

MAY 31 1989

## Canoe season opens in shallow water

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

Good news, bad news for Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association clubs in search of a regatta win and tired of finishing behind Outrigger Canoe Club.

Good news: Five-time defending state champ Outrigger is entering Sunday's season opener at less than full strength.

Bad news: Outrigger's woes are symptomatic of the entire canoe racing scene.

"It's become a real struggle to get paddlers out. I don't know about the other clubs, but we're showing up at Keel Lagoon just to support the regatta," head coach John Finney said. "We'll try to win but don't look for Outrigger to be competitive."

In past seasons, OCC's shortage would easily boost the hopes for perennial top clubs Kailua, Hui Nalu and Sunday's host Healan to take the first overall title. But other clubs are feeling the pinch as paddlers find other recreational outlets.

Kailua, a solid OHCRA performer for years, has lost paddlers to kayaking, soccer and baseball.

"Recruiting by other sports is aggressive. I'm sure most clubs will arrive at the opener short paddlers," Kailua Coach Bob Cates said.

"We're off to a slow beginning for several reasons," Finney said. According to the first-year coach, OCC lost some veterans to paddler burn-out and some juniors to kayaking, volleyball and soccer.

"The kids have many activities to choose from. It's really hard to find people who have time and

### Canoe regatta schedules

#### OHCRA (Oahu)

(All races begin 8:30 a.m.)  
June—4: Healan, Keel Lagoon; 11: King Kamehameha, Kailua Beach; 18: Leeward, Nanakuli Beach; 25: Waimanalo, Waimanalo Beach.  
July—4: W.T. MacFarlane, Waikiki Beach; 18: J.D. Kaupko, Kaneohe Bay; 23: Oahu Championship, Keel Lagoon.

#### Moku O Hawaii (Big Island)

(All races begin 9 a.m.)  
June—10: Kai O Pua, Kailua-Kona; 17: Keauhou, Kailua-Kona; 24: Waialeale, Hilo Bay.  
July—1: Autobody, Kawaihae; 8: Kamehameha, Hilo Bay; 15: Keokaha, Hilo Bay; 22: Moku Championship, Hilo Bay.

State Championship: Aug. 5, Lahaina.

#### Hui Wa'a (Oahu)

(All races begin 8:30 a.m.)  
June—4: Windward Kai, Waimanalo Beach; 11: Lokahi, Keel Lagoon; 18: Ikaika, Kailua Beach; 25: Ka Mo'i, Maui Beach.  
July—2: Koa Kai, Kaneohe Bay; 9: Manu O Ke Kai, Haleiwa Beach; 16: Beach Boys, Waikiki Beach; 23: Oahu Championship, Keel Lagoon.

#### MCHCA (Maui)

(All races begin 8 a.m.)  
June—11: King Kamehameha, Kahului Harbor; 18: Keel O Maui, Lahaina; 25: Nalele, Lahaina.  
July—2: Moki Ka Lanikau, Kihui; 9: Na Pili, Lahaina; 16: J.M. Lake (MCHCA championship), Kahului Harbor.

interest to paddle," he said.

To add to OCC's problems, 15 key upper-division men are in Australia to race and are expected to miss the first two OHCRA regattas. "We'll make do with what we have," said Finney.

It doesn't take an expert to see that the sport is heading for troubled waters if changes are not made soon.

"Too many weak clubs, too many events (30 each regatta day), and lack of promotion of the sport by the top," Waimanalo paddler Hal Shinsato said.

"Regattas have become boring. The sport lacks the pizzazz of a few years back," Kailua's Cates added.

Finney says paddling needs a shot—some quick changes—otherwise interest is going to decline.

"Perhaps the younger divisions should race on Friday afternoons and the adults crews on Sunday mornings," he said. "Something has to be done in order to compete favorably with other sports."

The 16-club OHCRA kicks off its seven-race regatta season at Keel Lagoon beginning at 8:30 a.m. Also

Sunday, the 13-club Hui Wa'a Association opens its year at Waimanalo Beach Park.

■ **Neighbor Islands:** With only three active clubs, the Molokai Canoe Racing Association schedule is very tentative. One race is scheduled for June 17 and the island championship on July 17, both at Kaunakakai.

On Kauai, the Garden Island Canoe Racing Association is made up of four clubs. Its schedules is also tentative with regatta dates set for June 3, July 1 and 8. The GICRA championship is scheduled for July 22.

