

MOLOKAI HO'E

AT A GLANCE

Event: 38th Molokai Ho'e. Men's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

Distance: 40.8 miles

Start: Tomorrow, 7:30 a.m. from Hale O Lono Harbor.

Finish: Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach before 1 p.m.

Canoes: Six-paddler koa-wood or fiberglass boats, each approximately 40-feet in length and each weighing no less than 400 pounds.

Teams: 52, including one each from Australia, England, New York, Kauai and Molokai; three each from Tahiti; California and Canada; four from Maui; seven from Big Island and 27 from Oahu.

Crew: Each team consists of nine paddlers, with six in the canoe at one time.

Record: 1988 Outrigger Canoe Club in 5 hours, 8 minutes and 11 seconds.

Race leaders: Outrigger Canoe Club won 13 times; Waikiki Surf Club won 12; Heolani and Offshore (Calif.) each won 2.

Outrigger, Waikiki dominate

Outrigger Canoe Club, with 13 victories, and Waikiki Surf Club, with 12, have dominated the Molokai Ho'e from its 1952 beginning.

In addition to three-time defending champ Outrigger, crews to beat tomorrow include Australia and Tahiti; IMUA and Offshore from California, plus Hawaii's Hui Nalu, Kailua, Lanikai and Kamehameha-Hilo.

Olympic paddlers on Offshore crew

Olympic kayakers, Terry Kent and Greg Barton, highlight Offshore's all-star crew.

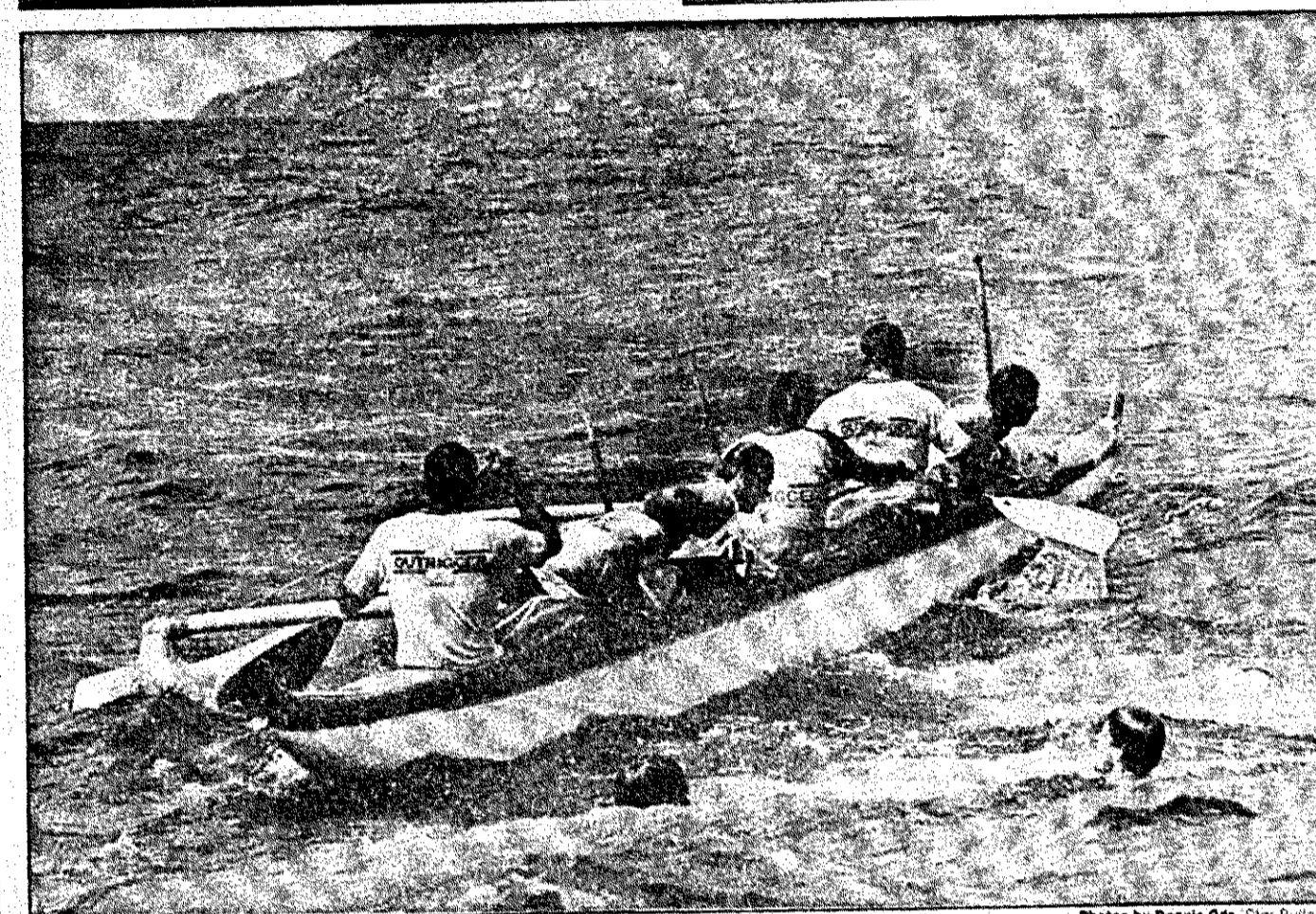
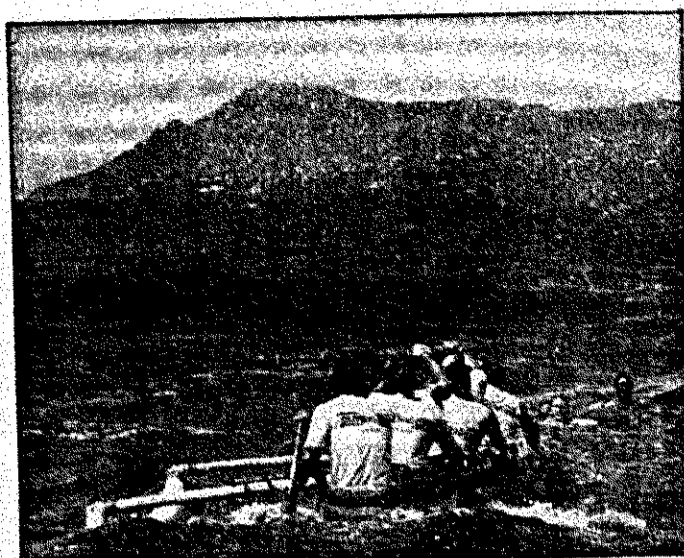
"A welcome change from flat water sprint training. This race is hard but fun," said Michigan's Barton, winner of three Olympic medals for kayaking—two gold last year at Seoul and a bronze medal at Los Angeles in '84.

