

# Hanalei beats Outrigger in Moloka'i-to-O'ahu race

by Keith Karasic

Hanalei Canoe Club's first team triumphed over the heavily favored O'ahu Outrigger Canoe Club in Sunday's 34th annual Moloka'i-to-O'ahu outrigger canoe race, the Bankoh Molokai Hoe.

Unfortunately, Hanalei along with 46 other canoe teams had not set their goals sufficiently high enough to avoid losing to the Illinois Brigade, a team based in the Mainland's mid-west region.

Hanalei "No. 1" finished a respectable sixth overall with a time of 5:41:06.46 over a 40.8-mile course in the treacherous Kaiwi Channel between Molokai and O'ahu. Finishing in first place only eight minutes ahead of Hanalei with a time of 5:33:04.99, was the Illinois Brigade, a conglomeration of nationally and internationally top-rated canoe and kayak racers. Illinois was followed across the finish line at Honolulu's Fort DeRussy Beach by the top government-sponsored Tahitian "all-star" team, "F.F.P.P. No. 1." The Tahitians, finishing in 5:35:21.78, led the way across the channel after pulling into an early lead at the start off Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai's south shore.

Halfway through the race, it appeared Tahiti would run away with the title for the first time since sweeping first through fourth places in 1976. Throughout the second half, Illinois gained steadily on Tahiti until overtaking them in waters off Hawai'i Kai. The lead changed hands at least three times in one hour, as off-shore spectators thrilled to the rare sight of a near-photo finish in the annual event.

Both teams nearly "hull"-ied (capsized) in waves off O'ahu's Diamond Head, while steering courses designed to cut down the remaining distance to the finish marker. The brush with disaster combined with losing the lead was enough to break the spirit of the South Pacific team, according to Tahitian leader Rodo Bernadinu. From Diamond Head to DeRussy, Illinois steadily pulled away.

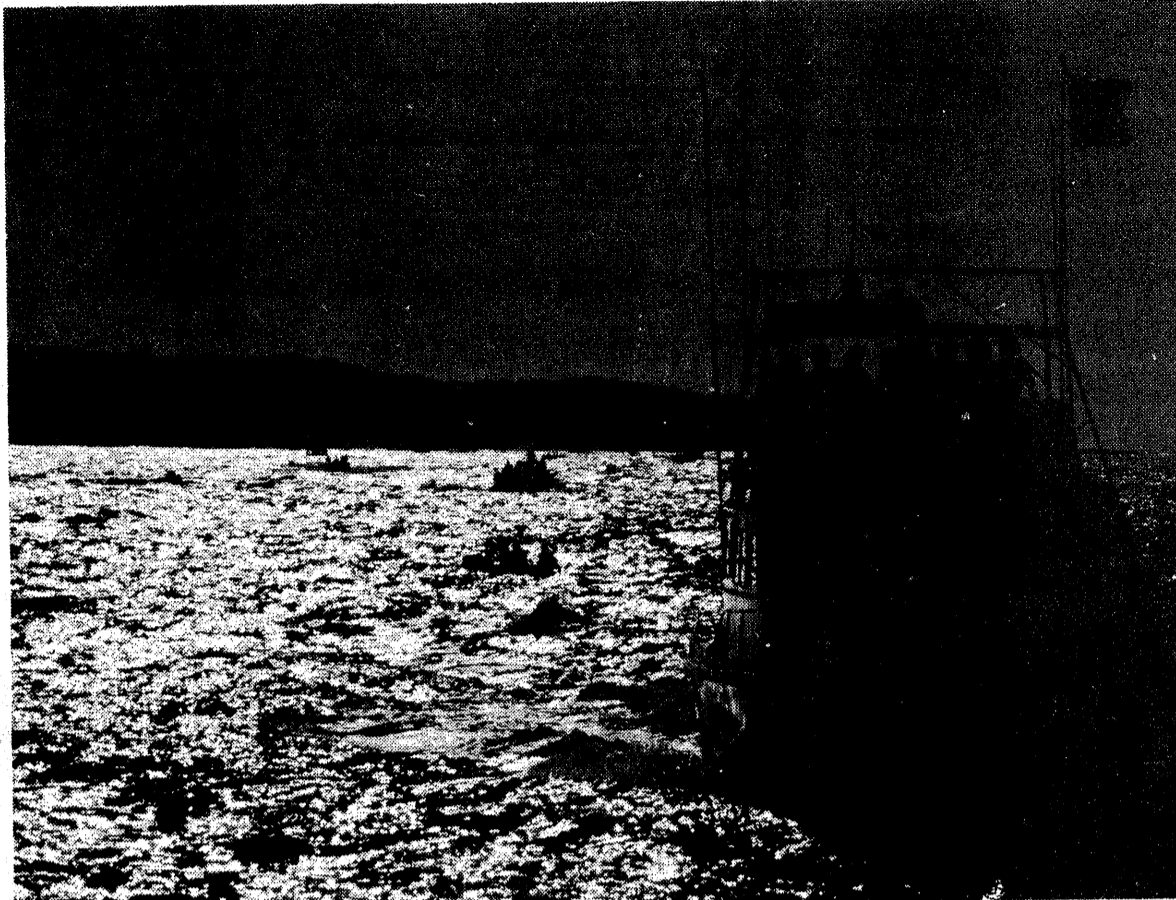
Offshore, a team sponsored by a California-based sportswear manufacturer and well populated with national and Olympic paddling champs, as well as Molokai race veterans, finished third only seconds behind Tahiti with a time of 5:35:49.93. Offshore was first-to-finish in the class reserved for traditional Koa wood constructed boats. In fourth place, Kailua was

