

# SPORTS

Oahu Surf Report:  
North Shore: 1-2 feet  
South Shore: 1-2 feet

The Honolulu Advertiser

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## Closeup: Ocean Sports



Advertiser photo by Greg Yamamoto

The girls' 16 crew is one of the reasons why the Outrigger Canoe Club enters as the favorite to win Saturday's Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship at Hanalei Bay, Kauai. The crew won the state championship last year, leading Outrigger to the overall title. Members of the crew (from left) are Jeffy Hill, Melialani James, Mahealani Lum, Melissa Gibson, Nanea Tannehill, Annie Rosa, Meleana Blaich and Sandy Dunn.

## Show time for OCC's sweet 16s

### Girls crew in spotlight at state championship

By Dayton Morinaga  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Life on top is full of laughs. Just ask the Outrigger Canoe Club's girls 16 crew. They are the defending state champions in that event for the club that is the overall defending state champion.

"We're here because we want to be here," said Mahealani Lum, a returnee from last year's championship crew. "We all love to paddle so we're happy to be here."

That's evident not only at practice, but at every regatta Outrigger enters. Giggles and smiles are almost a mandatory part of their warm-up.

And it has produced winning results. Entering Saturday's Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta on Kauai, the Outrigger girls 16 crew has won five of seven races this year.

"We don't feel like there's pressure on us to win," said paddler Meleana Blaich. "So we go into all our races relaxed."

That's not to say that the crew does not work hard. "When it's time to be serious, we're serious," said Nanea Tannehill, another returnee from last year's crew.

Like once a race starts. Each of the girls in the crew has a physically slim build, but as Lum put it: "We paddle with our hearts."

"I'd say they're pretty much the favorites to win," said Kalani Schrader, Outrigger's head coach as well as the girls 16 crew

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## Hui Nalu inducts Mokuahi

### Club enters coach in its Hall of Honor

By EDWARD McLAURIN  
Sports Writer

HAWAII KAI — Hui Nalu coach Sam Mokuahi Jr. was inducted into the club's Hall of Honor last week for his contribution to the sport of canoe paddling.

Mokuahi was inducted into the Na Mea Hanohono o Hui Nalu along with Edward K. "Dudie" Miller as part of the club's 58th anniversary celebration. The honorees were nominated by the club's membership, both past and present.

"That was something they didn't have to do," Mokuahi said. "But boy, I'm sure in there with some good company."

With the induction of Mokuahi and Miller, the Hall of Honor's membership roster grows to eight. The two paddlers join the likes of Duke Kahanamoku, Hilda Ma Mutch, Myron "Pinky" Thompson, Kala Kukea and Nainoa Thompson.

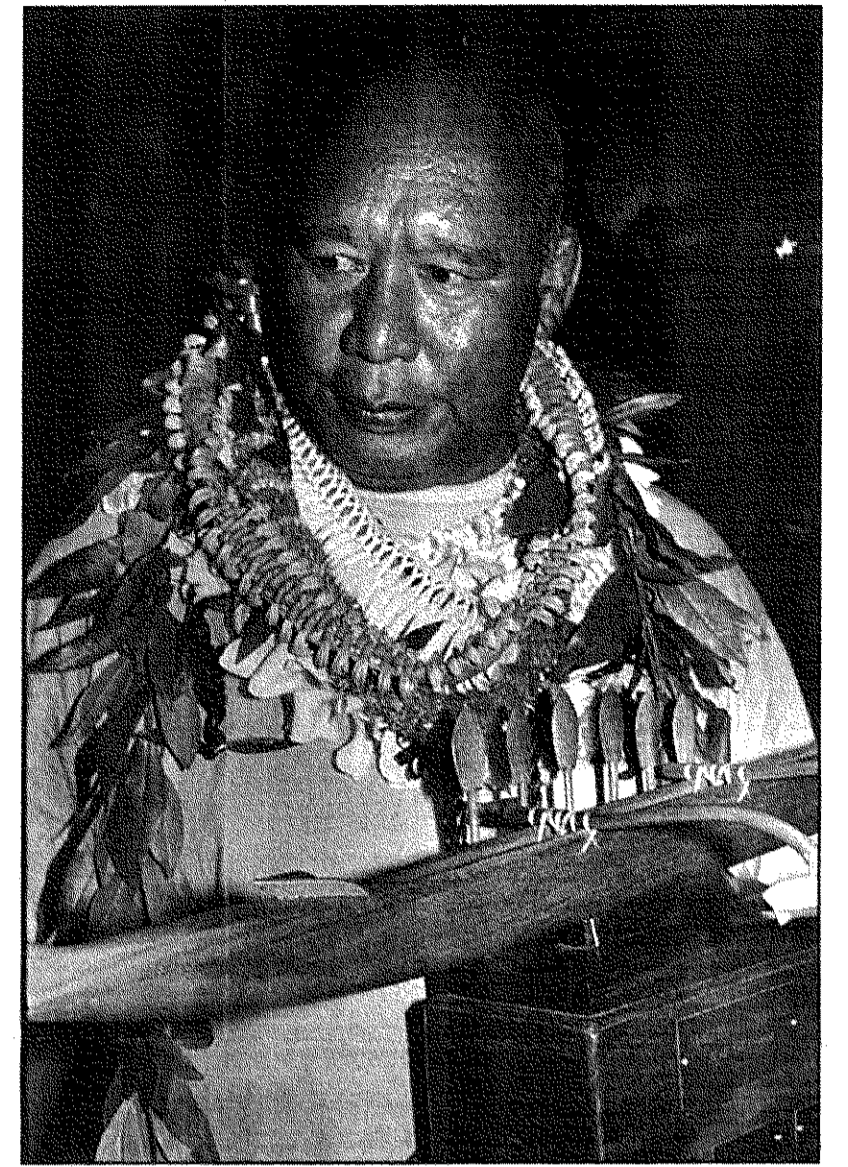
Mokuahi and Miller's names will be added to the Hall of Honor's perpetual award, which was designed and crafted by Walter Bowman Sr.

