

isle file

Kai Opua out to make waves

HILO — Some 2,200 paddlers will compete tomorrow in the 32nd Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association state championships on Hilo Bay.

Arthur Hoke, president of the host Moku O Hawaii Association, yesterday predicted Kai Opua Canoe Club of Kailua-Kona would win the title "and shake up the establishment" in the process.

Hoke, one of the leaders in the revival of Big Island canoe racing, gives three reasons:

- Kai Opua is more familiar with the Hilo course than any contender.
- It has the most depth of any Big Island club ever.
- Vocal supporters will drive here from the Kona area to cheer the team.

Hoke said the support on shore makes a difference in the water.

Kai Opua ran its Big Island winning streak to 36 before losing two regattas late in the season. But its best paddlers were competing in international races in Tahiti at the time and busy taking an impressive second place in the men's race.

Thirty-one of the 34 HCRA clubs have

entered the meet, including two from Kauai, one from Molokai, seven from Maui and eight from the Big Island.

Other canoe followers are favoring Hui Nalu of Hawaii Kai, winner of the Oahu championships last weekend.

Other outstanding entries are defending champion Outrigger Canoe Club, Heaiani of Oahu and Hanalei of Kauai.

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HCRA regatta

Hanalei stuns field

By Andy Yamaguchi
Advertiser Staff Writer

HILO — Call it the Ambush on Hilo Bay. Hanalei Civic Canoe Club, a big fish on Kauai but an unknown quantity statewide, shocked clubs twice its size yesterday to win the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship regatta.

Hanalei edged favored Hui Nalu, 62-58, when it won the last race of the day, the two-mile senior men's event, by 1.8 seconds over Hui Nalu.

It was the first HCRA state title for Hanalei, which won three titles as a member of Hui Wa'a.

Healani outdid Outrigger, 34-31, for third place and Big Island champion Kai Opua was fifth with 22. About 3,000 paddlers and spectators jammed Hilo Bayfront Park on a gray, drizzly day.

But the sun shone on Hanalei. "We just pulled it off. I still don't believe it," said Hanalei coach Nick Beck, whose skillful lineup jockeying squeezed every possible point out of his 80-member club.

"Nobody knows how good Hanalei is until Hui Nalu into the turn. At 1 1/2 miles, Hanalei had opened up a four-length lead.

Then Hui Nalu stroke Tommy Conner upped the beat from 61 to 65 strokes a minute, and the Oahu champions were flying.

Partisans from both clubs dashed to the finish line and yelled themselves hoarse, and it looked like Hui Nalu would accelerate past Hanalei. But Hanalei crossed the finish line first, beating Hui Nalu by about 10 feet, no more.

"I can't talk, but I can drink!" a Hanalei member cried.

"It just feels so fantastic," Beck said. "We've taken two thirds and a second since joining the HCRA, and I think there's not a paddler here who didn't have this as a goal."

"Just a day late and a dollar short," Conner said philosophically. "I guess we're still a four-mile crew." The senior course on Oahu is four miles long.

"I don't think we really knew the regatta was in the balance," Conner said. "We didn't talk about it. If we had talked about it, I think we would've had an extra incentive."

"I didn't know they were ahead," Kukea said, "but I don't know if knowing would have made us paddle any harder than we did."

Ditto for Hanalei. "Nick was yelling at us, 'Get 'em up, 'cause here comes Hui Nalu,'" Hanalei stroke Sean Hickey said, "but I was already on my knees. When we crossed the finish line at the 3 1/2-mile point, I thought it was over and started to stand up, but I saw the guy behind me keep going so I kept going."

So did Hanalei's canoe, which sprung a 3-foot-long, half-inch-wide crack during a collision midway through the regatta. It was patched with tape.

Hanalei led for most of the regatta, partly because Hui Nalu didn't control the younger divisions as it usually does.

"You can never tell how the Neighbor Island clubs are going to split up the points," said Steve Scott, Outrigger's adult men's coach. "You may have clubs with two or three very good crews, and that'll take away points from a team that's dominated."

