

SEP 27 1985

Outrigger women paddlers will defend title Sunday

By Carol Hogan
Special to The Advertiser

The Outrigger Canoe Club will defend its title against 20 crews from Hawaii, California, Canada and Tahiti in the seventh annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race Sunday.

The 40.8-mile Kaiwi Channel crossing — for women crews only — culminates Oahu's Aloha Week celebration.

The 21 teams represent the largest field ever and includes a first-time entry — the Whis-

ters Canoe Club from Vancouver, British Columbia.

The race begins at Hale O Lono Harbor near Laau point on Molokai at 7 a.m. and ends at Fort DeRussy Beach near the Hilton Hawaiian Village pier. The first canoe is expected to finish at approximately 1 p.m.

Outrigger Canoe Club, which won the first race in 1979 in 6 hours, 35 minutes and 14 seconds, has dominated the race, along with the Hui Nalu Canoe Club.

The race was cancelled in

1980 because of 25- to 30-foot surf and strong winds. Outrigger won in 1981, then Hui Nalu won in '82 and '83, setting a record of 6:33:07.

Last year, Outrigger regained the record. A team of Mary Franco, Lesline Conner, Jeanne Jenkins, Muffer Scully, Mary Mason, Katy Bourne, Sandra Stanley, Kailua Downing, Traci Phillips, Kisi Haine, Patty Shaughnessy and Tiare Finney made the crossing in 6:12:11.

Hui Nalu finished second in 6:27:01 and Off Shore of Newport Beach, Calif., was third in

6:41:48. Hui Nalu and Off Shore will compete Sunday.

Tahiti has tripled its entries, with three crews competing. Last year its Ihilani Teva crew, the first women's entry from French Polynesia, suffered a mishap. The hull of its canoe cracked and the vessel was towed to Hawaii Kai.

Each team has 12 paddlers, six of whom are in the boat at any given time. The starting crew will paddle for 30 consecutive minutes before the first change is made. After that, paddlers rotate turns.

Each canoe is accompanied by an escort boat, on which paddlers rest between rotations. Also aboard the escort boat are the coach, a race official and the driver.

Sunday's race marks the first time that both a koa and fiberglass division will be represented. OCC and Hui Nalu used koa canoes last year.

Canoes used by visiting teams will be loaned by local clubs. Canoes are shipped by barge to Kaunakakai, Molokai, and then moved to Hale O Lono by trailer.

The Na Wahine O Ke Kai (Women of the Sea) race was originated by 12 women, who wanted to give women an opportunity to compete in a race that was traditionally for men only.

Race director Hannie Anderson, Nani Olds, Carleen Ornelles, Shelly Gilman and Puna Dawson are among the 12 women pioneers who have continued to help organize the competition.

The men's Molokai race will be held Oct. 13.

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mile crossing in a record 6:12.11.

Offshore CC of Newport, Calif., finished second at 7:01.03 and Lahaina third at 7:03.22.

Twenty clubs from Hawaii, the Mainland, Canada and Tahiti competed in the race. It began at dawn at Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai and ended off Fort DeRussy in Waikiki.

A team composed of paddlers from Kauai and Molokai finished fourth, followed by Whistlers CC of Vancouver, B.C., and Maire Nui of Tahiti. Kailua CC was seventh and Hui Nalu (which was first to finish in the koa division) placed eighth. Hui Nalu has won two Molokai-to-Oahu races.

Outrigger coach Tom Conner, who followed his crew's progress aboard an escort boat, said conditions made the crossing hazardous at times.

"I'm happy we won," he said. "It was a rough race — I think the roughest I've been in with the girls. The swells were six to eight feet, but it was pretty dangerous."

"There were probably a half-dozen times where the canoe could have gone over."

"I was frightened. Every time I saw the ama go under I kept thinking the canoe was going to be upside down."

The stormy conditions also created concern during paddler rotations.

The maneuver calls for a paddler to tumble out of the right side of the canoe an instant before her replacement, waiting in the water ahead, climbs in. When all is in sync, the canoe never stops moving.

Yesterday, Conner said, "We (onboard the escort vessel) had to be very careful not to miss anybody in the water."

"The canoe changes direction so quickly sometimes the paddlers aren't close to the canoe when want to make a change. We all keep our eyes on the women all the time."

