

SEP 2 1 1989

Offshore waves off its favorite's role in Molokai challenge

By Jack Wyatt
Special to the Star-Bulletin

Coach Billy Whitford says his three-time defending Offshore Canoe Club wahine paddlers shouldn't be rated the team to beat when the 11th Na Wahine O Ke Kai women's Molokai-to-Oahu race gets underway this Sunday morning.

"If anything, we're the underdog because our paddlers come to Hawaii at a definite disadvantage," Whitford said in a phone call from Newport Beach, Calif.

Whitford told of the many woes visitors face challenging the locals in their home waters.

"We must borrow a canoe; our training is in calm waters, never in waves as big as yours, and our area lacks the strong women's racing found in the Islands," he said.

To simulate Hawaii's rough channel seas, Offshore practices by jumping into waves thrown by the wake of a fast moving power boat speeding back and forth across the canoe's bow.

"Our artificial waves no way com-

pare in size to what we can expect on Sunday. But they're better than nothing," Offshore's steersman Mindy Clark said.

Clark, who runs a Newport Beach surf shop, says any time the ocean kicks up waves that break she's on the water practicing.

The 41-mile paddle begins at Molokai's desolate Hale O Lono Harbor at 7 a.m. The race ends at Waikiki's Duke Kahanamoku Beach fronting the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel with the first arrival expected about 1:10 p.m.

Outrigger Canoe Club's women set the course record in 1984 with a 6:12:11 run. Twenty-three, 12-women, crews are entered for Sunday's crossing.

"Offshore at a disadvantage? That's

a laugh! Mindy is a good water person. She can handle any wave the channel throws at her," said coach Darryl Hara of Hawaii Kai's Hui Nalu Canoe Club. "Offshore's women are big, strong and experienced."

Hui Nalu, unbeaten in long distance racing this season, is expected to give Offshore its best competition. "We have 12 strong talented women. I believe we can match Offshore regardless of channel conditions, calm or big wave," Hara said.

Hui Nalu won the Na Wahine O Ke Kai twice—in 1982 and '83.

Whitford is proud of his talented crew but diplomatically plays down the prospects of Offshore winning four in a row.

"Except for three new girls it's about the same crew as last year," he said.

Offshore's returning veterans include Chris Acton, Sharon Attlesley, Mindy Clark, Leslie Davis, Pam Fletcher, Kim Nygaard, Bonnie Sherar, Olympian Jojo Toepfner and former University of Hawaii Wahine volleyball player Sue Hlavenka.

"They're long an experience," Hui

Nalu coach Kala Kukea said.

Whitford's new recruits are Shelia Beulier, a javelin thrower and track coach; Drew Van Hengel, a top rower, and Anna Olsson, a Swedish Olympic gold medalist in the two-person kayak in 1984. Last year at Seoul, Olsson placed sixth.

"Billy has put us through some tough practice sessions. He had us paddling at least four afternoons a week, plus other workouts," Toepfner said. "The Molokai has a quality of competition we miss here. That's why we come over."

Toepfner and Davis have paddled every race, while Clark missed only the first one.

Toepfner remembers the third Molokai race, when a huge wave broke 10 feet off their canoe's bow.

"That's what makes the race so exciting. Not only are you competing against the best women paddlers but against Mother Nature as well," she said.

Honolulu's Healani Canoe Club is expected to give Offshore and Hui Nalu a run for first.

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WEST HAWAII TODAY
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Na Wahine takes dedication

HONOLULU — To be a winning crew in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai takes a dedicated commitment of time and energy. And while most of the crews train daily paddling, lifting weights and running, teamwork is the final catalyst for peak performance.

This is where the defending champions, California's Offshore Canoe Club, has proven itself superior for the past three years. This year will be no exception as it competes with a record 23 other teams against Outrigger's 1984 six-hour, 12 minute, 11-second elapsed time record.

The race on Sept. 24 is 41 miles, starting at Hale O Lono, Molokai and crossing the Kaiwi Channel to the finish at Duke Kahanamoku Beach on Oahu.