The best Neighbor Island upstart was the 18-year-old boys of Kahana, Maui. They were the 16 champs last year. "Yeah, Maui get some bad guys, too," said steersman Junior Nuesca, whose parents and seven siblings also paddle for the club.

There was a controversy early in the regatta. Currents caused the starting line markers to drift ahead, and crews had no way of knowing if they were committing a false start.

"I had two first-place crews and one second-place crew disqualified, can you believe that?" Healani coach Gary Murakami said. "Every time we come to outside islands we get trouble."

But the meet was free of the widespread problems that ruined last year's state regatta in Lahaina. Part of the reason was the

they come here," said Hui Nalu coach Kala Kukea, whose 200-member club had run away with the Oahu championships last week.

"Hanalei doing what they did is just incredible," Hui Nalu paddler Wayne Fujiha-ra said.

Hanalei, the little club that could, has only enough paddlers for about 11 crews.

But Hanalei entered 24 of the 27 races — winning six and placing in the top four in 12 others — because Beck made almost all of his paddlers race in at least two events.

Two Hanalei paddlers, Dan Sullivan and Craig Leeper, paddled in three winning races. Sullivan was on the Novice A, sophomore and senior crews. Leeper was on the Novice B, freshman and senior crews.

"The majority of our races involved guys who moved up," Beck said. "We've done it before. But the last couple of years we'd lead a regatta halfway and then run out of steam. This year we did the conditioning and hoped we could pull off some of the big ones."

Hanalei pulled off the biggest one yesterday. See Hanalei on Page F-10.

cooperation given by Hawaii County officials.

The county built a restroom and a two-story officials' stand at Hilo Bayfront Park, cleared the beach of debris and even allowed the sale of beer and wine during the championships.

Yesterday's race results:
HAWAIIAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION
State Championship Regatta
On Hilo Bay

Man
12B — 1. Ohana O Ke Kai (S. Kawai, B. Domen, M. Spencer, F. Mendoza, S. Robertson, W. Kishu) 1:57.0; 2. Kawaihae 1:58.4; 3. Waimanalo 1:59.6; 4. Hui Nalu 2:04.8.
12A — 1. Healani (Peter Montgomery, Earl Spencer, Hobby Parks, Conrad Chandler, Steve Murphy, Tyler Parks) 1:50.3; 2. Hui Nalu 1:50.8; 3. Hanalei 1:53.6; 4. Kai Opua 1:54.0.
13 — 1. Kailua (Targur Collis, Zain Saladin, Sam Martinez, Jason Rodriguez, Louis Carrigan, David Steele) 1:48.0; 2. Kamehameha 1:48.7; 3. Healani 1:49.7; 4. Hanalei 1:50.2.
14 — 1. Healani (Jason Pang, Chad Kurashige, Keith Gomes, Daniel Nipo, James Judd, Darrell Arnold) 1:40.2; 2. Hui Nalu 1:43.2; 3. Kekuaha 1:44.4; 4. Kai Opua 1:47.2.
Novice B — 1. Hanalei (Craig Leeper, Gary Hudson, Dave Myrick, Mark Daniels, Skip Forrest, Rick Marini) 3:41.5; 2. Kailua 3:52.3; 3. Kawaihae 3:53.6; 4. Hui Lanakila 3:55.1.
Novice A — 1. Hanalei (Dan Sullivan, Christian Marston, Bob Middleton, Mike Laurent, Murphy Carlignes, Victor Williams) 3:47.3; 2. Kai Opua 3:48.1; 3. Healani 3:50.6; 4. Outrigger 3:51.0.
16 — 1. Lanikai (Peter Weaver, Robin Moe, Mike Smith, Peter Binney, Tim Ross, Jim Folly) 3:53.8; 2. Hui Nalu 3:54.5; 3. Outrigger 4:00.5; 4. Healani 4:05.1.
18 — 1. Kahana (Michael Nuesca, Joseph Lindsey, Alvin Patisaug, Guy Flores, Alex Wiley, David Nuesca Jr.) 7:58.6; 2. Lanikai 8:00.3; 3. Kai Opua 8:03.6; 4. Outrigger 8:05.3.
Freshman — 1. Hanalei (Gary Hudson, Craig Leeper, Dave Myrick, David Killingsworth, Murphy Carlignes, David Beck) 7:25.9; 2. Kamehameha 7:38.9; 3. Kai Opua 7:53.3; 4. Hui Nalu 7:57.9.
Sophomore — 1. Hanalei (Jeff McBride, Earl Simpson, Mark Daniels, Dan Sullivan, Mike Laurent, Nick Marini) 7:29.5; 2. Kai Opua 7:46.0; 3. Hui Nalu 7:47.4; 4. Wailani 7:52.6.
Open Four — 1. Outrigger (Marshall Ross, Mark Buck, Murray Henson, Mike Navarro, Annette Pierce, Tracy Wale) 4:04.3; 2. Hui Nalu 4:04.4; 4. Hui Lanakila 4:06.8.
Masters — 1. Hanalei (Rex Burrell, Bob Kaden, Dick Parks, Don Montgomery, Jerry Lehoucq, Lee Redden, David S. 2. Hawaiian Warriors 3:48.0; 3. Outrigger 3:54.9; 4. Hui Nalu 3:55.3.
Junior — 1. Hui Nalu (Harold Akio, Bob Rocheleau, Rocky Higgins, Wayne Fujiha, Richard Shizuta, Kahale Kukea) 11:43.9; 2. Outrigger 11:53.4; 3. Kai Opua 11:53.8; 4. Hanalei 11:54.5.
Senior — 1. Hanalei (Sean Hickey, Earl Simpson, Craig Leeper, Dan Sullivan, Gary Ford, Nick Beck) 15:31.3; 2. Hui Nalu 15:33.1; 3. Kai Opua 15:48.6; 4. Outrigger 16:08.2.