Father, sons on different teams

Veteran paddler George Downing is a life-member of Waikiki Surf Club, but doesn't mind that his sons, Keone and Kainoa, compete for rival Outrigger.

"I've never insisted my boys paddle for Surf Club. They've been making their own racing decisions for years," he said.

Reported by Star-Bulletin staff



Outrigger Canoe Club, which has won the last three Molokai Ho'e races, changes crew off Diamond Head last year.

British crew taking part in the race

By Jack Wyatt
Special to the Star-Bulletin

Now that Hawaiian outrigger canoes have discovered the revered River Thames, England's most famous waterway may never be the same.

"We definitely turn heads as we paddle past London's Houses of Parliament, Queen Elizabeth Hall and under the Tower Bridge. A canoe sporting an outrigger is not a familiar sight on the Thames," said Chris Horrod, 36, a paddler for England's Royal Canoe Club here for tomorrow's Molokai Ho'e.

Two Hawaiian outriggers now ply the Thames, dodging its famed barges, sleek rowing shells and tourist boats. "The only people recognizing the canoe's historic lineage are those who have seen them on Hawaii 5-0 or Magnum P.I.," Horrod said.

The Brits are making their third appearance in the men's race from Molokai-to-Oahu. "This race is special for a couple reasons," Horrod said, "our first one with an all-English crew. And the first year that we've assembled a competitive team who have trained long and hard."

The visitors are experienced kayak and Canadian-style canoe racers. "We're serious about doing well. Otherwise we wouldn't have traveled halfway around the world and spent thousands of dollars to race here," Horrod said.

