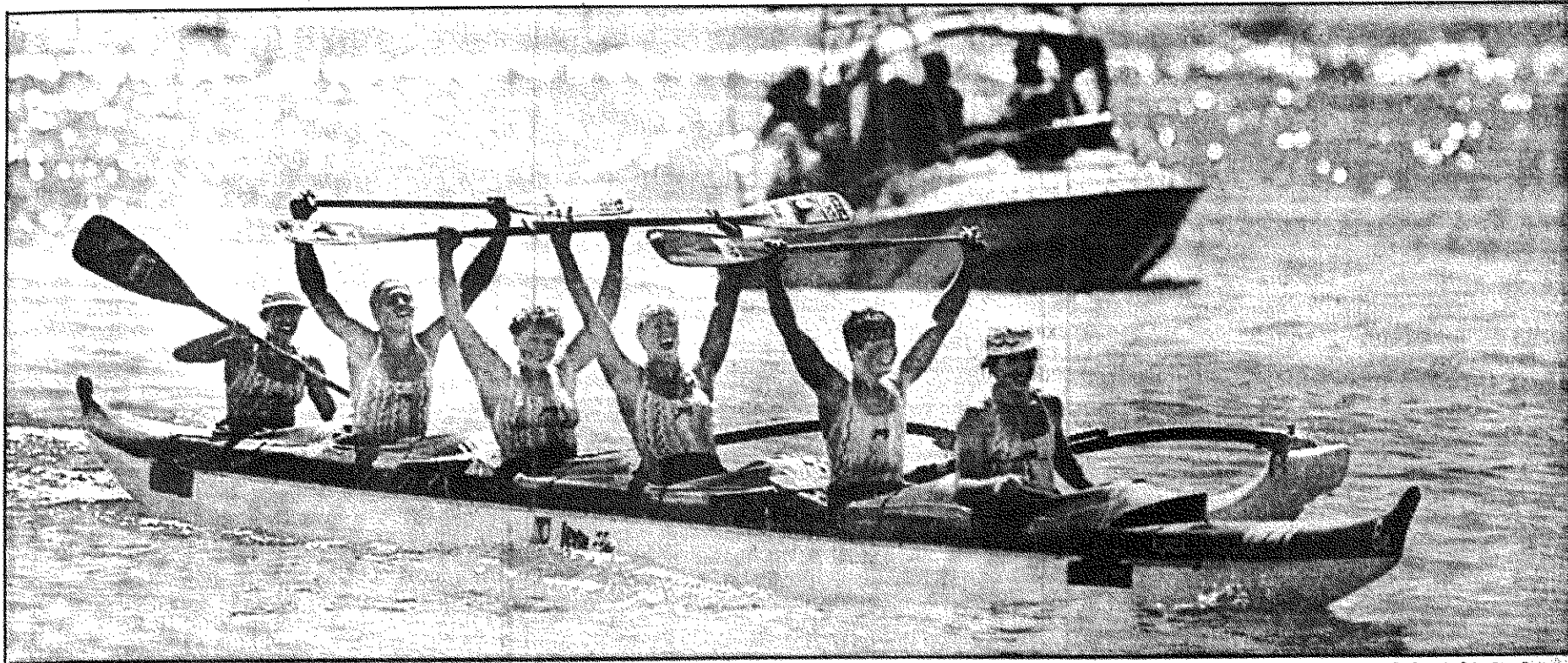


Off Shore's blazing paddlers set record



By Dennis Odo, Star-Bulletin

The Off Shore canoe club of Newport Beach paddles into Waikiki with its fifth straight Na Wahine O Ke Kai title yesterday, crossing from Molokai to Oahu in record time.

They break their own Molokai-to-Oahu mark by 15 minutes

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

For Swedish paddlers Agneta Andersson, Pia Johnsson, and Anna Olsson, the Aloha Week greeting by Waikiki's ceremonial Royal Court at the finish of yesterday's Bankoh Na Wahine O Ke Kai canoe race proved a culture shock.

"My first visit here. I didn't know Hawaii had a king and queen," Johnsson, 25, quipped after she and her Off Shore teammates bowed and curtsied graciously before Hawaii's colorful monarchy.