The 12-member Moku O Hawaii Canoe Racing Association opened its Big Island season at Kawaihae last Saturday, with host Kawaihae winning the overall title and Kai Opua finishing second.

The Maui Country Hawaiian Canoe Association, with seven member clubs, opens its season with the King Kamehameha Day Regatta June 12.

MCHCA will host the state championship Aug. 5 at Lahaina.

JUN 5 1989

### MORNING BRIEFING

## Conner jumps ship for 1992 Cup

Advertiser Staff and News Services

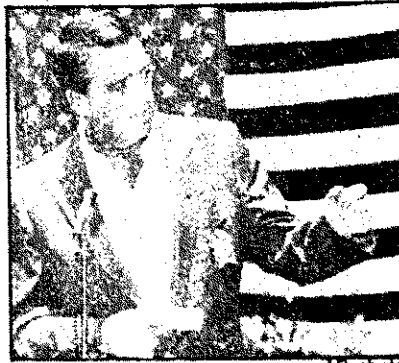
Dennis Conner, still smarting about losing sailing's premier prize in court, announced yesterday he has formed a new syndicate, Team Dennis Conner, to compete for the America's Cup in 1992.

"I think I might have retired," Conner said at a news conference in San Diego. "But, it just doesn't seem right for some judge in New York to take the Cup, put a postage stamp on it and send it off to New Zealand. It's not my way to just stand by and not do what I can to bring the Cup back."

Conner became the 26th announced challenger for America's Cup XXVIII, including four from the Soviet Union. John Marshall, design coordinator for Conner's last two campaigns, will be president of Team Dennis Conner.

#### Kailua, Lokahi win

The Kailua and Lokahi Canoe Clubs were winners in



Dennis Conner makes move

the opening day of Hawaii's canoe racing season yesterday.

Kailua's 78 points outdistanced the Outrigger Canoe Club, 78-68, in the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association regatta at Keel Lagoon. Hui Nalu was third at 58, three points ahead of Healan.

Lokahi's 76 points in the Na Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a regatta at Waimanalo put them far ahead of runner-up Manu O Ke Kai, which had 41 points.

#### Next stop Hawaii

After announcing his retirement from the U.S. National Team, Karch Kiraly and partner Brent Frohoff walked away with the Pro Beach Volleyball title at the \$100,000 Miller Lite Santa Cruz Open.

The tour moves on to Hawaii, for the \$50,000 Miller Lite Honolulu Open Saturday and Sunday at Fort DeRussey Beach in back of the Hilton Hawaiian Village hotel.

#### This Bud's for Earnhardt

Dale Earnhardt held off Mark Martin Sunday to win the Budweiser 500 NASCAR stock car race at Dover Downs International Speedway in Dover, Del., for his second title of the year.

Earnhardt, who earned \$59,350 from the \$506,000 purse, led in 454 of the 500 laps, edging Martin by 0.5 second and recording an average speed of 121.72 mph. Ken Schrader finished third.

#### People in sports

● American riders Kevin Schwantz, defending champion Eddie Lawson and Wayne Rainey swept the first three places in the 500cc class race at World Motorcycle Championships in Austria.

● James Stallworth of Tulare High School set a national interscholastic record of 26 feet, 4 3/4 inches in the long jump Saturday night in the 71st California state track and field championships.

● Alain Prost took advantage of teammate Ayrton Senna's mechanical problems and ran away with the inaugural Phoenix Grand Prix auto race on the sun-baked downtown streets of Phoenix.

#### End quote

Former Boston Celtics center Bill Russell on why his father couldn't retire: "He said he had given the company 30 good years of his life, and now he wanted to give them a few bad ones."

### Keeping Score

#### Baseball

##### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 13, Boston 11 (12)

Baltimore 7, Detroit 4

Chicago 2, Minnesota 1

New York 12, Milwaukee 9

California 5, Kansas City 1

Seattle 2, Texas 1

Oakland 4, Cleveland 0

##### NATIONAL LEAGUE

New York 4, Pittsburgh 3

Cincinnati 5, San Diego 3

Atlanta 6, San Francisco 3

Montreal 7, Philadelphia 4

Chicago 11, St. Louis 3

Houston 7, Los Angeles 6 (13)

Roundups, Page C-5

##### COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Arkansas 7, North Carolina 3

Florida St. 4, Wichita St. 2

Story, Page C-3

JUN. 4 1989

## Outrigger opens in troubled waters

### Top paddlers to miss first two regattas

By Stephen Tsai

Advertiser Staff Writer

Weird as it might sound, the Outrigger Canoe Club actually has a few problems entering this regatta season.

