

SURFBOARD POLO AGAIN THRILLS CROWD

Hard Fought Contest at Waikiki Provides Rare Sport

With a good gallery of malihinis, kuaainas, kamaainas and those of undetermined category seated on the lawn of the Royal Hawaiian hotel at Waikiki; with the beach crowded with hundreds attired in bathing costumes, the surfboard polo game between the senior teams of the Hui Nalu and Outrigger club was fought to a 'frazzled' finish Sunday afternoon. It was a frazzled finish as the only ball obtainable slit its outer covering and the rubber bladder grotesquely oozed its way out. Another minute of play and the ball would have exploded, likewise the game.

The dogged efforts of Gay Harris, Mineville, Crabbe and Duke Kahanamoku of the Outriggers was shaded but slightly by the slashing, driving play of Louis, Sargeant and Sam Kahanamoku and Melvin Paoa of the Hui Nalu. With pretty team work the Hui Nalu boys raced up the course against the wind and Sam made a perfect goal after one minute and 15 seconds of play.

"OPU" REVERSE

The second and final goal came near the end of the first half, Sam again doing the honors after receiving fine cooperation from his teammates. The score 2-0 in favor of Hui Nalu remained the same at the finish although Outrigger shot a pretty pass through the Hui Nalu goal, nullified however by being thrown from within the five-yard line.

The snappy 'opu' reverse practiced by the Hui Nalu boys drew gusts of appreciative laughter from the spectators. They could change board ends by using the 'opu' as a pivot and swirling the board around faster than it would take a malihini to drop off one.

Louis Kahanamoku who conceived the surfboard polo game was ruled off the field of play by the referee and to even things up Duke was politely but firmly told by his umpiring brother, David, to go and do likewise. Whenever Duke secured the ball it must have seemed to him that his opposing brothers failed mightily in showing proper respect. They swarmed all over the Big Man, making their boards perform like pinwheels and endeavoring to snatch the ball from him. At that, Duke should be proud of the younger brothers and the wonderful scrap they gave him.

SPECTACULAR TRICK

One of the most spectacular performances occurred in the first half. Sam Kahanamoku of the Hui Nalus had the ball and was traveling toward the Outrigger goal at a pretty clip. Mineville coming at him at right angle, going fast. Mineville's board about to strike Sam's. Sam depresses his board, slides his body over the other's board and lands again on his own as it comes up from the submersion.

This game, played in any of the large tanks on the mainland would have drawn thousands of spectators. Nowhere else in the world can this game be seen nor can this game be played anywhere else on the bottom of Old Neptune as it was played Sunday. Practice for the game comes through bucking big breakers; speed comes from daily surfing the waves and getting them right and the stamina from getting back for just one more big sea.

It is a clean game, as full of nerve as any football game played here and just as exciting on the player.