Sweden's real rulers would have burst their gold buttons with pride watching the three athletes—all members of the Swedish national kayak team—contribute to Off Shore's fifth consecutive Molokai-to-Oahu victory.

more powerful visiting team.

The Newport Beach, Calif., club covered the 41 miles from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki's Duke Kahanamoku Beach in 5 hours, 44 minutes and 13 seconds, breaking its own course mark set last year by a whopping 15 minutes.

Also a record were the 28 women's crews, which included teams from Australia, Canada, California and four Hawaiian islands.

Healani placed second in 5:49:40, followed by Outrigger in 5:59:51. Last year, Off Shore, Healani and Outrigger finished 1-2-3. Surfer's Paradise of Australia placed fourth in 6:12:16.

In addition to the Swedes, Off Shore's crew included Sharon Attlesey, Sheila Beuler, Mindy Clark, Leslie Davis, Dru Van Hengel, Cathy Marino, Bonnie Sherar, Desiree Snelman and JoJo Toepffer.

For the visiting kayakers, the Hawaiian outrigger canoe system of paddling and procedures took some getting used to.

"The ocean temperature in Swedish waters is far too cold to let the canoe and swim to the escort boat to rest as we did today," Johnsson said.

Added Andersson: "Getting out of a moving canoe took practice."

Olsson, 26, says different muscles are used kayaking than canoe paddling. But she enjoys the Polynesian way of



By Dennis Odo, Star-Bulletin

Swedish connection: From left, Agneta Andersson, Pia Johnsson, Anna Olsson

life here so much that she'll tolerate the pain.

"You can't compare paddling a heavy canoe in the ocean to racing a light kayak on flat water," she said.

Off Shore's Cathy Marino, a U.S. national kayak team member, was so thrilled about her first Molokai cross-

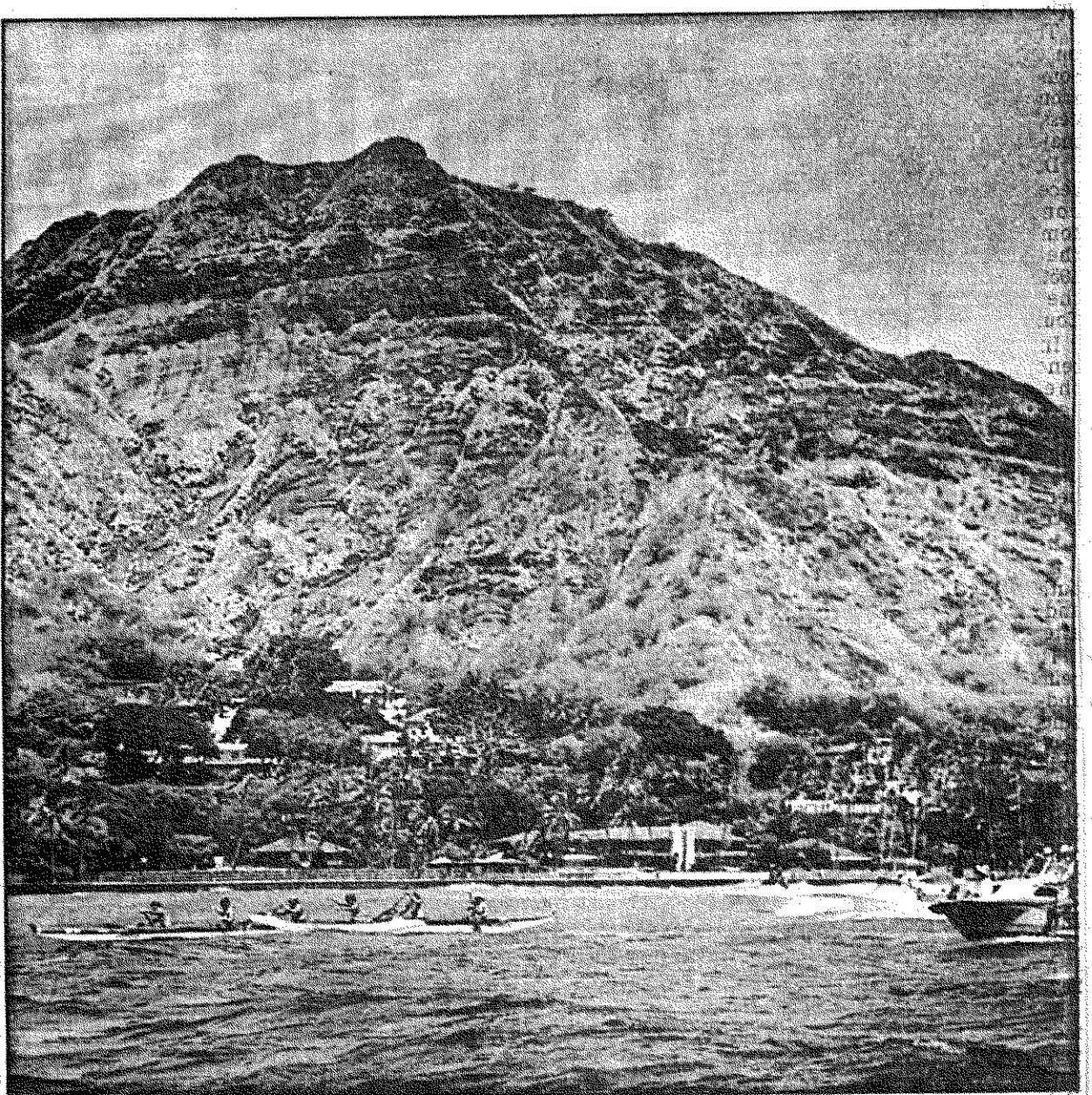
ing that she looks to do it again. "I've raced kayaks all over the world, including the Seoul Olympics," she said. "For an exciting cultural experience, nothing can compare."