Women
12 — 1. Healani (Della Kahalea, Janna Arakaki, Christie Poah, Tany Yamamoto, Suzette Teles, Christine Pabillano) 2:00.3; 2. Hui Nalu 2:03.6; 3. Kai Opua 2:04.1; 4. Hanalei 2:04.8.
Novice B — 1. Hui Nalu (Yvonne Nansini, Vanessa Folgas, Laura Medrick, Jane Ann Pryor, Puahe Joane) 1:51.6; 2. Lanikai 1:51.9; 3. Hui Lanakila 1:52.1; 4. Healani 1:54.5.
13 — 1. Outrigger (Kalea McCarty, Heather Moon, Stacy Stanhouse, Sheila Stehauer, Mala Boyd, Kimmy Merrick) 1:54.3; 2. Hanalei 1:57.4; 3. Kai Opua 1:57.5; 4. Kailua 1:58.1.
Novice A — 1. Hui Lanakila (Shirley Kahuana, Elizabeth Kamakana, Terry Spencer, Mala Kamakana, Siki Kamali, Naunani Kahu Kamali) 1:45.6; 2. Hui Nalu 1:48.8; 3. Hanalei 1:50.4; 4. Kaukaeouli 1:51.0.
15 — 1. Hui Nalu (Shavonne Spencer, Kila Medrick, Mele Franco, Marian Pettigrew, Laurie Avila, Karen Johnston) 1:52.3; 2. Kahana 1:54.3; 3. Hanalei 1:54.7; 4. Kailua 1:58.6.
17 — 1. Kaukaeouli (Maile Chapman, Bernadette Cho, Healani Kumale, Nicole Navarro, Annette Pierce, Tracy Wale) 4:25.8; 2. Lanikai 4:33.2; 3. Hui Nalu 4:35.7; 4. Healani 4:36.3.
Freshman — 1. Kaukaeouli (Jane Bockus, Nicolas Dollar, Barbara Lassich, Lynn Long, Yvonne Kahuana-Morgan, Tammy Sullivan) 4:18.4; 2. Healani 4:19.8; 3. Hanalei 4:20.1; 4. Hui Nalu 4:25.4.
Sophomore — 1. Kailua (Jenny Scafe, Lori Bode, Ann Malama, Sandy Scafe-Kalama, Andrea Ward, Luanna Burke) 4:23.5; 2. Hanalei 4:23.8; 3. Outrigger 4:25.6; 4. Na Kai Ewalo 4:26.1.
Masters — 1. Healani (J.J. Miller, Susan May, Jane Taniguchi, Evelyn Arakaki, Jane Gay, Eisa Wright) 1:57.1; 2. Hanalei 2:01.4; 3. Lanikai 2:02.0; 4. Outrigger 2:02.1.
Junior — 1. Na Pili (Mary McGinty, Jackie Burke, Celine O'Grady, Gail Inglish, Anne Sharpe, Jeanne Livingston) 4:12.4; 2. Hui Nalu 4:17.5; 3. Hanalei 4:19.8; 4. Healani 4:21.5.
Senior — 1. Hui Nalu (Lita Blankenfeld, Lindsey Styan, Nalani Spencer, Trish Gallagher, Carol Kukea, Denise Darval) 8:42.4; 2. Outrigger 8:50.1; 3. Hanalei 9:00.6; 4. Kai Opua 9:04.0.