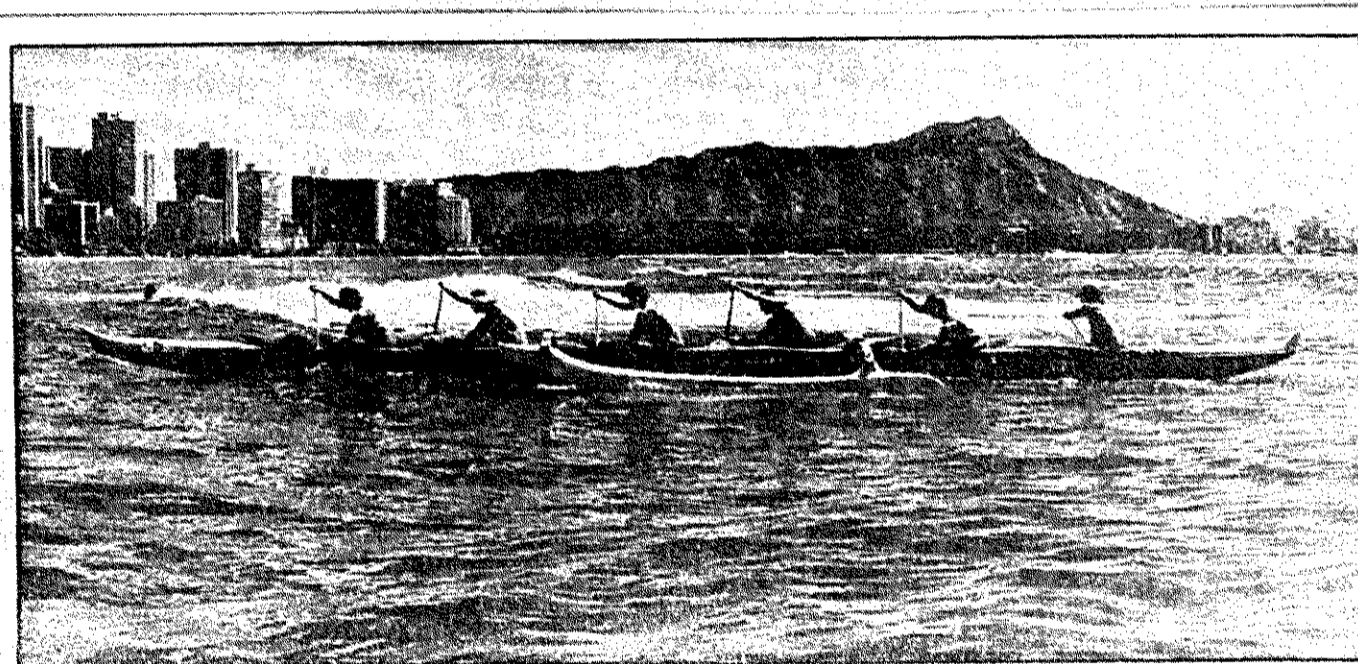
With 52 crews, from Australia, Canada, Tahiti, California and Hawaii, the Brits will find plenty of competition during the 40.8 miles, from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach.

"We finished in the middle of the pack the past two years. This race we hope to do better," he said.

Like most visiting teams, the Brits lack a steersman with big wave experience. "We caught some waves while practicing in the English Channel but nothing like we can expect here," Horrod said.

Photos by Dennis Ode, Star-Bulletin

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Advertiser photo by Greg Yamamoto

Californians win canoe race

The Offshore Canoe Club from Newport Beach, Calif., won the Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race. Defending champion Outrigger placed seventh. See Sports, Page C-1.

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5 Big Isle crews complete Molokai Channel crossing

HONOLULU — Kamehameha Canoe Club of Hilo was the first Big Island finisher during the Bankoh Molokai Hoe Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race yesterday.

Offshore C.C. of California won the overall championship with a time of five hours, six minutes and 29 seconds over the 40.8 mile open ocean course. They broke the old course record time of 5:08:11 set by Outrigger of Oahu in 1988.

The nine-member team, whose base is in Newport Beach, Calif., has paddlers from all over North America.

The race began at 7:24 a.m. in Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai's western tip, crossed the Molokai, or Kaiwi Channel and finished at Fort DeRussy Beach, Oahu. A total of 53 teams were entered in the competition.

The Kaiwi Channel can sometimes feature big waves and choppy seas, but today it was as smooth as glass, conducive to

Paddling

outrigger canoe paddling.

Hui Nalu of Oahu finished second overall with a time of 5:11:38. They were followed by Ihilani of Tahiti at 5:13:39, Punaruu of Tahiti at 5:17:57 and Outrigger of Australia at 5:19:22.

Offshore also won the race in 1981 and 1982. They were paddling in a canoe lent to them by Hui Nalu.

"It was a great race for us all," said spokesman Al Rudquist, an Offshore member from Minnesota. "We were in fifth or sixth position at Laau Point. In two hours we caught up." He estimated they were paddling at eight mph.

Kamehameha of Hilo was 12th overall at 5:32:37. Other Big Isle finishers were Kai Opua Masters of Kailua-Kona, 19th overall at 5:41:03; Kamehameha II at 5:59:04 (36th overall); Kai E Hifu of Kailua Kona at 6:00:57

(37th), and another Kai Opua crew at 6:27:34 (49th).