Each team consisted of 12 women, six

See OFF SHORE, Page D-6

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PADDLING



By Dennis Odo, Star-Bulletin

Off Shore canoes pass in front of Diamond Head on their way to a record victory yesterday afternoon.

OFF SHORE: Breaks own record in finishing first

Continued from Page D-1

in the boat at any one time. While most crews elected to substitute several paddlers at one time, Off Shore exchanged only one at a time.

"My crew was so strong and eager none wanted to leave the boat to rest," a proud Off Shore coach Billy Whitford said.

In the 1984 Olympics at Los Angeles, Andersson and Olsson won three gold and two silver medals in kayaking between them. Four years later at Seoul, they each made the kayak finals but failed to medal. Johnsson is one of Sweden's best marathon paddlers.

Off Shore steersman Clark credits Healani and Outrigger for pushing Off Shore to its record.

"The competition is improving each year. The Hawaii teams made us keep up our stroke," she said.

Last year, Off Shore beat Healani by 17 minutes. Yesterday it won their division with a 17th overall finish in 6:36:20.

"We're closing," Healani's Kelly Fey said. "This gives us the incentive to work that much harder. Maybe next year."

Even after five straight visitor wins, most Hawaii crews believe they have a chance.

"It'll take work but we can do it (beat Off Shore)," said Outrigger steersman Liz Perry-Dugan. "Of course we may have to quit our jobs and train full time."

Added Outrigger's Katy Bourne, a physical education teacher and mother of three: "I hope Off Shore's success has a positive effect on how we train. It should inspire Hawaii's women to take a serious look, then perhaps make changes."

Outrigger's masters women, with a crew averaging 49 years of

Yesterday's results

(All items from Oahu unless otherwise indicated)

Overall: 1. Off Shore (Calif.) (Agneta Andersson, Sharon Attlesey, Sheila Beuler, Mindy Clark, Leslie Davis, Dru Van Hengel, Pia Johnsson, Cathy Marino, Anna Olsson, Desiree Snelman, Bonnie Sherar, JoJo Toepffer), 5:44:13 (new record, old record, Off Shore, 5:59:36, 1989).

2. Healani I, 5:49:40. 3. Outrigger I, 5:59:51. 4. Surfer's Paradise (Australia), 6:12:16. 5. SurfSports II, 6:14:03. 6. Waikiki YC I, 6:16:46. 7. Faise Creek (Canada), 6:18:37. 8. Napa (Maui), 6:19:55. 9. Lanika, 6:20:04. 10. Lanika Outrigger (Calif.), 6:22:04.

11. Hanalei (Kauai), 6:23:38. 12. Kai On, 6:24:08. 13. Healani II, 6:25:49. 14. Waikiki Surf 6:28:30. 15. Mariposa del Rey (Calif.), 6:29:52. 16. Lahaina (Maui), 6:22:46. 17. Outrigger III, 6:36:20. 18. Hui Nalu 6:39:42. 19. Kaopua (Hawaii), 6:42:20. 20. Kailua, 6:42:28.

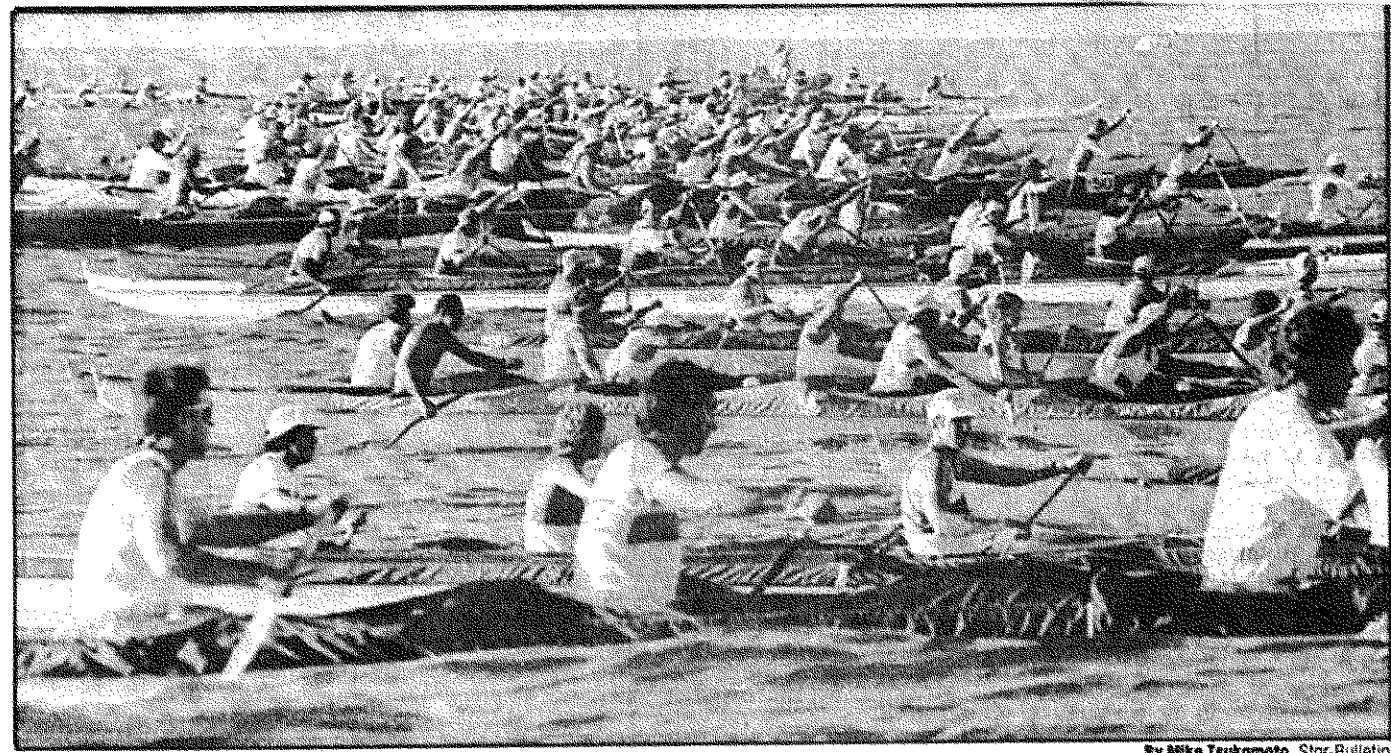
21. Paradise Outrigger (Calif.), 6:45:09. 22. Waikiki Yacht Club II, 6:48:01. 23. SurfSports I, 6:51:18. 24. Kai Opua (Hawaii), 6:32:45. 25. Puna (Hawaii), 6:53:36. 26. Kai E. Hui Hawaii (Maui), 6:59:34. 27. Khei (Maui), 7:00:03. 28. Lokahi 7:03:40.

