

OFF DIAMOND HEAD—In the boat they borrowed from Outrigger, Canoe Club paddles to victory in yesterday's 40.8-mile Na Wahine O Ke Kai race. By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin

Off Shore is No. 1

By Jack Wyatt
 Special to the Star-Bulletin

Outrigger Canoe Club's big mistake in yesterday's Na Wahine O Ke Kai women's race from Molokai to Oahu was loaning defending champ Off Shore Canoe Club of California a fast boat.

Because, for the second year in a row, the visiting Californians paddled off with Hawaii's most prestigious women's canoe race.

"A great canoe. We loved it. And we really do appreciate Outrigger's generosity," Off Shore's Mindy Clark said after beating its "friendly" rival Outrigger to the Ft. DeRussy Beach finish.

In relatively small channel seas, the women from Newport Beach

won the 40.8-mile race, from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor, in six hours, 26 minutes and 25 seconds, edging runner-up Outrigger by four minutes and 36 seconds.

Although 19 boats began the race, it was only moments after the day-break start that OffShore and four-time winner Outrigger took command. "We battled them (Outrigger) for four or five hours. The lead must have changed a half-dozen times," said steersman Clark, adding that this was her tightest competition in seven races.

With seven of its 12 women first-time Molokai paddlers, Off Shore's win was especially impressive. Noted Off Shore's Mimi Ohl-

son, a member of Sweden's National Kayak Team: "My first channel crossing and I was tired at the end. Kayak races are 5,000 meters at the longest, not 40 miles!"

Yesterday's relatively small channel seas were said to have helped Off Shore while proving a disadvantage to island crews who often practice in big waves. Said Mary Franco-Lemes, who steered the Outrigger entry, "I would prefer big surfing waves. The bigger the better. Surfing a canoe not only makes an exciting race but it may have changed the outcome."

The top five finishers used near-identical fiberglass canoes. See CANOE, Page D-6



COMPETITORS—Outrigger's Mary Franco-Lemes, left, congratulates Off Shore's Mindy Clark. By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin

Na Wahine O Ke Kai results

Molokai-to-Oahu, 40.8 miles

Pl	Team	Hometown	Time
1.	Off Shore Canoe Club	Newport Beach, Calif	6:26:25
2.	Outrigger Canoe Club	Honolulu	6:31:01
3.	Healani Canoe Club	Honolulu	6:55:00
4.	Hui Nalu Canoe Club	Hawaii Kai	6:59:00
5.	Hanalei Canoe Club	Kauai	7:05:00
6.	Hui Lanakila Canoe Club	Honolulu	7:09:00
7.	Lahaina Canoe Club	Maui	7:17:09
8.	Kai Opua Canoe Club	Kona	7:21:55
9.	Waikiki Yacht Club	Honolulu	7:28:29
10.	Waikiki Beach Boys	Honolulu	7:32:32
11.	Manae Canoe Club	Molokai	7:35:11
12.	Kailua Canoe Club Masters	Kailua	7:35:46
13.	Lokahi Canoe Club	Honolulu	7:37:56
14.	Surf Sports	Honolulu	7:42:23
15.	Keaukaha Canoe Club	Hawaii	7:45:13
16.	Manu O Ke Kai	Oahu	7:47:37
17.	Hawaiian Masters	Maui	7:49:36
18.	Lanikai Masters	Lanikai	7:51:18
19.	Waikiki Surf Club	Honolulu	8:19:56

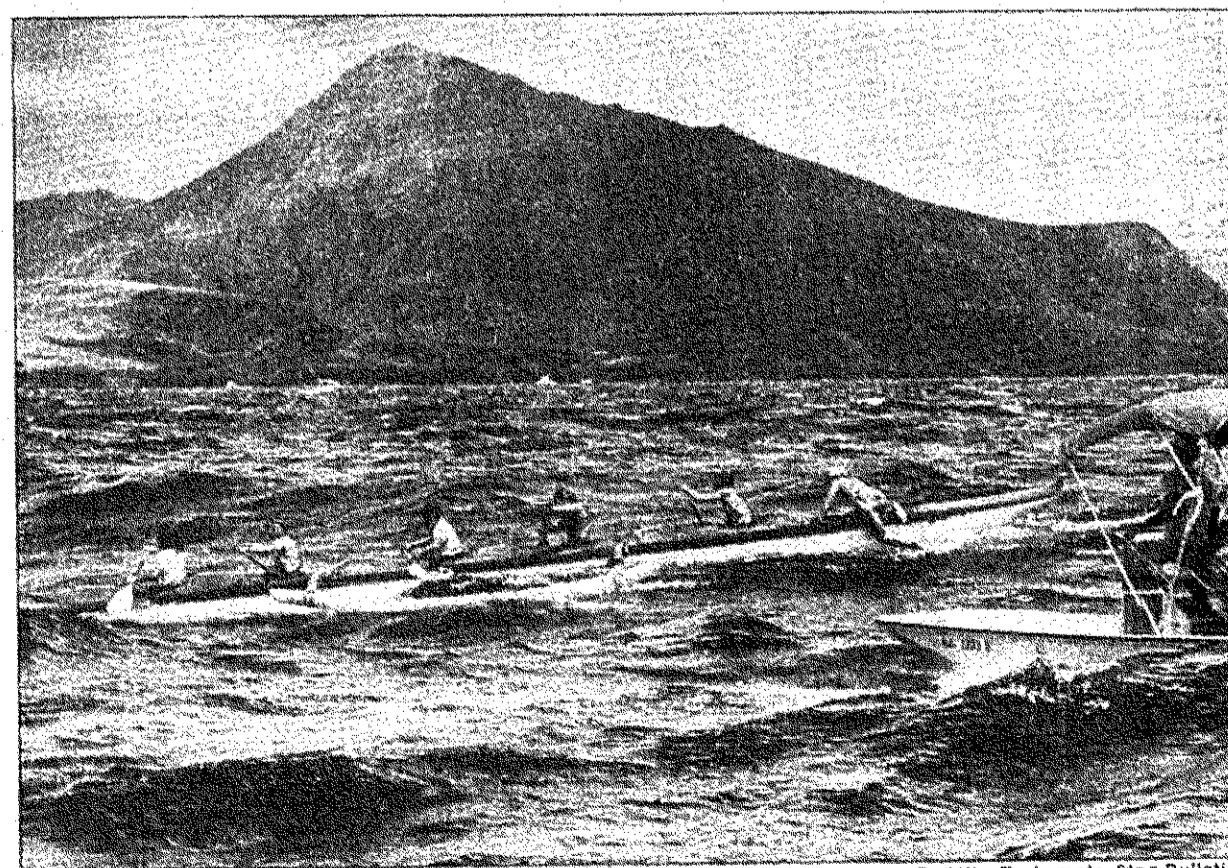
CANOE: Off Shore wins again

Continued from D-1

while sixth place overall finisher (7:09) Hui Lanakila of Honolulu arrived first among the fleet's four koa-wood boats. "Unfortunately the small seas were best for fiberglass boats today," said Mel Chong, a koa canoe booster.

Twelfth finisher Kailua Canoe Club arrived first among master paddlers in 7:35:46.

Diane Hansen and daughter, Meredith, 17, paddlers for 13th finisher Lokahi Canoe Club, didn't mind that the race took an agonizing 7:37. "My first crossing and I'm ready to go again," Diane Hansen said. Meredith, a Punahou cross-country runner who talked her mother into racing, says while running is good conditioning for legs paddling builds upper body muscles. "Mom's hooked on the sport," the proud Meredith added.



RUNNER-UP—Honolulu's Outrigger changes steerswoman off Koko Head. By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin