

Outrigger hangs on to state championship

O'ahu's Outrigger Canoe Club successfully defended its title for the sixth year in a row at the Steinlager Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's 40th annual state championship regatta in the waters of Hanalei Bay on Saturday.

They won the Triple A division, (for clubs with 15 or more crews), by entering 31 teams in 31 events throughout the day. By fielding such a depth of competition, they accumulated 182 points by the day's end, finishing 89 points ahead of second place Hui Nalu Canoe Club, also from O'ahu, which had 93 points. In third place was Kaua'i's Hanalei Canoe Club with 89 points.

Healani Canoe Club of O'ahu took an early lead in the Double A division, (teams entering 7-14 crews), and didn't relinquish it all day. Kailua-Kona's Kai O Pua Canoe Club was second, and in third place was Kamehameha of Hilo.

In the A division, with six or less crews, Waikiki Surf Club also took an early lead and held onto it to finish first. Second place was the Big Island's Kai E Hitu, and Keaukaha was third. Two Kaua'i clubs made a good showing in this division with Kaiola Canoe Club of Nawiliwili coming in eighth, and Koloa Canoe Club tying for 12th place in a field of 22 competing clubs.

Kaiola Canoe Club was the first Kaua'i club to place in one of the top three slots when their Mixed Boys and Girls Ages 12 and Under crew glided into second place with a time of 2:16.50. Paddlers included: Natasha Pia, Samdee Van Gieson, Uilani Stokes, Kaipo Flores, Leo Abalos, and Kevin Nagao.

Hanalei Canoe Club grabbed first in the Girls 14 and Under category with a time of 2:09.13. Crew members included: Stephanie Brown, Farrah Chapin, Sheena Olanolan, Sonja Parker Bromley, Erika Bregholz, and Summer Wolfe.

The men from Hanalei made a strong showing beginning with first place in the Senior Men's Masters division, where paddlers are 45 years or older. Paddlers included: Rex Burrell, Van Key, Gaylord Wilcox, Dick Parks, Tom Wright, and Nick Beck with a time of 3:48.61.

Hanalei took second place in the Men's Novice A and continued racking up the points by taking third in the Men's Novice B, Freshmen Men, Sophomore Men, Junior Men, and Senior Men.

The event was organized and conducted by members of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association and hosted by the Garden Island Canoe Racing Association.

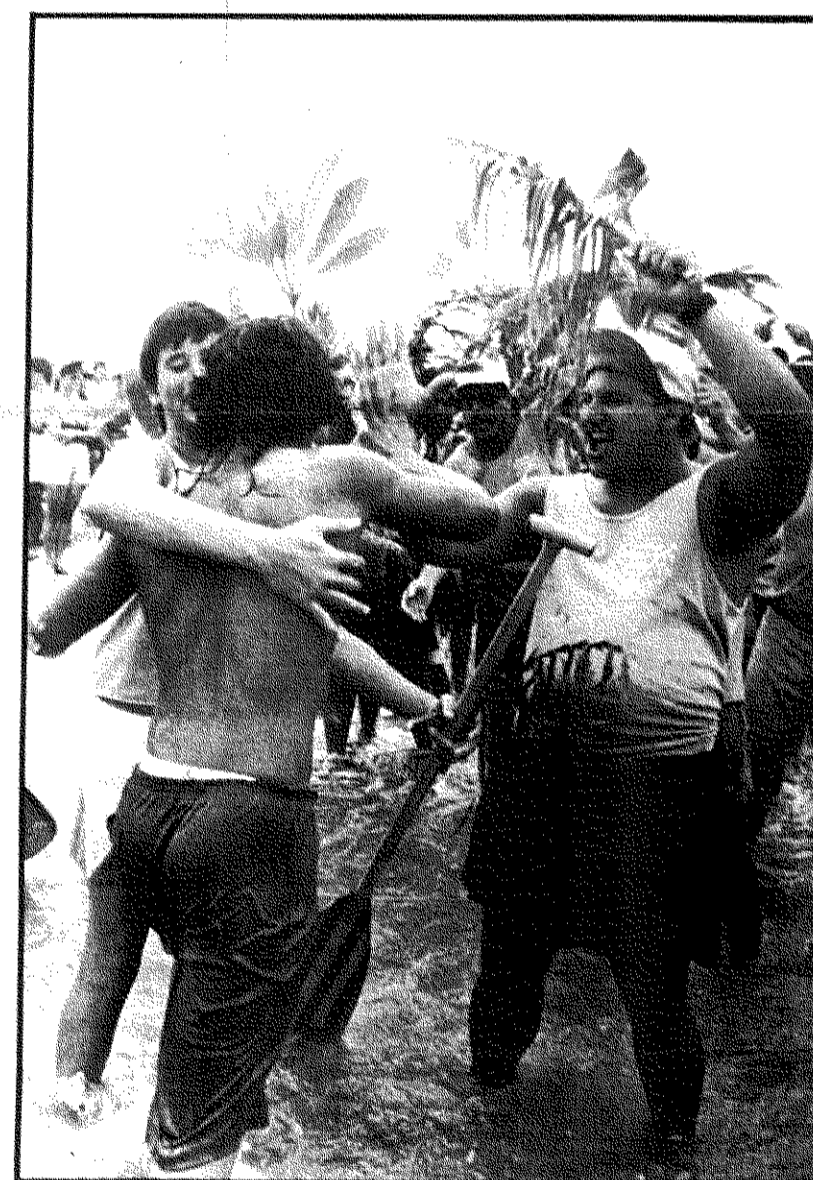


MAUFS HAWAIIAN CANOE CLUB members anxiously encourage their team on to victory.

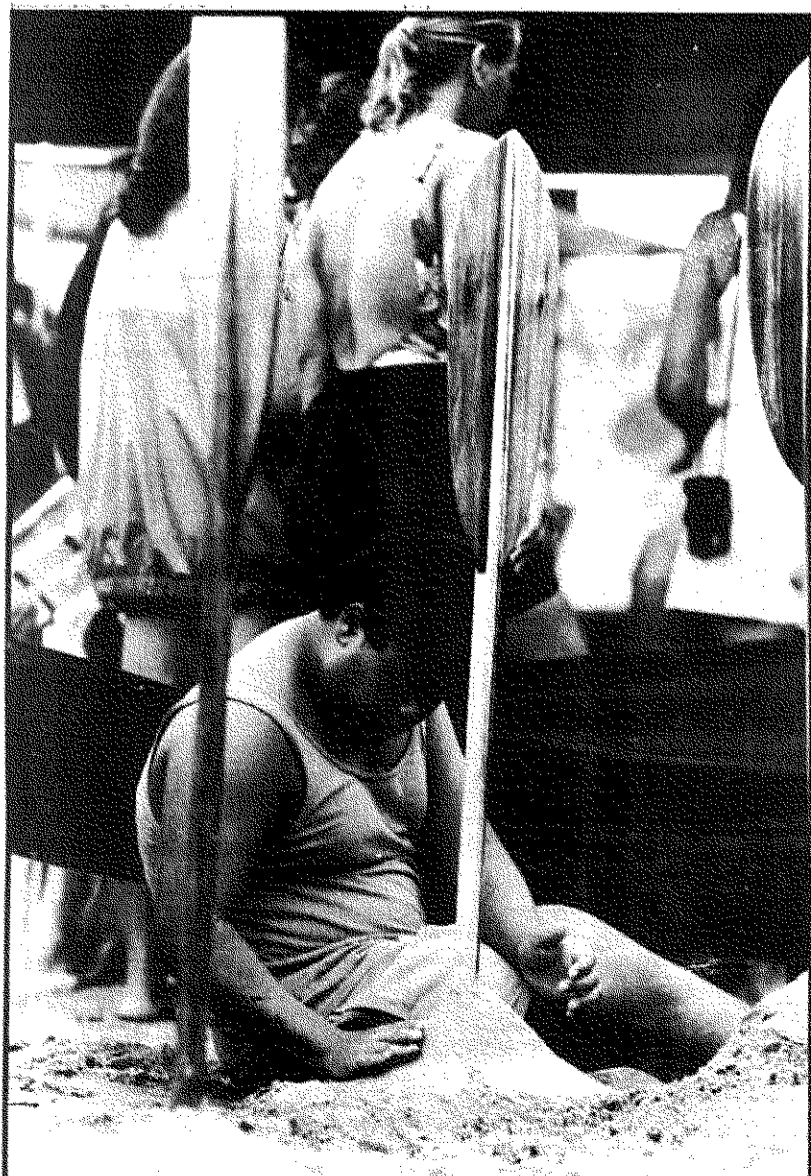
Photos by
Mike Teruya



TEAM SPIRIT, SUNSHINE, AND ALOHA were plentiful at Hanalei Bay on Saturday during the 40th annual state championship canoe regatta.



THE THRILL OF VICTORY--Paddlers are ecstatic after finishing first in their division.



A QUIET MOMENT. This young paddler from Kawaihae on the Big Island, spends a solemn moment playing with sand before the start of the race events.