



# Young team, brave finish

By Jack Wyatt  
Special to The Star-Bulletin

Waikiki Surf Club finished last among 19 teams in yesterday's Na Wahine O Ke Kai canoe race from Molokai. But its crew of teenage paddlers—the youngest in the race—won the hearts of everyone as they arrived at the Ft DeRussy Beach finish after nearly 8½ hours at sea.

Never mind that the young crew finished a long two hours after winning Off Shore Canoe Club of California. Never mind that their stroke was somewhat erratic as they surged to shore.

As far as the cheering finishline crowd was concerned, the tired but happy lei-bedecked girls were winners.

"Just by finishing, those girls proved they have heart," remarked Mindy Clark of Off Shore.

"When you consider that only four of the 12 girls have paddled from Molokai before they did just great. Compared to other crews, they're just beginners," coach Luana Froiseth said.

The girls ranged from 15 to 19 years.

"A real challenge and a lot of fun," said first-time paddler Tina Pabillano of Castle High School. "In mid-channel with land so far I wondered if the race would ever end," novice Sharissa Chun of the University of Hawaii added. "Could have used more waves," Janna Arakaki said.

Not sharks, seasickness or exhaustion dampened the young crew's enthusiasm. "Attacks of boredom by some girls were the only problem. You know teenagers and their short attention span," Froiseth said. A radio's blaring pop music station promptly solved that problem.

First timers Maly Alvarez and Aimee Chung, both 16, would paddle from Molokai again in a minute. "Big surfing seas would have made the race more exciting," Chung said.

Coach Froiseth noted that what her chargers lacked in experience they more than made up for in enthusiasm.

"They knew nothing about distances or how to pace themselves. All they wanted to do was go, go, go. I wish I had their energy," she said.

## That feeling of victory

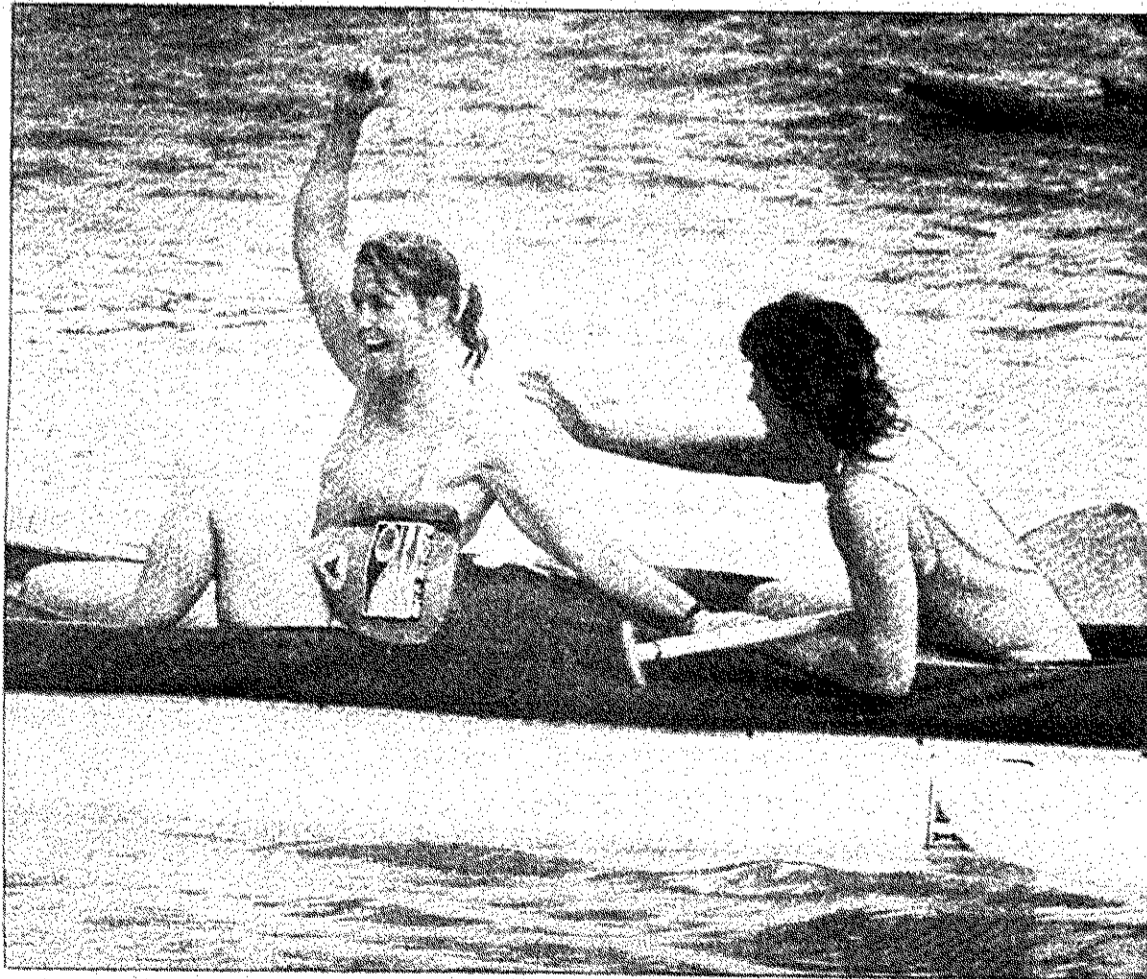
Off Shore Canoe Club savors the feeling as it wins yesterday's 40.8-mile Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

The club, from Newport Beach, knew as it turned into the finish, above, that it had the event won.

After pulling into the beach at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki, right, crew members celebrated, bottom.



Photos by Mike Tsukamoto



## Winning team

The members of the Off Shore Canoe Club, which is based in Newport Beach, Calif.

Leslie Davis

M.J. Smiley

Mindy Clark

JoJo Toepfner

Bonnie Sherar

Pam Fletcher

Elaine Kaspar

Chris Acton

Mimi Ohlson

Sue Hlavenka

Angie Stafford

Sharon Attlesey