

SPORTS

Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championships set for this weekend

The O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association will send 13 clubs to the State HCRA Championships this Saturday at Hanalei.

Leading the OHCRA charge will be five-time state champion Outrigger Canoe Club, which is undefeated this season.

Outrigger qualified crews in 29 of the 31 state events, followed by Kailua and Hui Nalu, both with 22, in the AAA division; Healani 13 and Hui Lanakila 10, in the AA division; and Waikiki Surf Club, 6, Leeward Kai and Lanikai, 5 each; Waimanalo and Surfports, 4 each; Anuenue 2, and Makaha and Honolulu, 1 each, in the A Division.

Outrigger's recent domination in canoe racing began in 1984, when it won six straight regattas, lost to Kailua in the O'ahu Championships by a few points, and roared back to capture the State Championship at Hanalei with 150 points.

Since the start of the 1984 season, Outrigger has won 45 regattas and lost 10. They've won five OHCRA titles, and will be going for their sixth straight state title on Saturday. OCC had a perfect 8-0 record in 1985, and is undefeated so far in 1990, with a 7-0 record. The club has posted 7-1 record three times (1984, 1987, 1988).

Prior to 1984, Outrigger hadn't won a state title since 1981, or an O'ahu championship since 1977.

On Saturday, Outrigger will be the defending champions in five events (Boys 16, Girls 18, Novice B and Senior Men, Senior Masters Women), HuiNalu in four (Boys 18, Men's Novice A, Sophomore and Junior Women), Healani in four (Boys 14, Men Open 4, Senior Women, Women's Novice A), Kailua in three (Sophomore and Senior Masters Men, Girls 16), and Leeward Kai (Boys 13) and Surfports (Freshmen Women).

Outrigger's senior masters

women have the distinction of winning five straight championships with the same crew in the same seats every year. This year, the crew will change, due to a back injury to one of the paddlers.

The senior masters women have won 16 straight races, going back to the 1988 state championships.

The only other defending champion OHCRA crew to win back-to-back titles is Hui Nalu's junior women.

OHCRA's only other undefeated crew is Outrigger's girls 16.

Two other OCC crews suffered

only one loss during the season — the girls 18 (who were DQ'd at Waimanalo), and the senior women, who lost in the Macfarlane.

Seven other crews have only lost twice this season — Makaha's boys 13, Waimanalo's girls 14, Healani's boys 16, Sophomore women and masters women, and Outrigger's freshmen women and sophomore men.

These are all strong crews and should do well in the state.

Outrigger's CecCee Sheehan, a member of the girls' 18, has won four gold medals in the state in the past five years — as a 13 (1985), 16 (1987-88), and 18 (1989). Her crew will be a strong contender to defend its title this

year. In the senior men's race, the premiere event of the day, Outrigger is the defending champion, but that title eluded the O'ahu club in 1986, 1987, and 1988, and was won by Hanalei Canoe Club. This year's race is again expected to be a showdown between the two clubs.

There are 14 lanes in the state championships. Four go to OHCRA crews, three each to Hui Waa and the Big Island, two to Maui, and one each to Kauai and Molokai.

At state, points are scored 9 for first place, 7 for second, 6 for third, 5 for fourth, 4 for fifth, 3 for sixth, 2 for seventh, and 1 for eighth.

Winning lesson: Paddlers aim for state championship

By LOU ZITNIK
Staff Writer

WAILUKU — Maui paddlers heading to the state regatta on Kauai tomorrow should take a hard look at the performance of three crews in the Maui County Canoe Racing Association.

There's a lesson to be learned, a lesson which involves more than gold medals.

For that matter, any athlete facing the Goliath of state competition, or any other against-the-odds battle, can find actions that speak louder than words when looking at these three crew: Napili's mixed men and women, Kihei's freshmen women, and Lahaina's novice A men.

Over the long haul, the seven weeks and six regattas of the MCHCA season, it's easy for a crew to get stuck on the hump, to give up when a gold medal looks as far away as a ski lift.

The big hump comes around the fourth regatta of the season, when county titles, which are determined by overall scores from six regattas, are already pretty much wrapped up by points-hungry crews.