Mixed
12 — 1. Kawaihae (Kevin Takada, Scott Martinson, Dominic Souza, Jeffrey Hall, Mattland Akau, Jim Nini) 1:56.7; 2. Hanalei 1:57.5; 3. Hui Nalu 1:57.8; 4. Healani 2:01.5.
Adult — 1. Healani (Blacky Conant, Tony Serafin, Catherine Kam, Alexander Chang, Nancy Johnson, Dede Reiplinger) 4:04.5; 2. Kamehameha 4:05.3; 3. Outrigger 4:05.6; 4. Hui Nalu 4:08.0.
Club scoring

1. Hanalei 62 points; 2. Hui Nalu 58; 3. Healani 34; 4. Outrigger 31; 5. Kai Opua 22; 6. Lanikai 16; 7. Kailua 15; 8. Kaukaeouli 11; 9. Kawaihae 10; 10 (tie), Kamehameha and Hui Lanakila 9 each; 12. Kahana 8; 13. Na Pili 7; 14. Ohana O Ke Kai 5; 15. Hawaiian Warriors 3; 16 (tie), Waimanalo, Kai Oni and Kekuaha 2 each; 19 (tie), Na Kai Ewalo and Wailani 1 each.

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GARDEN ISLE
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Hanalei takes state canoe event

With 6 wins in 24 races of the 27 they entered, and with top-four placings in 12 other races, Hanalei Civic Canoe Club pulled off an upset on Hilo Bay Saturday, winning the State Championship in the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's big event on the Big Island.

Hanalei beat Hui Nalu with a time of 15 minutes and 31.3 seconds over Hui Nalu's 15 minutes and 33.1 seconds in the two mile senior men's event.

The final 62-58 arithmetic put Hanalei 4 points ahead of Hui Nalu, favored to take the regatta. Healani was third and Outrigger Canoe Club fourth, but they were both far back in points, with 34 and 31 respectively.

Hanalei put about 80 paddlers on the water, and total entries were counted over the 2000 mark. Thousands of spectators took in the races, most of them from Hilo Bayfront Park.

Runner-up Hui Nalu with 200 paddlers was



Hanalei Coach, Nick Beck

reckoned to repeat its championship performance of last week, when it won the O'ahu championship handily.