the first team from Hawai'i to cross the finish line in 5:39:23.84. The Big Island's Kai Opua team succeeded in edging out Hanalei by only 20 seconds with a 5:40:46.11. Outrigger followed Hanalei by a minute in 5:42:02.17.

Hanalei's second team, paddling the albizia wood canoe "Waioli," finished 17th overall, the result of a collision with their escort boat, according to team leader David "Kawika" Goodale. The collision broke a sharply shaped bow piece, known as the "manu", off the Waioli, and left a 6-inch long hole in the escort boat. In the confusion, the canoe flipped costing the second team valuable time. The incident occurred near Koko Head. The Waioli team finished in under six hours with a 5:57:56.55.

Hanalei coach Nick Beck told The Garden Island he was pleased with his team's performance. "These guys have nothing to be ashamed of. They worked hard all season and they were up against Olympic- and top national- and international-caliber racers. Most important, we achieved the goal we set at the start of the season."

(Please turn to Page 9)



AN ESCORT BOAT prepares to discharge race team members for a crucial early crew change in Sunday's 34th annual Moloka'i-to-O'ahu outrigger canoe race, the Moloka'i Hoe. (Photo by Keith Karasic)

(Continued from Page 1)

We beat Outrigger. How were we to know that they weren't going to beat everybody else again?"

The Illinois Brigade would appear at first glance to be very "dark horse" contenders for the prestigious Molokai Hoe title, considered to be the "World Series" of outrigger canoe racing. They practiced as a team for only one week before the race. By "Brigade" team leader Everett Crozer's own admission, their crew changes were bad, they didn't know how to steer the 400 plus-pound craft, they had great difficulty with bailing techniques to keep excess weight from water down, and they were not familiar with paddling in waves. What is it, then, that allowed these "malihinis" to beat all the well-trained and experienced Hawaiian and Tahitian teams?