Points are awarded on a 5-3-2-1 scale, with five going to the winning crew. A crew that wins its first four regattas (20) pretty much has a state berth and a county championship wrapped up. If the second-place crew has four seconds (12 points), that

pretty much leaves the second berth in their hands.

For the crews in third, fourth and fifth, the last two regattas mean little more than getting in the canoe and scrambling for a reason to keep paddling.

Pride is the usually the reason.

Take Napili's mixed men and women.

Pride is big on the west side, where paddlers don't like to cruise, they like to bruise... the competition. Coach Dougie Tihada found a way to make a little ego bruising possible for his mixed men and women.

Napili didn't score points until the second regatta of the season: one point for fourth place. In the third regatta they scored two, then they were victimized by a huli, then they were disqualified. They entered the final regatta of the season with three points, trailing Hawaiian with 20, Na Kai Ewalu with 17 and Kahana with 14.

Napili had absolutely nothing to gain by pushing for victory in the final race of the season — except pride.

"We knew we could win it, we wanted to prove it," said Touche Gordon, who sat seat four for Napili. "We started late in the season and it took us a while to get going, but we wanted to show people what we could do."

What Gordon, Candy Horton, David Weiss, Wendell Devera, Maggie Gabbard and Leslie Lawson did was throw themselves into a hard-fought race that had the first three boats finishing within a second of each other.

Napili pulled across the finish line at 4:21.43. Na Kai Ewalu, after a false start, crossed at 4:22.90. And Hawaiian clocked in at 4:23.94.

Hawaiian won the county title and the top berth at the state. Na Kai Ewalu, even with the disqualification, earned the second berth. Napili earned bragging rights.

"Give us a chance, that's what I said. We knew we could do it," said Gordon. "Chop Suey. Red Buoy. No Huli. Kahului."

Napili's crew spent the rest of the evening celebrating their victory; they deserved the celebration, just as Kihei Canoe Club did.

Kihei's freshmen women opened the season by placing fourth, then moved to third for two weeks. In their home waters, they placed second, then fell back to fourth at Hanakao — for a total of nine points. Kihei entered the final regatta of the season trailing Hawaiian (23) and Lahaina (16).

Gigi Dickson, Joni Meadows, Wendy Gerry, Valli Hornyak,

See MAUI'S on page B4



The Maui News / LOU ZITNIK photo

Napili's mixed men and women (front back, Candy Horton, Wendell Devera, David Weiss, Wendell Devera, Touche Gordon, Maggie Gabbard and Leslie Lawson, with boat handlers) enjoy winning their first gold medal of the season at the John M. Lake Regatta.

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MAUI NEWS

AUG 3 1990

Maui's paddlers head for state championship

Continued from page B1

Michele Adair and Theresa "Big T" Gerry were having problems. They were training hard but they couldn't make anything work.

"They had their problem but they never gave up," said Mike Gerry, Kihei's head coach. "They kept trying and trying, working harder all the time."

Not even a first place combined with a disqualification for Lahaina and Hawaiian could help Kihei win a state berth, but that didn't stop them.

The Kihei women blew off the starting line and stayed right with Hawaiian, pushing the county champions all the way through the 3/4-mile course. Fifty yards from the finish line, Kihei made its move, sprinting to the flags to edge Hawaiian by less than a second (7:53.16 to 7:53.60).

"We were pointing toward this all week," said Wendy Gerry, who sat seat three. "We put in a lot of extra work and concentrated on winning."

"They're paddlers," said Coach Gerry. "They don't give up just because they're out of the race. That's the kind of attitude that makes great competitors."

Lahaina's Novice A men entered last Sunday's regatta in a different position. The Lahaina men had a chance for a state berth and a county championship, but it was a chance for which they had paid a high price.

At the first two races of the season, the novice men not only had trouble getting points, they had trouble finding the finish line. First they flipped and needed help reaching the beach; the next week they were disqualified. After two weeks of racing they had zero points.

In their place a more conservative crew might have slowed down just to finish a race, a less dedicated crew might have thrown in the towel.