The award — which shows a canoe surfing a wave — is made from the same hau as the voyaging canoe Hokulea. The honorees were also presented koa paddles that Bowman carved.

"I'm holding on to the trophy right now," Mokuahi said. "I guess they want me to hold on to it because I'm the coach and we don't have a trophy room or a clubhouse yet. When we get one, I bet our trophy room will be as crowded as Outrigger's."

Mokuahi said the Hui Nalu Hall of Honor will continue to recognize outstanding canoe club members, past and present.

Nominees to the hall must have been a Hui Nalu member at some point in their life and meet a minimum of four of the



Christian Pflieger photo

HUI NALU'S FINEST: Sam Mokuahi Jr. displays the perpetual award he was given during his induction into the Hui Nalu Hall of Honor Sunday in Niu Valley.

six qualifying criteria: community service; contribution to the development and fostering of Hawaiian traditions and values through the sport of paddling; dedication to the growth and development of Hui Nalu; skill level demonstrating teaching or coaching ability or contribution of design of equipment; attainment of a level of respect and recognition within Hui Nalu and the paddling community; and sharing the sport within and beyond the shores of Hawaii.

"It's a honor to be placed among some of the great names

in paddling," Mokuahi said. "I've spent almost my whole life involved with Hui Nalu one way or the other. I think the club is at a new level now."