The Kai Opua open squad of Mesepa Tanoai, Albert Bento, Mark Meyers, Kenny Kaniho, Joseph Salinas, Brian Murphy, Evan Hanson, Dean Auren and Bill Rosehill fought off the Outrigger, Oahu masters for 19th place.

Just 25 yards from the finish line both canoes headed outside the line. Officials shouted at the teams to get back on course and only Kai Opua turned toward the line, crossing one second ahead of Outrigger.

The other Kai Opua crew was hit by a wave off Diamond Head and sustained a cracked bow. Constant bailing of water slowed the crew and they eventually finished 49th overall. That crew was made up of David Magette, Phil DeLaFuente, Jim Brennan, George Leslie, R. Scot Grunson, Mark Edwards; Christopher Cornejo, Michael Ng and J. Curtis Tyler III.

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CANOES

Bankoh Molokai Hoe

Molokai to Oahu

40.8 miles

1. Offshore (Calif.) 5:06:29; 2. Hui Nalu (Oahu) 5:11:38; 3. Ihilani (Tahiti) 5:13:39; 4. Punaruu (Tahiti) 5:17:57; 5. Outrigger (Australia) 5:19:22; 6. Lanikai (Oahu) 5:20:41; 7. Outrigger (Oahu) 5:22:15; 8. FFPP (Tahiti) 5:23:21; 9. Kailua (Oahu) 5:27:40; 10. Imua (CA) 5:29:08; 11. Heolani (Oahu) 5:30:00; 12. Kamehameha (Hilo) 5:32:37; 13. Waikiki Surf (Oahu) 5:34:30; 14. Outrigger (Oahu) 5:35:32; 15. Mana'e (Molokai) 5:38:20; 16. Lokahi (Oahu) 5:38:52; 17. Surfsports (Oahu) 5:39:45; 18. False Creek (Canada) 5:40:29; 19. Kai O Pua (Hawaii) 5:41:03; 20. False Creek (Canada) 5:43:25; 21. Kilo (Maui) 5:43:59; 22. Kai O Pua (Hawaii) 5:45:55; 23. Outrigger (Oahu) 5:45:56; 24. Great Lakes Bridge (Canada) 5:48:09; 25. Hui Lanikaia (Oahu) 5:48:24; 26. Napua (CA) 5:48:27; 27. Hanalei (Maui) 5:49:30; 28. Royal Hawaiian (Oahu) 5:49:37; 29. Keolu (Hawaii) 5:50:00; 30. Kailua (Oahu) 5:50:00; 31. False Creek (Canada) 5:55:33; 32. Waikiki Yacht Club (Oahu) 5:57:56; 33. Lanikai (Oahu) 5:58:10; 34. Kailua (Oahu) 5:58:37; 35. Royal Hawaiian (Oahu) 5:58:54; 36. Kamehameha (Hilo) 5:59:04; 37. Kai E Hifu (Hawaii) 6:00:57; 38. Hui Nalu (Oahu) 6:01:36; 39. Kailua (Oahu) 6:03:02; 40. Outrigger (Oahu) 6:04:23; 41. Heolani (Oahu) 6:05:31; 42. Napua (Maui) 6:11:09; 43. Hawaiian (Maui) 6:12:18; 44. Hawaiian (Maui) 6:13:13; 45. Leeward Ka (Oahu) 6:16:14; 46. Lokahi (Oahu) 6:17:07; 47. Honolulu (Oahu) 6:23:06; 48. Kilo (Maui) 6:23:51; 49. Kai Opua (Kailua-Kona) 6:27:34; 50. Windward Kai (Oahu) 6:36:53; 51. Maui O Me (Maui) 6:45:06; 52. Kailua Kai (Oahu) 6:54:35; 53. Haleakala (Oahu) 7:04:14.

California crew tops Molokai Hoe

Continued from page B1

Creek of Canada, Kai Opua of Oahu, Outrigger and the Great Lakes Brigade of Canada.

"The water was as flat as I've ever seen it," said Monahan, a veteran of 10 channel crossings. "So it was easy to see the canoes around us. We were neck and neck with the guys from the Great Lakes."

Kihei finished ahead of the Great Lakes (24th, 5:46:09), but Maui's other teams weren't so lucky. Napili finished 42nd (6:11:09), Hawaiian's two entries were 43rd (6:12:18) and 44th (6:13:13), and Kihei's Senior Masters finished 48th (6:23:51).

Monahan was not discouraged by his club's performance.

