus from Fort DeRussy to the Club, and the occupation of a terrace table for maximum time.



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