Koe: 1. Lanika Outrigger. 2. Healani II. 3. Waikiki Surf Club. 4. Lahaina. 5. Hui Nalu.

Masters: 1. Outrigger III. 2. Waikiki Yacht Club II. 3. Kai Opua.

Molokai Hoe entry list

- Oahu
 - OHCA clubs
 - Aruenue, Healani (2 crews), Honolulu
 - Hui Lanika, Hui Nalu (2, Kailua (4); Lanika (2); Outrigger (4); Waikiki Surf Club (2)
 - Hui Wa'a clubs
 - Lokahi (3); Koa Kai; Kaneohe
 - Waikiki Yacht Club
- Kauai
 - Hanalei (2)
- Molokai
 - Molokai Canoe Club
- Maui
 - Hawaiian (2)
 - Kahana; Kihel
 - Napili
- Big Island
 - Koopa; Kamehameha (Hilo); Kai Opua
- California
 - Off Shore; Dana Point Outrigger
 - Newport Outrigger; Marina Del Rey
- Other U.S. mainland
 - Virginia Outrigger; Mid Atlantic; New Jersey
- Tahiti
 - Teoropa Nui; Rautere; A.S. Tiare Tahiti
- New Zealand
 - Tata Hoe
- Australia
 - Outrigger of Australia
 - Surfer's Paradise
- Canada
 - False Creek (2)



By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin

The start of last year's Molokai to Oahu race drew a record 58 canoes. This year, the expected field is 51.

Paddles up and ready for Molokai Hoe crews

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

The pressure is heavy on John Puakea, a Kaneohe-raised paddler who will steer defending champ Off Shore Canoe Club in Sunday's 39th Bankoh Molokai Hoe.

But outwardly the 28-year-old veteran waterman appears cool, calm and collected. He shows no sign that being the race favorite's untried steersman has caused him to crack.

"I see this as a great opportunity. I've never been in a position to steer a potential Molokai Race winner," he said, barely able to contain his excitement.

The 40.8-mile race, billed as the world championship of outrigger canoe paddling, begins at Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor at 7:30 a.m. The winner is expected to arrive at Waikiki's Fort DeRussy Beach finish about noon.

Fifty-one nine-paddler men's teams, including visiting crews from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Tahiti, and four mainland states, have entered. Among the entries are 36 crews representing Hawaii's five major islands.

Clubs will make open-water crew changes, with relief paddlers being used throughout the race.

Puakea has paddled the Kaiwi Channel three times before, but never with a crew that had as legitimate a chance of winning as Off Shore does this year.

"I know I can surf the biggest waves if the channel is rough and steer a straight course if the waters are calm. I'll sure do my best," said Puakea.

Last year, with Coach Billy Whitford steering, Off Shore won the race in a course-record five hours, six minutes and 29 seconds. Except for Puakea replacing Whitford at the helm, the defending champs boast the same crew of world-class paddlers.

"In John I have the greatest confidence," said Whitford, sidelined because of a shoulder injury. "He's light

WINNERS LIST

- a-1989—Offshore Canoe Club (Calif.), 5:06:29.
- a-1988—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:08:11.
- a-1987—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:32:48.
- a-1986—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:27:45.
- a-1985—Illinois Brigade (Illinois), 5:33:04.
- a-1984—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:18:19.
- a-1983—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:45:09.
- a-1982—Offshore (Calif.), 6:08:35.
- a-1981—Offshore (Calif.), 5:25:01.
- a-1980—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:52:28.
- a-1979—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:43:52.
- b-1978—Blazing Paddles (Calif.), 5:43:52.
- c-1977—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:55:00.
- d-1976—Te Oroopa (Tahiti), 7:53:40.
- e-1975—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:39:07.
- e-1974—Lanika Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:18:53.
- f-1973—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 8:00:00.
- a-1972—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:01:46.
- a-1971—Healani Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:51:02.
- a-1970—Healani Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:24:00.
- a-1969—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:38:26.