Not Lahaina. Keith Brown, Paul Bradley, Sean Clark, Dave Detitto, Jack McKeefery and David Albertson wanted to win, no matter what the consequences.

They went all out, racking up three consecutive first places to trail Hawaiian 17-15 going into the final regatta of the season. Na Kai trailed with 10.

Lahaina could take it easy, play it safe, and still get a state berth.

Instead of settling for second, Lahaina's Novice A pushed to the limit, finishing 11 seconds ahead of Hawaiian and tying the Kahului crew for first overall.

To top off the day and the season, Lahaina's men beat Hawaiian in the tiebreaker race for the No. 1 berth at the state regatta.

The Oahu contingent at the state regatta may have Outrigger and Hui Nalu, but Maui has plenty to be proud of, too. Win or lose, Maui has its pride. Maui No Ka Oi.

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HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

AUG 3 1990

OCC to defend title

□ The Oahu paddlers are going for their sixth straight state crown

By Pat Bigold
Star Bulletin

Undefeated Outrigger Canoe Club will go after its sixth straight Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship tomorrow in waters off Hanalei, Kauai.

Outrigger, which qualified crews in 29 of the 31 state events, has dominated Hawaii canoe racing since 1984. Since the start of that season, Outrigger has won 45 of 55 regattas, five Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Championships and five state titles.

Outrigger is 8-0 this season. "We've got real depth this year," said first-year Outrigger coach Tom McTigue. "We probably won't win as many races as we have in the past, but we'll score a lot of points in races and that will be the key."

McTigue said he likes the venue for the state championships. "Hanalei will be flat and is one of the best race sites around," he said. "It's big and the lanes are set up so that it will be as fair as you're going to get anywhere." The Outrigger club will have defending champions in five events this year: Boys 16, Girls 18, Novice B, Senior Men and Senior Masters Women. Hui Nalu and Kailua each has quali-

fied 22 crews in the AAA division.

Outrigger's senior masters women have won five straight titles with the same crew in the same seats every year. This year, because of a back injury to Ulu Friese, there will be a crew change.

The senior women have won 16 straight races going back to the 1988 state championships.

One other defending champion OHCRA crew — Hui Nalu's Junior Women — has won back-to-back titles. Ceccee Sheehan, who paddles for the Outrigger girls' 18-year-olds, has the best individual credentials for the state championships. She has won four gold medals in the state in the past five years.

Outrigger will also be the defending champion in the premier event of the state title competition, the senior men's race. Chris Kincaid will be calling the strokes and Todd Bradley will steer the highly experienced Outrigger crew.

Hanalei Canoe Club won the 1986, 1987 and 1988 senior races and could be Outrigger's main challenge once again. "I don't know what the outer island competition looks like but Kailua and Hui Nalu should be strong," said McTigue.

But McTigue said Kamehameha and Hanalei are not to be overlooked. "They always have real good senior crews."

A new feature of the state competition will be the mixed masters race for those 40 years of age and over. The crews will consist of three men and three women.

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GARDEN ISLE

AUG 3 1990

State canoe race tomorrow in Hanalei

The 40th Annual Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta will take place at beautiful Hanalei Bay tomorrow.

The opening ceremony is at 8:15 p.m. followed by a Special Olympics 1/4 mile race. The regular races will begin at 9 a.m. The state's top paddlers will come together to compete in, as well as perpetuate Hawaii's state sport, canoe paddling. There is expected to be 40-50 beautiful outrigger canoes, crafted out of koa wood, lining the beach.

There will be vendor booths set up selling food, clothing, leis, and crafts. A commemorative poster designed by Patrice Pendarvis will also be available.

Hanalei Canoe Club is hosting a post-regatta celebration under the tent next to Hanalei Shopping Center after the races. A youth party with food and entertainment provided by a mobile disco will happen from 4-6 p.m., admission is \$1.

Starting at 6 p.m. is the luau and entertainment featuring the Kauai Boys and much more. Admission is \$5. Tickets will be on sale at Hanalei Canoe Club's food booth.