Paddling

Offshore has entered every Na Wahine race since the first one in 1979. It didn't win their first race until 1986, but it hasn't stopped winning since.

In an effort to break Offshore's three-year streak, Hui Nalu, the 1982 and 83 winners, has reorganized its women's crew. Their teams consist of several members of the 1982 and '83 crews, plus a few "renewables" who switched from other Oahu clubs at the start of the long-distance season.

Paddlers include Lorey Bode, who last month won three gold and two bronze medals at the National Kayak and Canoe

Championships at Indianapolis and was the 1988 record setting winner of the Molokai-to-Oahu kayak race.

Bode and other former Healani Canoe Club paddlers joining Hui Nalu are Ann Malama, Jenny Scafe and Lindsay Styan. Other members of Hui Nalu's Molokai crew are Sandy Combs, Diane Darval-Almadova, Becky Hara, Katie Johnson and B.J. Moffett.

The Hui Nalu women have won every long-distance race they've entered this season. They bettered Outrigger's record by 15 minutes in August's 22-mile Dad Center race on Oahu. Champion paddler and women's coach Kala Kukea expects them to do very well on Sept. 24.

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HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN
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WOMEN'S PADDLING

AT A GLANCE

Event: 11th Na Wahine O Ke Kai
Molokai-to-Oahu women's canoe race.

Distance: 40.8 miles.
Start: Tomorrow, 7 a.m. from Hale O Lono Harbor.

Finish: About 1 p.m. at Waikiki's Duke Kahanamoku Beach.

Entries: 22 teams, including 12 from Oahu; four from Hawaii; three from Maui and three from California.

Course record: Outrigger Canoe Club in 1984 with a 6:12:11 finish.

Best spectator viewing: From noon at Diamond Head lookout; along Waikiki Beach, or at the Duke Kahanamoku Beach finish fronting the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

PAST WINNERS

1988—Offshore Canoe Club (Newport Beach, Calif.) 6:14:22.

1987—Offshore Canoe Club 6:26:25.

1986—Offshore Canoe Club 6:31:04.

1985—Outrigger Canoe Club (Honolulu) 6:50:31.

1984—Outrigger Canoe Club 6:12:11 (course record).

1983—Hui Nalu Canoe Club (Hawaii Kai) 6:33:07.

1982—Hui Nalu Canoe Club 6:43:38.

1981—Outrigger Canoe Club 6:47:11.

1980—Race cancelled due to rough channel seas.

1979—Outrigger Canoe Club 6:35:14.

Reported by Star-Bulletin staff

To a veteran paddler, this race special

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

Healani Canoe Club's Rosie Lum, a veteran of 37 years racing canoes, can hardly wait for tomorrow's 11th Na Wahine O Ke Kai—the Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race for women.

"You'd think that after all my years paddling, another canoe race would be just routine. Not so with the Molokai. My heart begins pounding and the adrenaline begins flowing just thinking about it," she said.

For most paddlers, the Molokai race is the season's highlight. "For the first time in years our Healani crew has a good chance at winning. I'm excited about that," she said.

Healani is among four or five teams ranked teams. The others include three-time defending champ Offshore Canoe Club of Newport Beach, Calif. Oahu distance winner Hui Nalu Canoe Club of Hawaii Kai and Waikiki's Outrigger Canoe Club, winner of four Molokai-to-Oahu events.

Outrigger set the course record in 1984 with a 6:12:11 crossing.

In the 1975 race—an unofficial "demonstration" channel crossing to prove to men that women could paddle the distance—Lum's crew placed second. "That's the best I've finished of any of my Molokai races," Lum said before admitting that only two boats took part.

"The fact that women crossed the channel at all impressed most men," Lum said.

While the men's race has grown to almost 600 crews in 37 years, sporting teams from throughout the world, the women's event is building at an agonizingly slow



File Photo

Offshore Canoe Club, of California, has won the last three Na Wahine O Ke Kai races, which go from Molokai to Oahu.

pace, statistics indicate.

The first official Na Wahine O Ke Kai in 1979 drew 17 entries—only five fewer teams than are expected tomorrow.

"The emphasis has been on the men's race for years. The guys secured the best sponsors, they captured the media attention and they drew the crowds," Kaimuki paddler Paula Wang said.

Wang also noted it was only in recent years that wahines attracted commercial support to help pay the bills and to publicize the event. "I think we're over the hump now," she said.

Lum explained that most women's sports grow as athletes become more competitive. "Canoe racing is no exception. We've already had Olympians and national-class paddlers compete here. I

expect to see more of them in the future," she said.

In preparation for tomorrow's race, serious crews have logged long and hard practice sessions, up to five workouts a week, for months. "In addition to paddling, our Healani women run and do weights," Lum said.

Women paddlers are improving their strength and endurance. "In 1975 each crew had 18 paddlers—six in the canoe and 12 serving as alternates. We now have a 12-paddler maximum and I expect one day we'll cut that to nine, the same as men," Lum said.

Diamond Head Lookout about noon as the canoes approach Waikiki and the Duke Kahanamoku Beach finish about one hour later are two popular spectator sites.

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Long Distance/USA charges after 10th ring

QUESTION: I am a kamaaina and have a problem that should concern all of Hawaii. I have found that Long Distance/USA has been charging me for long-distance calls even though they were never completed. These were calls I made to my parents who, because they are elderly, take longer to answer so I had to let the phone ring a long time.

Why is the state of Hawaii allowing Long Distance/USA to charge for service that is not delivered? The company has been charging me fraudulently for over two years. This is a fraud and will end up in court!

ANSWER: Dick Gibbs, vice president of operations for Long Distance/USA, suggested that you give your parents a portable telephone to solve your problem. Customers are charged for a one-minute call if the phone rings more than 10 times and nobody answers it, Gibbs said. No government approval is needed for this charge because the industry has been deregulated, he said.

With the convenience of a portable phone, your parents should be able to answer your calls before the 10th ring. Gibbs said his company realized it was losing a lot of money when it was not billing people for calls that took less than a minute, even though some of them were completed. These were calls for operator assistance, to facsimile (FAX) machines and telephone recording machines.

To recoup these losses, the company set 10 rings as "a reasonable number" and put its computerized billing system into action, Gibbs said. When a phone rings more than 10 times and no one answers, the customer is charged for a one-minute call. The charge increases to a two-minute call if the phone rings more than 20 times and no one answers.

However, if you are billed for one of these completed calls, you will be given credit if you call the company and tell someone in the business office, Gibbs said. If you don't want to do this, you could hang up before the 10th ring. In the cellular phone industry, a customer is charged for every call, completed or not, he said.

Q: There is a big sign at the top of Maile Way announcing that the mayor and city are involved in the reconstruction of University Avenue. While roadwork was going on at University Avenue and Maile Way, large construction trucks parked on the Maile Way side of Kamanele Park each day and



KOKUA LINE
By Harriet Gee

caused the grass to die. Now that that portion of roadwork is finished, I've been waiting in vain for someone to replant the grass.

I've lived in Manoa many years and have heard there is a heiau at the top of the hill where the trucks were parked. Did the city have approval to disturb that heiau? And when is it going to do something about that denuded area?

A: The contractor will be told to replant the grass, said Pete Baptista, head of the construction section of the city Public Works Department. He said he has never heard about a heiau on the hill. University Avenue from Maile Way to East Manoa Road as well as some side streets will be reconstructed. The job will cost \$1.26 million, and is scheduled to be completed in August 1990.

Traffic alert!

About 4,000 runners are expected to take part in a 4-mile miracle fun run/walk tomorrow starting at 7 a.m. from Ala Moana Park, sponsored by the Honolulu Fire Department.