- a-1968—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:55:18.
- a-1967—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:03:09.
- a-1966—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:37:13.
- a-1965—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 6:48:57.
- a-1964—Kailua Civic Canoe Club (Oahu), 5:56:00.
- a-1963—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:40:00.
- a-1962—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 7:04:00.
- a-1961—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 7:48:00.
- a-1960—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 5:29:00.
- a-1959—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:09:00.
- a-1958—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:32:00.
- a-1957—Kai Oni (Oahu), 5:56:00.
- a-1956—Outrigger Canoe Club (Oahu), 7:54:00.
- h-1955—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 7:09:40.
- h-1954—Hui Nalu (Oahu), 8:05:00.
- h-1953—Waikiki Surf Club (Oahu), 6:53:00.
- h-1952—Kukui O Lanikaula (Molokai), 8:55:00.

(Race has had eight different courses, distances: a-40.8 miles; b-41.01; c-41.46; d-55.60; e-40.41; f-53.32; g-38.96; h-38.2)

in weight, has a good feel for the water and he possesses a winning attitude."

Whitford will follow his charges from Off Shore's escort boat for the second Sunday in a row. Three days ago, the Off Shore women won their fifth straight channel race in record time.

Olympic medalist Greg "Buck" Barton of Bellingham, Wash., is the best known among Off Shore's crew of all-stars. And he's ready.

"Considering I just came off a strenuous kayak season, I'm in pretty good shape," he said.

But paddling 41 miles across an ocean channel requires great endurance. "Certainly a change from the 500- and 1,000-meter sprints I've been doing," said Barton.

At the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Barton won a bronze medal in the single kayaks. Four years later at Seoul, the Off Shore paddler won two gold medals, becoming the first American to win an Olympic kayak race.

"Puakea, a former national-caliber kayaker, is Off Shore's only paddler from Hawaii. The son of canoe builder

and coach Bobby Puakea, John spent the summer helping Whitford coach the U.S. Canoe/Kayak junior team.

Led by Outrigger and Hui Nalu, Sunday's race may also see a resurgence of the koa canoe as a winner.

"We'll be going with our 4-year-old Kaoloa, a koa boat, rather than a fiberglass model," Outrigger steersman Tom Conner said.

With a race-record 13 wins in 38 years, Outrigger obviously takes its racing seriously.

"It was a careful decision and not something we jumped into," Conner said.

The veteran of 18 Molokai races explained that Outrigger has spent several years fine-tuning the Kaoloa. He feels the choice to use Kaoloa is "the right one."

The last koa boat to win the Molokai was Outrigger in 1984.

"I see no advantage between the two (koa and fiberglass) materials," said Steve Scott, Outrigger's men's distance coach since 1978.

"There are too many other variables in this race, like favorable tides, good

surfing waves, the proper course and crew talent."

Depending on the quality and availability of logs, and which master builder is selected to do the carving, koa canoes run between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Hui Nalu will race its Maikairoa, the same koa canoe that finished second last year.

Unfortunately, Off Shore doesn't enjoy a wide choice of canoes to race. Being borrowers, the Californians must take what they get.

Sunday, they'll use a Hui Nalu fiberglass boat.

"We'll take any canoe and be happy," Whitford said.

Waikiki Surf Club, a 12-time Molokai Hoe winner and a paddling power during the 1950s and '60s, will try the koa Malama for its first team.

"Old-timers say koa canoes outperform glass boats when the channel seas are at their biggest," Coach Darrell DeMello said.

DeMello was on Waikiki Surf Club's last Molokai winner in 1973.

"It was my first Molokai race and what I remember is it was long and hard," he said.

The race was 53 miles, starting at Kaunakakai and ending at San Souci Beach.

"It took us eight long hours," he said. Although Outrigger and Off Shore have dominated recent races, winning 12 of the past 13 events between them, visiting entries are not to be denied.

In 1976, teams from Tahiti captured both koa and fiberglass divisions and, nine years later in 1985, the Illinois Brigade, a crew of world-class marathon canoeists, finished first.

Last year visiting crews finished 3-4-5-8.

"I see Sunday's race as a tossup among five crews," Whitford said. "We should be one of them, but I'm not saying who the others might be."