These go beyond Outrigger's usual head-scratching dilemmas such as how to make more shelf space at its Diamond Head clubhouse for the increasingly large collection of koa trophies.

First, 15 of Outrigger's top male paddlers will miss the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's first two regattas, including today's season-opening Healan Regatta at Keel Lagoon, while they compete in a meet in Australia.

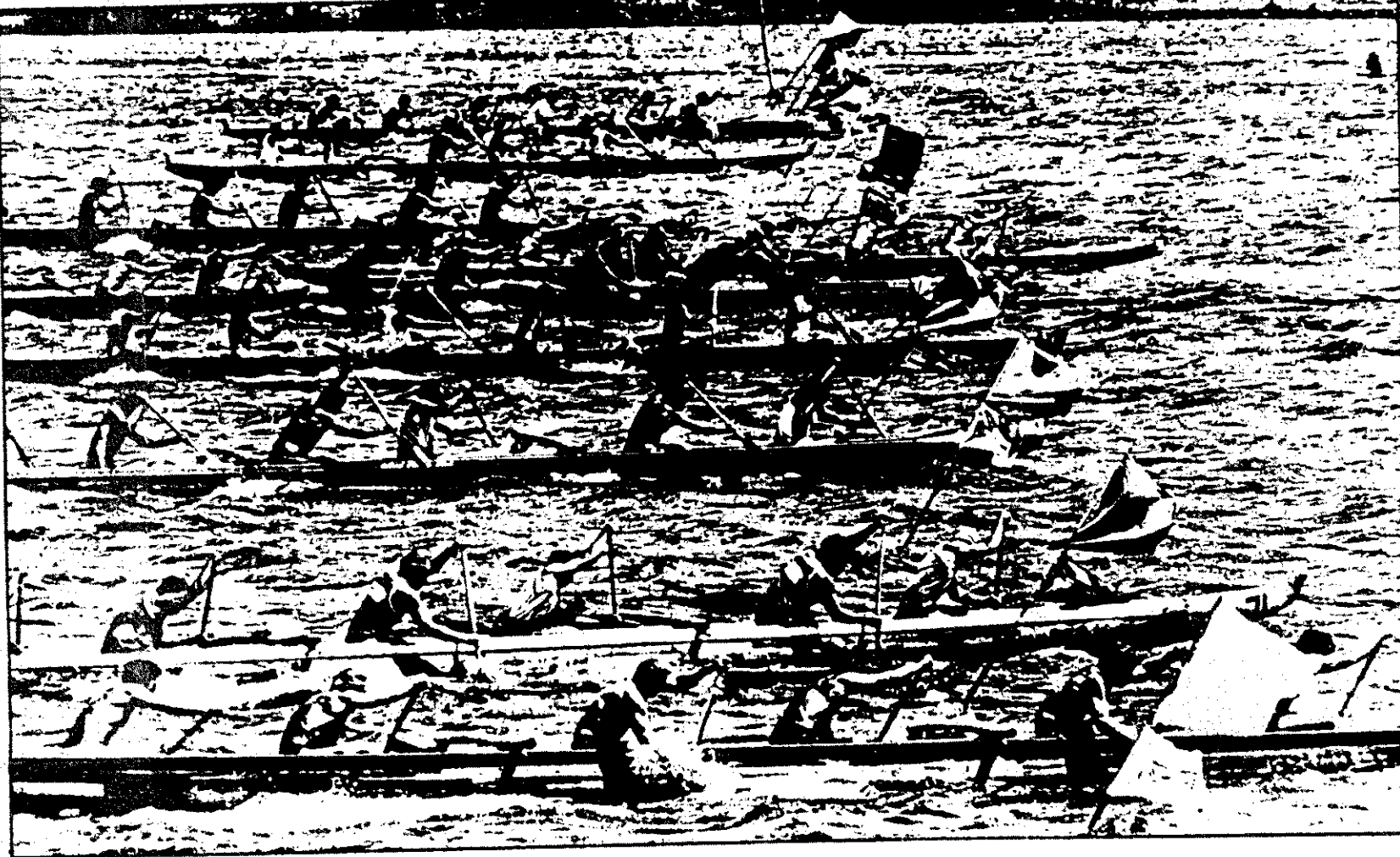
There's little guarantee that some of them will continue paddling this season. The word out is that six paddlers from Outrigger's winning Molokai-to-Oahu crew — Kainoa Downing, Keone Downing, Mark Rigg, Scott Rowles, Marc Haine and Tom Conner, who is arguably the top steersman in the state, are likely to retire following the Australia races.