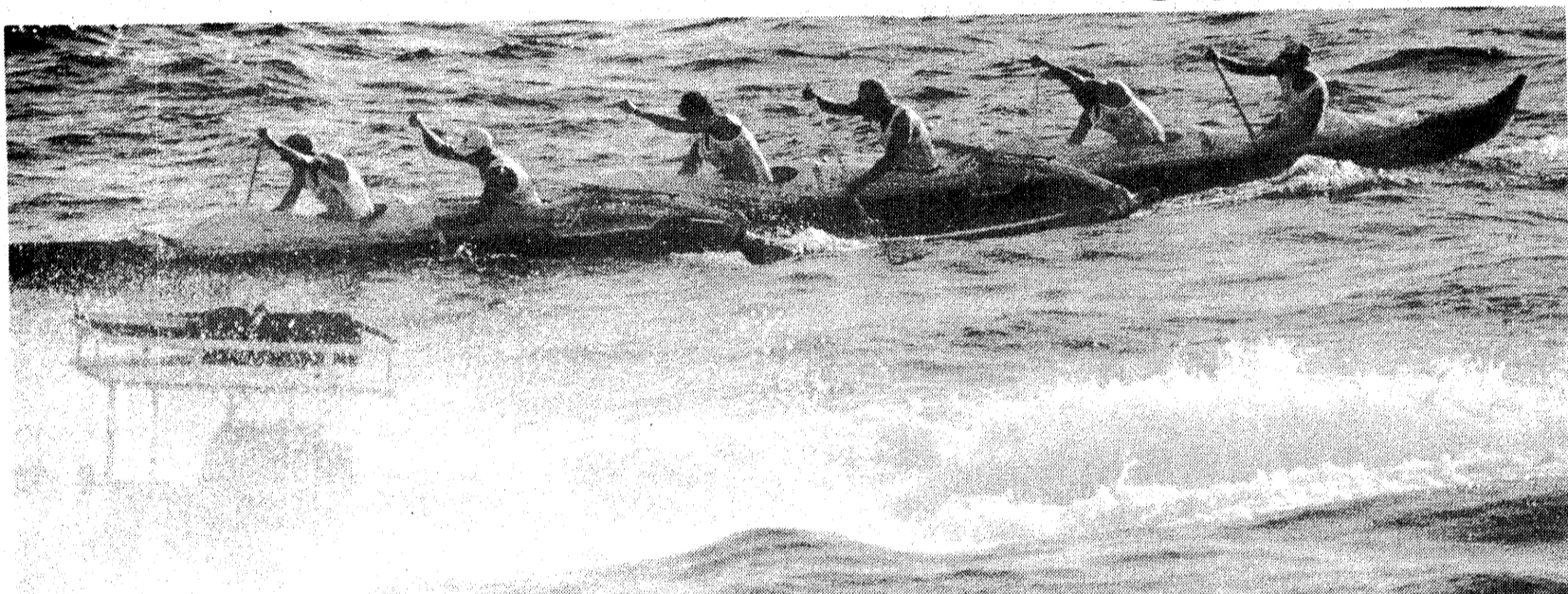
"Timing and endurance," says Crozer. His team includes Bruce Barton, five-time national marathon canoe champion and Serge Corbin of Canada, an Olympic paddler. All but one of the team members are veterans of the Molokai race—some having raced as many as five times. In addition, the nucleus of this year's winning team finished 10th overall in last year's event. "Also, Outrigger loaned us one of their good racing canoes," Crozer added, smiling.

How does all this sit with the Hanalei crew? Beck's son David, who is not only the team "spark-plug" but also, at age 21, its youngest member, summed it up by slightly altering his season-long "war chant." Instead of "Beat Outrigger," the new cry has become, "Beat Illinois!"

Hanalei's Molokai teams included: Nick Beck (coach), David Beck, David Goodale, Dan Sullivan, Mark Daniels, Steve Cole, Kip Bottomley, Bob Kaden, Togo Hermosura, Nick Marvin, Christian Marston, Skip Forrest, Alan Gaylor, Joe Moranz, Bito Hermosura, Gary Hudson, Kent Ellis and Gaylord Wilcox.

Support crew members were: Craig Leeper, Phil Bonde, Michelle Cole, Leshell, Jerry Leftkowitz, Mike Laureta, and Murphy Carfagna.