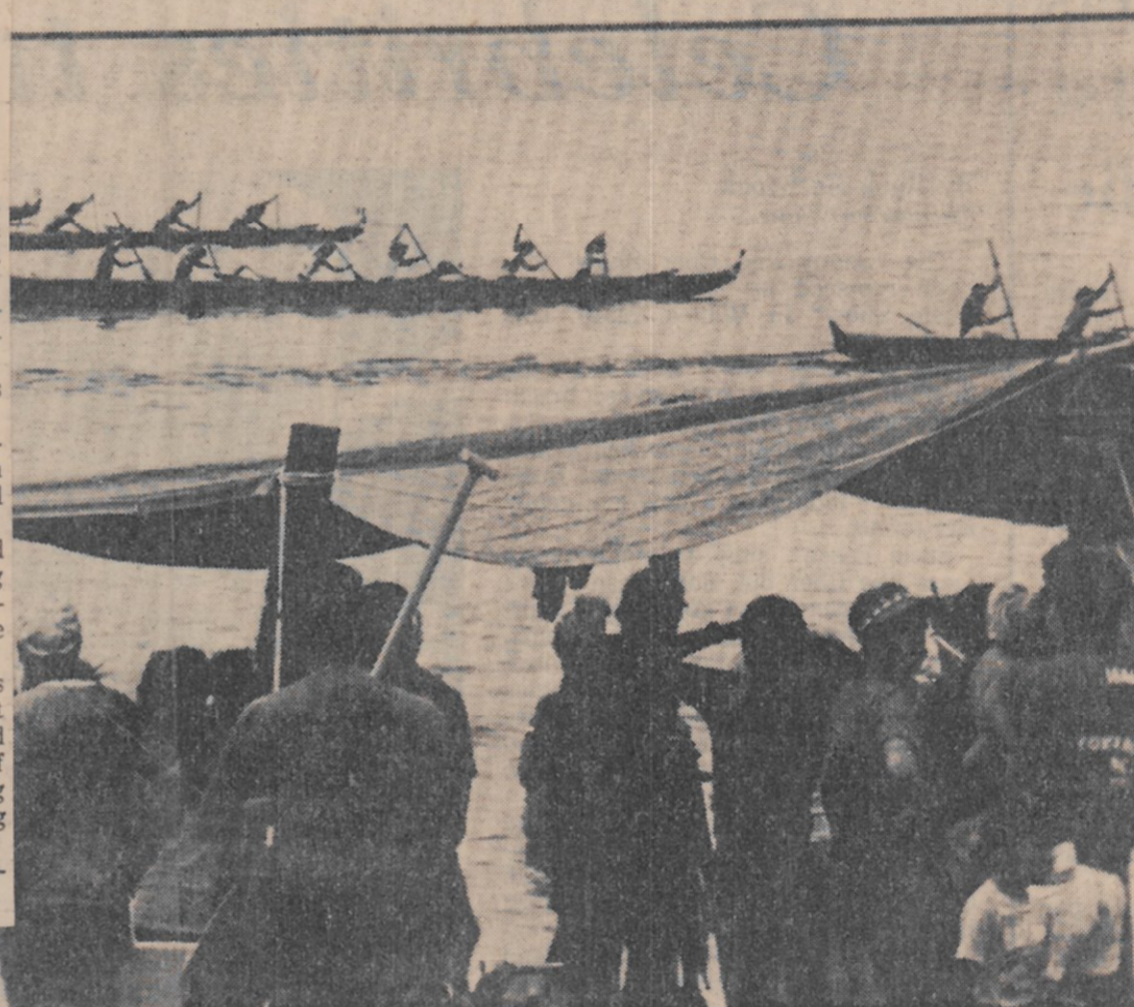
It was a squeaker for Hanalei, the win coming on the last event of the day, the 2 mile senior men's race, and the winning time was only 1.8 seconds faster than second place Hui Nalu's.

This is the first-ever HCRA State title for Hanalei, although the club has won three titles as a member of Hui Wa'a.

According to eye-witnesses, Hanalei won the race by beating Hui Nalu into the turn at the 1 mile mark and then holding off a come-back effort after establishing a four-length lead to hit the finish line about 10 feet out front.

The Hanalei canoe was patched with about 3 feet of ducting tape to keep water out after a collision earlier in the regatta opened a split about that long and 1/4 inch wide.

More details in Tuesday's paper.



Hanalei lookout

Some members of the regatta-winning Hanalei Civic Canoe Club watch a women's race in the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association state championship.

Photo by Boone Morrison



Photo by Boone Morrison

Part of the estimated 3,000 paddlers and spectators jam Hilo Bayfront Park to get a glimpse of the regatta.