Although first-year coach John Finney said "it's good to pass the baton to other guys every few years," he added, "we have ways of encouraging people to stay."

The women's program will lose six key paddlers, including four to maternity leave. "It must be the water," Finney mused.

What's more, the defending champion boys' 18 crew has yet to practice because of school commitments, and the club's two-year-old koa boat, Kaaloa — regarded as a speedboat among Exxon Valdez tankers — has a warp and is in dock.

All of which has left more



than a few dry eyes around the circuit.

"Outrigger is never going to be weak," Kailua coach Beanie Heen said.

"It's a smoke screen," Hui Nalu coach Kala Kukea said. "They have a lot of good people coming up."

"I've seen it before. They struggle at the beginning and — boom! — about midseason they start winning."

Indeed, Outrigger's uncanny knack of success in canoe regattas has induced both admiration and envy from opposing clubs.

With its elegant clubhouse and fleet of state-of-the-art practice canoes, Outrigger seemingly has an advantage over other clubs — accusations that have echoed nastily in Outrigger paddlers' sensitive

ears.

"As long as they think we beat them because we have more money, they're making our job easier," Outrigger coach Walter Guild said. "They are focusing in on an area that doesn't make the difference between winning and losing. The difference is in who can paddle the best, train the hardest or think the most. Every club has access to those things."

"We work hard. It's not like we have an engine on our boat and we're sitting there with our hair combed going by the other boats."

"... We started out with some old canoes that were no better or worse than anybody else's. We didn't look in a Sears catalog and send away for good canoes."

Guild said Outrigger crew

coaches sometimes use those accusations as motivation.

"We tell them, 'They don't think you're good paddlers or that you train hard. They think you win because somebody is writing you a check,'" Guild said.

In fact, Outrigger officials claim they have a hard time maintaining their program. Participation is limited to club members, and memberships are awarded by availability of space.

"They don't make exceptions for paddlers," Finney said. "You have to wait your turn (for a membership), whether you're a paddler or a retired army major."

Finney said he has been scrambling to fill out divisions and to remain competitive with the rest of the Big Four: Healan, Hui Nalu and Kailua.

Hui Nalu received a boost with the return of Nainhoa Thompson, one of the top strokeers in the state, from a two-year hiatus.

Kailua's enrollment of between 250 and 280 is the largest in the organization. Kailua should fare well in the upper divisions.

**DIFFERENT STROKES:** Hawaiian Warriors and Anuenue will merge for the OHCRA regatta season. ... Although there already are too many events and too few crews, Hui Wa'a, Oahu's fiber-glass boat league, has decided to add a 32nd event, mixed masters. ... Hawaiian Outrigger of Hui Wa'a has perhaps the most intriguing koa boat, Wakalele, which took 13 years to complete. Sonny Keawehehu shaped the boat in 1975, and then put it in storage until last year, when the racing specifications changed enough to suit the boat. Keawehehu then altered the boat, extending it from 40 feet in length to 43 1/2.

For the Record

JUN 5 1989

### Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association

At Keel Lagoon

Team scores

A Division

1. Kailua 78 2. Outrigger 58 3. Hui Nalu 58 4. Healan 53

B Division

1. Surfports 13 2. Waimanalo 10 3. Hui Lanakila and Lanika 9 5. Anuenue and Leeward Kai 5 7. Waialeale 4 8. Waikele 3 9. Kaia 2 10. Honolulu 1