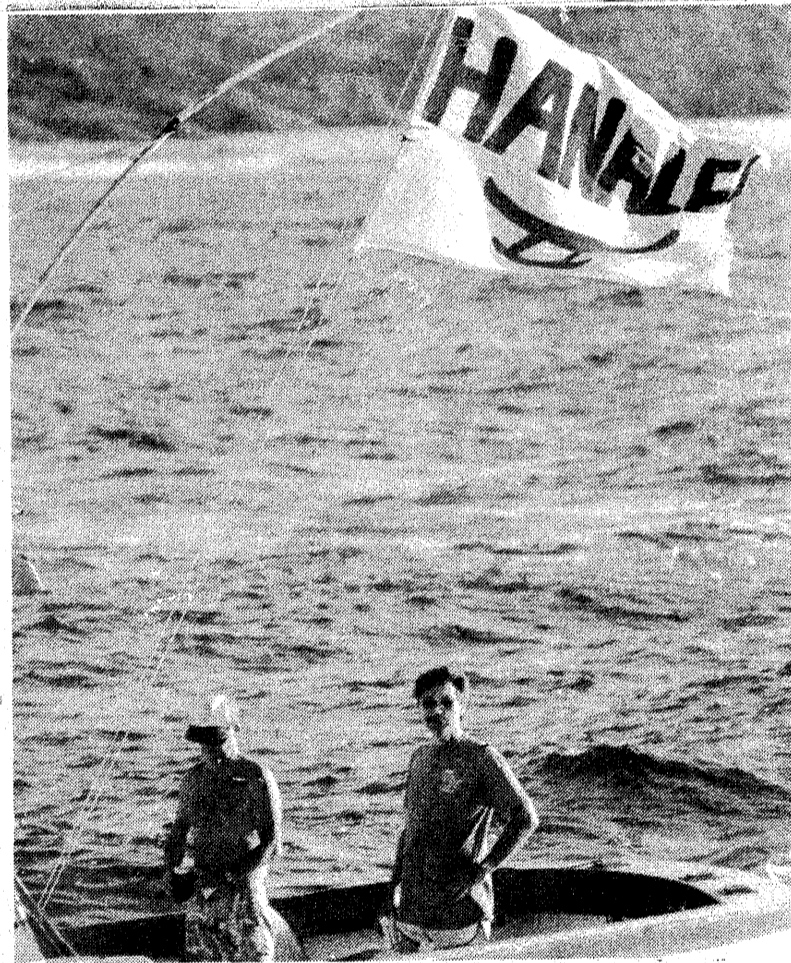
## Hanalei beats Outrigger



FOAM-RAISER! - One of the canoes in the race and a passing escort boat form a combination that kicks up the ocean's foam. (Photos by Keith Karasic)



MEN'S TEAM COACH Nick Beck (center with checkered hat) and the rest of the Hanalei crew carry their 400-plus pound race canoe down to the waters of Moloka'i's Hale O Lono Harbor for the start.



THE HANAIE CANOE CLUB support team also included the crew of escort boat "Kahuna Kai."

**CHOP SUEY:** It's worth noting that the Illinois paddlers who won the Molokai-to-Oahu race were using a fiberglass canoe borrowed from the Outrigger Canoe Club — which anticipated rougher seas and opted for a heavier koa canoe. The winning canoe was the *Holomatie* ("swift sailing") and was named by **Harriet Ne** of Molokai, the aunt of OCC steersman **Henry Ayau**. The canoe paddled by second-place Tahiti was a fiberglass canoe borrowed from Waikiki Surf Club . . . Conditions in the Kaiwi Channel were not as rough as the local clubs expected, but were bouncy enough to repeatedly swamp the boat carrying photographer **Warren Bolster**, shooting for The Advertiser, and a TV cameraman who was shooting for Ch. 4's special on the race (tonight). The waves flooded and ruined an \$11,000 TV camera as well as Warren's "inexpensive little suicide camera" . . . Nice touch at the chili cook-off were **Harry Halmoff's** chili ristras, sort of like big leis made from chili peppers. **Wife Deanna** ordered them on a recent trip to Santa Fe, N.M. You wouldn't want to wear one — each weighs about 30 pounds . . . **Laurene Taira** — of the King's Bakery Taira clan — is reopening her Casa Madrid at Eaton Square □ □ □

### Float plan

**Saturday.** Cup Capers, a fundraiser for the Hawaii Sailing Foundation, is conducted by the Commodore Association and sponsored by all Oahu yacht clubs. Canoe races, El Toro races, tour of Coast Guard cutter Pt. Harris. Held at Hawaii Yacht Club from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, call HYC at 949-4822.

**Saturday.** Basic sailboarding classes. Sponsored by the University of Hawaii Campus Center Board. For information, call Brian Okamura at 948-7235.

**Saturday-Sunday.** Hawaiian Surfing Association's Mobile Meet No. 1 at Hauwaa Beach Park or Ehukai Beach Park. Sponsored by Hawaiian Ocean Sports. For information, call Reid Inouye at 671-6255.

**Saturday-Sunday.** Kona Coast Divers Bag a Bug Contest. Free entry lobster hunt. All lobster hunters must bring lobsters in alive to be photographed, measured and weighed. For information, call Kona Coast Divers at 329-8802 on the Big Island.

**Sunday.** Windsurfing race in Kailua-Kona. For information, call Jerry Clasen at 325-7641 on the Big Island.

**Sunday.** Outrigger Invitational Sailing Regatta, sponsored by Outrigger Canoe Club. For information, call OCC at 923-1585.

**Sunday.** Kona Sailing Club open-house races at Honokohau Harbor. All Fleets. For information, call Commodore Laurent Gour at 329-3257 on the Big Island.