"I think we did pretty good for a bunch of guys who do this as a hobby," said Monahan. "I'd have to have 50 guys trying to make the team in order to have enough talent to beat the teams in the top 10."

Imua's 10th place time of 5:29:08 would have won the Molokai Hoe in six of the last 10 years.

Kihei's 5:43:59 would have been good enough to win in 1983 and 1979.

The first 36 canoes finished the race under six hours.

"You have to be really pushing to go 40 miles in six hours," said Monahan. "This has turned into one tough race."

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California crew tops crossing

HONOLULU — Offshore Canoe Club ended Hawaii's three-year domination of the Bankoh Molokai Hoe yesterday and took the spoils home to California.

The Newport Beach team, coached by Billy Whitford, crossed the 40.8 miles from Molokai to Oahu in five hours, six minutes and 29 seconds. The winning time not only ended Outrigger's three-year reign as the Molokai Hoe champions, it also chopped nearly two minutes off Outrigger's 1988 course record of 5:08:11.

The defending champions, considered one of the pre-race favorites, crossed the finish line at Fort DeRussy in seventh place, 5:22:16.

Hui Nalu kept the top five from being a non-Hawaiian affair by piloting its koa canoe across the Kaiwi Channel in 5:11:38, winning the koa division and finishing second overall.

Ihilani of Tahiti finished third (5:13:39), Punaruu of Tahiti fourth (5:17:57); and Outrigger of Australia fifth (5:19:22).

Besides Hui Nalu and Outrigger, two other Hawaii clubs finished in the top 10: Lanikai placed sixth (5:20:41) and Kailua finished ninth (5:27:40). FFPP of Tahiti (5:23:21) and Imua of California (5:29:08) finished eighth and tenth.

All of Hawaii's finishers in the top 10 hailed from Oahu.

Maui County broke into the standings in the 15th spot, when Manae Canoe Club of Molokai crossed the finish line in 5:38:20.

Coached by Bill Castor, the Manae crew consisted of Mervin Dudoit Jr., Raymond Naki, Sam Pedro, Dave Dilberg, Shane Bush, Kama Han, Simoi Luafalemana and Monico Guerrero.

Kihei Canoe Club crossed the line first for Maui, finishing 21st (5:43:59). Mike Cordi, Steve Stanley, Mike Gerry, Brent Howard, Duke Alber, Tom Tasson, Darryle Cramer, Derek Biggs and Bill Monahan paddled for Maui's best.

Each crew was allowed six starters and three relief paddlers.

A fleet of 53 canoes, 39 of them from Hawaii, left Hale O Lono Harbor, Molokai, yesterday at 7:24 a.m., and paddled into flat water conditions that Hui Nalu coach and steersman Kala Kukea compared to the Ala Wai Canal, the drainage canal mauka of Waikiki.

"It was so flat out there it was oily," said Kukea, 46, who has paddled in 17 crossings without winning. "It was like paddling 30 times up and down the Ala Wai Canal. The only bumps we had were boat wakes."

Ironically, it was Kukea who provided Offshore with the means to win its third channel crossing. Two days before the race, Offshore arrived in Hawaii without a canoe. Kukea chose to paddle in his club's koa, and gave Hui Nalu's fiberglass rocket to Offshore.

"I took the fastest boat I thought we had," said Kukea.

The difference may not have been boats. Offshore's crew boasted two Olympic paddlers: Greg Barton, an Olympic gold medalist in kayaking; and Terry Kent, a two-time Olympic kayaker. Offshore also had the services of Serge Corbin, the North American Marathon kayak champion, and Willie Reichenstein, the U.S. Women's National Team coach.

"This isn't the same race it used to be," said Monahan. "The level of competition is extremely high. The guys who used to come out to paddle just to do the race aren't here any more. Now it's all crews out to win, who have put in a lot of time working for this."

Both Offshore and Hui Nalu got off to a slow start yesterday but quickly closed the gap after turning into the Kaiwi Channel at Laau Point, about seven miles into the race.

"We were behind Australia, Tahiti and Outrigger (Oahu)," said Al Rudquist, an Offshore paddler from Minnesota.

An hour later Offshore had caught the leaders and was pulling away for good.

Monahan's Kihei crew followed the same course as the leaders but with a group a few miles back.

"We saw them (Offshore, Outrigger) at the start," said Monahan, who paddled seat two for Kihei. "Then they just pumped up and disappeared into the wilderness."

Monahan had little time to worry where the leaders had gone, his crew was locked in its own race with False

See CALIFORNIA, page B5