Runners and walkers will proceed down Ala Moana to the Aloha Tower area, turn around and return to the park. The two main lanes on Ala Moana will be closed off for the race.

Across the island in Kailua, the annual Chip Salaun Memorial Triathlon will be held tomorrow starting and ending at Kailua Beach Park. After a half-mile swim at the beach, participants will go on a 14-mile bike ride on Kalahoe Avenue, Mokapu Boulevard, Mokapu Saddle Road, Kaneohe Bay Drive and Kailua Dump Road.

This will be followed by a 4-mile run on Kailua Road and Kailua Drive.

Mahalo

"Mahalo to all the people who volunteered their time to help make the recent Waikiki rough water swim a success. We really appreciated your interest and kokua." — Lance Lau.

Need help with problems? Call Kokua Line at 525-8866 or write to P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu 96802.

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MAUI NEWS

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Word Has It Carol Austin

... SHOOTS ... Lots of filming going on on Maui according to Georgia Skinner.

American Airlines, American Express, Budget Rent-A-Car, J. Crew and American Hawaii Cruises all shooting commercials. And in October, Exec producer Norman Powell, son of the late Dick Powell, starts filming the CBS TV movie "Miracle Landing." Dick Lowrey, who directed "The Gambler" miniseries, will direct the film about Aloha Airlines Flight 243. No word yet on who'll play the leading roles.

... WINNERS ... An MVB promotional group led Destination Maui is touring California. Kiki Patten, now living in Huntington Beach, is leading the musical group that includes Wailana Lee, daughter of Nani and the late Kui Lee, who sings a tear-jerking rendition of her father's famous "Lahaina Lullaby."

At a travel agents promo in San Francisco, Maui girl Grace Garcia, aunt of Sam Garcia of the Maui Prince, won the drawing for a trip to Hawaii. So Auntie's coming home ... John and Susan Guard, The Pet Store owners, won a car in a drawing sponsored by a birdseed manufacturer. Problem: It only had three cylinders and they were afraid it wouldn't make the daily climb up to Kula, so they sold it back to the manufacturer. Smart move ... Six-year-old super-kid bicyclist Morgan McCurdy took second in the U.S. Nationals for his age group, then cleaned up by taking first in the Canadian Grand Nationals. Now he's off to Las Vegas to pedal his speedy two-wheeler again ...

... DIETS ... Neil Toney of the Maui Philharmonic got a call from pianist Phillip Glass's agent in NYC saying Glass will eat only veggies, fruit and Indian food. Glass, who'll perform here Oct. 10, plays in a style referred to as "Beyond New Age." Good grief. Some of us are still trying to figure out new age much less attempting the beyond part ...

... SPRINTING ... Jim Swor reports 10 teams from Oahu, five from Kona and one from Lanai running the Hana Relay tomorrow. Fred Hemmings is on the Outrigger Canoe Club team, and Rosewood's Hotel—Hana-Maui has three runners from their L.A. hotel flying in. Some teams still looking for runners to replace last-minute dropouts, so if you're feeling spry, don your Reeboks and call Jim at 242-6042. Big relay kickoff party tonight at War Memorial Baseball Stadium. Artist Jackie Pias Carlin designed razzle-dazzle T-shirts for the event ...

... HAWAIIANA ... An exhibit of 'Twink' Fitzgerald's Hawaiian calabash collection on view at the Maui Prince Hotel Oct. 7 through 20. Plus an autograph session on the 7th for the new book "The Hawaiian Calabash" by Irving Jenkins and Hugo DeVries. Lots of other Hawaiian crafts also on display ... And Keola Beamer's musical entourage using The Ballroom of the Kapalua Bay Hotel to perfect their new act about to tour the islands. It's based on Keola's new hit album, "Sweet Maui Onion."

Speaking of onions, the first-ever Maui Onion Festival will be held in December 1990.

Editor's note: Carol Austin's Word Has It is published on Wednesdays and Fridays. To contact Austin, call her at 878-2729 or leave written messages at The Maui News.