Men

12s: Kailua (Kamuela Cobb-Adams, Kopa Francisco, Leon Mosher, Kahalo Naka'ahi), Edward Cowell, Kila Young, 2:41.60; 13s: Leeward Kai (Kaniela Nahu, Shane Canino, Byron Corn, Chucky Kekawa, Malcolm Kekawa, Wender Kamahele), 2:14; 14s: Healan (Kai Ah Sam, Craig Souza, Ryan Hoke, Nelson Sal, Barry Quiboy, Kailua (Pailani), 2:03; 15s: Outrigger (J.P. Canis, Danny Goldcamp, Paul Larsen, Matt Corboy, Adam Cobben, Sage Golding), 4:09.94; 16s: Hui Nalu (Matt Fullard-Leo, Eric Chun, Nathan Tim, Daniel Sakaguchi, Nalu Kukea, Steve Mauer), 8:11.98; Novice A: Kailua (Jim Milton, Bob Coble, Jay Ford, James Joy, Greg Izak, Kim White), 5:35.54; Novice B: Hui Lanika (Nelson Gase, Antony Pacheco, Paul Faleafine, Richard Vidma, Matthew Tobias, Velea Butler), 4:19.14; Freshmen: Anuenue (Darryl Napolean, Aaron Napolean, Joey Napolean, Raven Aps, Wally Razentes, David Napolean), 8:24.94; Sophomores: Hui Nalu (Matt Higgins, Wesley Luke, John Makiko, Arthur Shyan, Fred Doka Santos, Brenton Block), 12:58.32; Juniors: Outrigger (Grady Benitt, Steve Vanier, Dan Rupp, Geoff Graf, 4:06.79; Bradley), 15:55.94; Seniors: Kailua (Randy Silva, Kamoe Kalama, Harrison Haen, McKeeze Shanon, Patrick Erwin, Robert Robby Cates III), 20:05.85; Masters: Healan (Harold Akon, George Kisser, Danny Hara, Rocky Higgins, Tom Uno, Kilo Kukea), 7:50.49; Senior Masters: Kailua (Dodd Bluck, Robert Hakea, Gary Aps, Mike Gayle, Howard Keiser, Robert Cates Jr.), 4:06.36; Open 4s: Kailua (Patrick Erwin, McKeeze Shanon, Mark Curney, Robert Cates III), 4:06.79.

Women

12s: Hui Nalu (Tara Beyer, Tara Wright, Ellen Escobedo, Hassana Za-

chanah, Monica Parker, Mandy Jones), 2:50.79; 13s: Outrigger (Sky Reynolds, Gop Diller, Stacey Schiller, Auli Ellis, Jane Stevens, Kailua (Hammonds), 2:52.75; 14s: Outrigger (Eliza Wilcox, Monique Lee, Brooke Cassidy, Manuella Starr, Cora Gentry, Eliza Lehwaher), 2:37; 15s: Outrigger (Leahna Reinhardt, Shandy Danford, Julie Cundoff, Maruti Starr, Nahu Hunt, Lisa Jackson), 5:11.37; 16s: Outrigger (Maia Kamisugi, Diane Wilbur, Nicki Lee, Missy Mowat, Pam Gilford, Jackie Muller), 4:55.02; Novice A: Surfports (Dawna Silva, Nicola Pisciul, Sally Smith, Andrea Lorenz, Nina Pacevich, Joretta Carroll), 4:54.07; Novice B: Kailua (Dawn Cassio, Tammy Jones, Susie Borschardt, Debbie Cheever, Darlene Leandro, Jacques Leuzer), 2:25; Freshmen: Kailua (Makeli Baldwin, Connie Johnston, Cheryl Taster, Kathy Thurston, Kathryn Beck, Kara Davis), 7:42.07; Sophomores: Healan (Laurie Selo, Kelly Fey, Carolyn Jean McKinnis, Jorica Wickes, Patsy Vasquez, Fasi, Robin Nonaka), 9:14.13; Juniors: Healan (Sharon Awood, Adrienne Wilson, Nicole Guivryl, Rosemary McShane, Debbie Simmons, Rhonda Reyes), 13:45.53; Seniors: Healan (Laurie Selo, Kelly Fey, Jorica Wickes, Jod Davis, Patricia Vasquez, Fasi, Robin Nonaka), 13:38.32; Masters: Hui Nalu (Kamela Scott, Nahu Aps, Anne Schumaker, Kane Scott, Carol Kukea, B.J. Moffatt), 9:46.62; Senior Masters: Outrigger (Julian Frasse, Dennis Kester, Carol Wilcox, Ruty Iverson, Dane Stowell, Keaneue Rochlen), 4:50.23; Open 4s: Hui Nalu (Sandy Connors, Lori June Lee, Kelly Suzanne Marti, Manon Lyman-Morse), 5:13.69.

Mixed

12s: Waimanalo (Ako DeGard, Waimanalo Kakaiki, Shannon Kakaiki, Bert Nahu, Chery Figueras, Michael Kakaiki), 2:49.09; Menememem: Kailua (Scott Jacobs, Sissy Gilliland, Charles Thurston, Vernon Kong, Vivian Fo, Johanna Conny), 4:30.25.