Outrigger's winning crew included Franco, Karen Jones, Sandra Stanley, Muffer Scully, Katy Bourne, Traci Phillips, Jeanne Jenkins, Lesline Conner, Norma Santiago, Kisi Haine, Tiare Finney, and Paula Carbone.

The results:

1. Outrigger CC (Oahu) 6:50:31.73.
2. Offshore CC (Newport Beach, Calif.) 7:01:03.19.
3. Lahaina CC (Maui) 7:03:22.02.
4. Kauai/Molokai 7:11:04.49.
5. Whistlers CC (Vancouver, B.C.) 7:14:22.12.
6. Maire Nui CC (Tahiti) 7:16:07.53.
7. Kailua CC (Oahu) 7:16:27.53.
8. Hui Nalu CC (Oahu) 7:24:16.93 (first to finish in koa division).
9. Hanohano CC (San Diego, Calif.) 7:28:51.70.
10. FFFP (Tahiti) 7:32:22.91 (second in koa division).
11. Kai Opua CC (Kailua-Kona) 7:34:16.91.
12. Ka Mo'i CC (Oahu) 7:34:16.39.
13. Hui Lanakila CC (Oahu) 7:40:09.68 (third in koa division).
14. Koa Kai CC (Oahu) 7:40:54.83.
15. Kahana CC (Maui) 7:46:45.52.
16. Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu) 7:58:28.84.
17. Lokahi CC (Oahu) 7:58:05.84.
18. Waikiki Beach Boys (Oahu) 8:05:58.09.
19. To Oa O Tera (Tahiti) 8:07:00.47.
20. Kai Onipaa/Healani (Oahu) 8:08:51.30.



Advertiser photo by Greg Yamamoto
Jeanne Jenkins (right) and an Outrigger Canoe Club team-mate share a hug after winning the Molokai-to-Oahu race.

Outrigger wins Molokai-Oahu women's race

By Carol Hogan
Special to The Advertiser

Outrigger Canoe Club successfully defended its title yesterday in the seventh Na Wahine O Ke Kai Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race.

It was OCC's fourth victory in this event — and, by most accounts, the hardest earned.

OCC steersman Mary Franco, who has competed in all seven races, said extremely rugged conditions in the Kaiwi Channel made yesterday's crossing the toughest she could remember.

"It was wet and wild out there," Franco said. "The way the wind and swells were going — south, not right towards the island (of Oahu) but more towards Lanai — made it harder."

Outrigger's winning time — six hours, 50 minutes and 31.73 seconds — reflected the struggle. It was the slowest in race history.

Last year, OCC finished the 40.8-

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Star-Bulletin Photo by Mike Ysvakamoto
Stroker Lesline Conner (left) and OCC's winning wahine crew.

Colorful Win for OCC

By Jack Wyatt
Special to the Star-Bulletin
Outrigger Canoe Club won the Na Wahine O Ke Kai—the women's race from Molokai to Oahu—in record time last year.

Yesterday, the defending champs won the race once again setting another record. Taking six hours, 50 minutes and 31 seconds for the 40.8 miles, OCC's women won in the slowest winning time in the event's seven years.

The course record is 6:12.11. "Completely different conditions," OCC's coach Tommy Conner remarked.

THE COACH EXPLAINED that yesterday's slow times were due to too many swells too close together. "Awful waves," he said. "Always the wrong angle for good surfing."

In addition to the fastest and slowest winning times, Outrigger's women can claim another record—that of wearing, accord-

ing veteran wahine crew watchers, the brightest and most outlandish outfits ever worn by paddlers.

"Hey, I'm just their coach," Conner said. "I'm not in charge of apparel selection."

It was Outrigger's fuchsia and black striped two-piece bathing suits and not the women's winning performance that was the talk of the finish-line crowd. "It's no wonder they (OCC) won," California paddler Sarah Cooney said. "They scared the competition away."

BRIGHT OUTFITS notwithstanding, OCC blew away its 19-club competition finishing 10½ minutes ahead of runner-up Off Shore Canoe Club (7:01.03) of California.

"We got off third at the start (Hale O Lono) but by Laau Point we caught up and were in first," OCC steersman Mary Franco said.