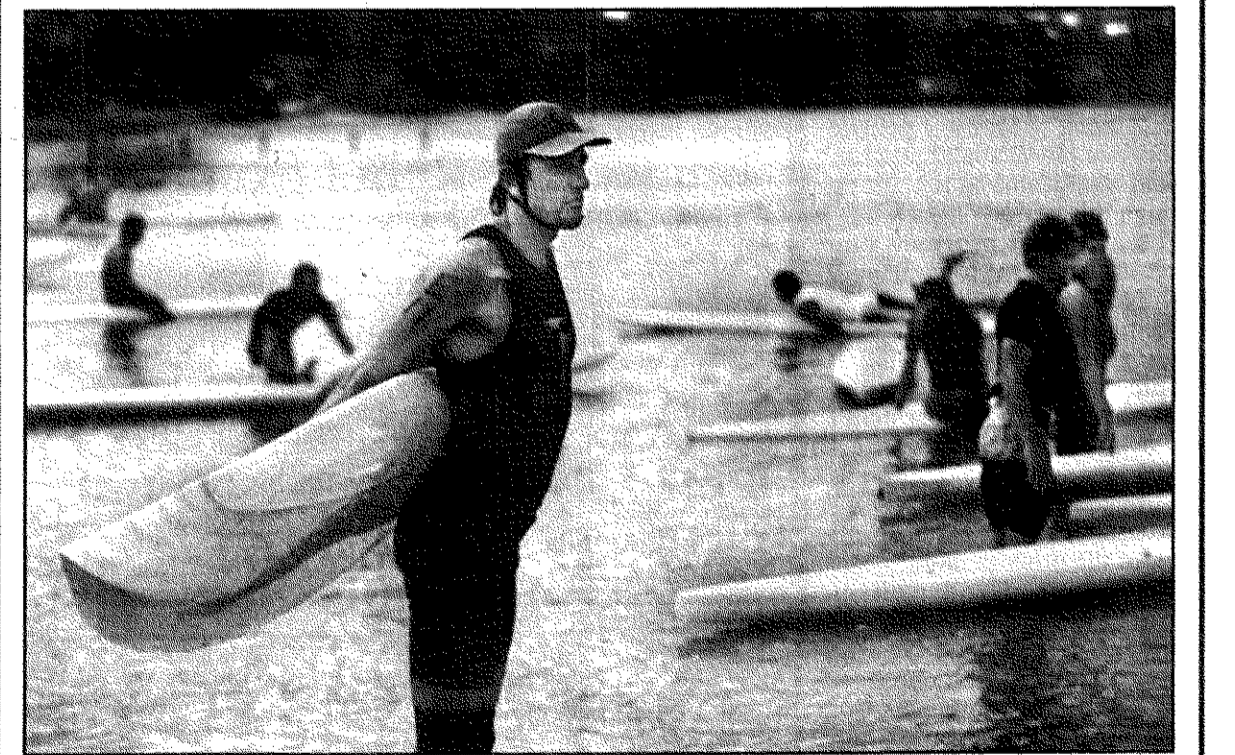
While honored with the recognition, Mokuahi said his main focus is to get the team prepared for the state canoe championship Sunday morning at Hanalei Bay, Kauai.

"This year it could go to anybody. I think Outrigger, Kailua and Lanikai are all in the same boat as us," he said. "It could go either way, but I'm expecting us to have a better showing than we did at the Oahu regatta."

## The waiting

Mark Cunningham (below) and other competitors (right) await the start of the Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club race Saturday at Maunalua Beach Park. The race featured paddleboards, one-man canoes and kayaks.

Anthony Cheng photos



## Outrigger: Counts on contribution from girls 16s crew

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coach. "But anything can happen."

And that's exactly the kind of advice Schrader has been giving the girls each week. Privately, Schrader said he depends on that crew to earn first-place points. Publicly, he simply tells the girls to do their best.

"He never yells at us," said Tannehill. "Even if we don't

come in first, he tells us, 'That's OK, we gotta get 'em next week.'"

But simply fielding a six-person crew each week hasn't been easy for Schrader. Eight girls — Lum, Blaich, Tannehill, Sandy Dunn, Melissa Gibson, Jeffy Hill, Melialani James and Annie Rosa — are on the roster for the Outrigger girls 16 crew. Because of family trips and other endeavors, several of the girls missed races this year.

Lum, whom Schrader calls one of the strongest paddlers on the crew, missed two races early in the year when she participated in a volleyball festival at Davis, Calif. She also missed last week's Oahu championships because she competed in kayaking at the Olympic Festival in Colorado.

"We've had to mix and match this crew all year," said Schrader. "But to their credit, they've come through. No matter who was in there."

But Schrader added that such outside activities have made some of the girls better paddlers. "They all play volleyball," he said. "And some of them play other sports. I think what makes them good (paddlers) is that they're good athletes."

This year, the one constant has been Tannehill. She has steered in every race this season. It is a position she has held since joining Outrigger six years ago. In those six years,

she has been on five state championship crews.

"I think this team can do it, too," she said. "I'm really confident. We usually get it together for the race."

Although the girls say they feel no pressure, they are aware of the big picture.

"We know we're not only racing for us, but for Outrigger," said Lum. "We know we have to try and score our points to contribute to the team."

In any case, they'll have fun doing it.

NOTES: Since 1979, Outrigger has won 12 state championships, including nine straight from 1984-92. Hui Nalu owns three titles in that span; Hanalei has one. . . . Six other clubs will challenge Outrigger for the overall (AAA) state championship on Saturday: Hanalei of Kauai; Hawaiian of Maui; Hui Nalu; Kailua; Lanikai and Lokahi. Eleven teams will battle for the AA Division (between 7 and 14 crews) and 36 will challenge for the A Division (6 crews or less).