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Repaired Malia Good as Ever

"Malia is still proud and as pretty as ever," said George Downing, speaking reverently of Waikiki Surf Club's famed outrigger racing canoe.

"She's been patched, varnished and looks as perfect as before. Just wait until you see her on Sunday. Malia looks like the winner that she is."

Malia, the 40-foot koa-log canoe and pride of Waikiki Surf Club, had three feet of its bow ripped from its varnished hull when she collided with another canoe in the Macfarlane Regatta off Waikiki earlier this month.

But, fortunately for Malia followers, the 400-pound canoe has been successfully repaired and is scheduled to compete in Sunday's 14-club Oahu Canoe Racing Championships at Keehi Lagoon. The 24-event Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association regatta begins at 9 a.m.

"IT TOOK 27 carefully placed patches, and three men working a solid week, to repair Malia," said Wally Froiseth, who, along with Phillip Naone, Downing and others, accomplished the task.

"In four decades of racing, Malia had been damaged several times. But none so serious as this accident. I know many paddlers are concerned about Malia's condition. I can happily report that Malia is alive, well, and will be on the starting line on Sunday."

A koa outrigger racing boat is the heart and soul of any canoe club. The crews—from the 12-year-old novice paddlers to the veteran men and women masters—live and die with each scratch and dent in its hull. And Malia, to many paddlers, is the most prized canoe of all.

"Malia is perhaps the most copied canoe in the world," said Downing, one of Hawaii's best-known water-sportsmen.

"SHE'S BECOME A standard. From Malia's hull came the lines of most of the fiberglass canoes raced locally. Many of the Hawaiian-style outriggers raced in California are of Malia's design. She's in a class by herself."

According to Froiseth, Malia was constructed by a Big Island canoe builder named Yamasaki in the early 1930s.

"Outrigger Canoe Club commissioned Dad Center to go to Kona and bring back a koa canoe," explained



Jack Wyatt

The Outdoors

Froiseth. "Center brought back not one canoe, but three of them—the Lailani, the Kakina and the Malia."

Outrigger bought the Lailani and the Kakina, at the then goodly sum of \$200 each (koa canoes are now valued between \$10,000 and \$25,000 apiece), and Center kept Malia.

"MY WAIKIKI BEACH paddling friends and I use to borrow the Malia for racing and for practice," Froiseth added, "and when we formed Waikiki Surf Club soon after World War II, we purchased Malia for \$2,000. It's been the heart of the Surf Club since that time."

Malia has traveled far—from the Big Island to Oahu; in every Molokai-Oahu race, and from Los Angeles to Catalina Island off the California coast.

According to Mel Kalahiki, HCRA race director, the flat waters of Keehi Lagoon will become the equalizer for canoe clubs on Sunday.

"At Keehi Lagoon, unlike Waikiki Beach, crews will have no waves to ride, nor will the luck of the lane draw be a factor. Conditions should be the same for every club. The strongest club will be the one most likely to win," he said.

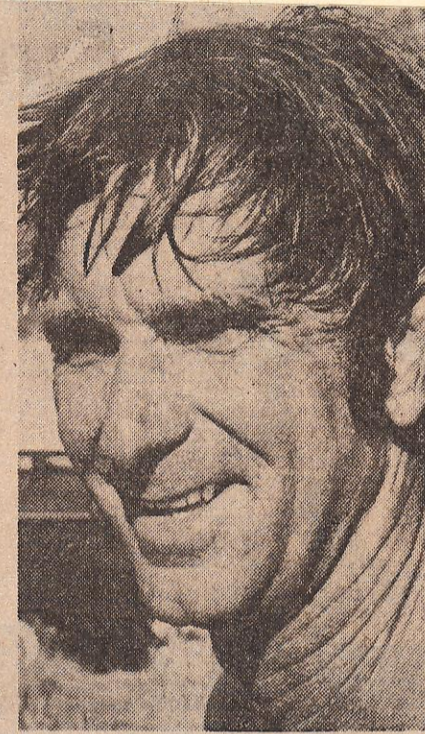
KALAHIKI PLANE TO set 11 lanes, with race distances from quarter mile to two miles in length. Spectator viewing should be excellent, he says.

Kala Kukea, the coach of favored Hui Nalu Canoe Club, reports that his team is at almost full strength.

"I plan to field 23 of the 24 events," said Kukea, whose team has won the past two HCRA regattas. "Only the women's sophomore heat will be passed."

"After a three-week layoff since our last regatta, our crews are becoming edgy. Practicing each night becomes old after a while. Our crews are ready to race."

Kukea believes that Outrigger Canoe Club, and not his Hui Nalu, is the team to beat on Sunday. But most race followers believe Kukea may be trying to avoid the infamous "kiss of death" which usually follows the favorite role.



George Downing



PROUD MALIA—Waikiki Surf Club's koa wood canoe, Malia, shown winning the women's senior race during the John Kaupiko Regatta four weeks ago, will be back in action during Sunday's Oahu Canoe Racing Championships at Keehi Lagoon.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Alexis Higdon.

National Surf Set for Hawaii

More than 100 of America's top-ranked amateur surfers will gather in Hawaii August 4-14 to compete in the third annual All-American National Surfing Championships.

The national championships, hosted by the Pacific Conference of the American Surfing Association, will be held at various beaches on Oahu, pending weather and surf conditions.

Haleiwa, Ala Moana (Magic Island), Waikiki and Sand Island are slated as possible sites.

The top local amateurs include Winston Irebaria and Joyce Fujioka, 1977 All-Americans; Steve Carvalho, Peter Curry, Sandy Kurihara, Dayton Kupele, Dino Arado, Dana Dawes, Mickey Nielsen, Bob Fram, Barry Medeiros, Jane Wetzel, John Damm and John Pinto.

Other participants will represent the West Coast and Gulf Coast.