OCC pressed but never in dan-

ger, kept the lead to the finish. "Outrigger simply made fewer mistakes, especially in their fast crew changes," Off Shore's Mindy Clark said.

Although Outrigger won the race handsily, off-island clubs were encouraged by their second through sixth-place finishes.

Lahaina, Maui (7:03.22) finished third followed by a combined crew from Hanalei, Kauai, and Molokai (7:11.04); Canada's White Raven Canoe Club (7:14.22) and Tahiti's Marie Nui (7:16.07).

HUI NALU, WHICH finished eighth overall (7:24.16) despite severe equipment problems, led the three-canoe koa division. The 20-club competition began at Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor and ended at Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach.

Conner-credited Franco for her steering prowess. "Those were terrible waves," Conner said. "She did well to keep the

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canoe as straight as she did."

Franco, rubbing her numb hands, complained of not being able to surf waves. "They were all wrong today," she said.

Race director Hannie Anderson said the Kaiwi Channel was like a washing machine. "When the girls got into the water during (crew) changes, you couldn't even see them," she said.

As a reward, Anderson gave all 240 (12 paddlers to a crew) participants medals.

OUTRIGGER'S PRESENCE was felt among other clubs. Chrissy Benham, a driving force behind Off Shore's strong second place, also paddles on OCC's sophomore crew during Oahu's regatta season.

"I go to school (Orange Coast College) in California," she said,

"but my home is in Honolulu. I'm torn between the two clubs."

Benham admitted to favoring OCC. "I would have liked to have won with either club," she said. Off Shore borrowed an

OCC canoe for yesterday's race. Maui's Anne Hogan, who steered Outrigger's winning wahine crews in 1979 and 81, yesterday, guided Lahaina Canoe Club to its surprising third-place finish.

7th Annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai Canoe Race

There was a lot of paddlesplashing, canoes skimming off the ocean, excitement, and just plain ol' wet fun, at the Seventh Annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai Canoe Race, held this past weekend.

The 40.8 mile race started from the Hale-O-Lono Harbor in Molokai, and ended at Fort DeRussy Beach in Waikiki.

The following are the results of the canoe race:

1. Outrigger Canoe Club: 6 hrs., 50 min., 31 sec.
2. Off Shore Canoe Club (Newport Beach, Calif.): 7 hrs., 1 min., 3 sec.
3. Lahaina Canoe Club: 7 hrs., 3 min., 22 sec.
4. Hanalei-Molokai Canoe Clubs: 7 hrs., 11 min., 4 sec.
5. Whistler's Canoe Club (Vancouver, B.C.): 7 hrs., 14 min., 22 sec.
6. Maire Nui (Tahiti): 7 hrs., 16 min., 7 sec.
7. Kailua Canoe Club: 7 hrs., 16 min., 27 sec.
8. Hui Nalu Canoe Club: 7 hrs., 24 min., 16 sec.
9. Hanohano Canoe Club (San Diego, Calif.): 7 hrs., 28 min., 51 sec.
10. FFFP Canoe Club (Tahiti): 7 hrs., 32 min., 22 sec.
11. Kai Opua Canoe Club (Kona): 7 hrs., 34 min., 10 sec.
12. Ka Mo'i Canoe Club: 7 hrs., 34 min., 16 sec.
13. Hui Lanakila Canoe Club: 7 hrs., 40 min., 9 sec.
14. Koa Kai Canoe Club: 7 hrs., 40 min., 54 sec.
15. Kahana Canoe Club (Maui): 7 hrs., 46 min., 45 sec.
16. Waikiki Surf Club: 7 hrs., 58 min., 28 sec.
17. Lokahi Canoe Club: 8 hrs., 5 min., 5 sec.
18. Waikiki Beach Boys: 8 hrs., 5 min., 59 sec.
19. Ta Oa O Tera (Tahiti): 8 hrs., 7 min.
20. Kai Onipaa-Healani Canoe Clubs: 8 hrs., 8 min., 51 sec.

In comparison to past races, this was the slowest and roughest race in the event's history. The record time was set in 1984; with the time of six hours, 12 minutes, and 11 seconds.

This year's race was held in swells 5-6 feet, which continued throughout the event, and in winds 10-15 knots and choppy.