

MAR 19 1971

Surf Spray



By Ron Haworth

Colorful Classic

The ABC television production of the Duke Kahanamoku Hawaiian Surfing Classic was a colorful can of color.

The sixth Duke stood out dramatically from its five predecessors for two basic reasons: the exuberant and accurate commentary by Fred Hemmings and director Larry Lindberg's theatrical use of individual standings as they varied.

And the conditions, also, were excellent—surf, wind and sun all combined in starring roles. In fact, Hawaii was the leading lady. The surfers had bit parts.

Keeping the contestants and viewers abreast of the standings was first used in November's Smirnoff World Pro-Am and was the brainstorm of the International Professional Surfers Association.

The system compared favorably with the manner in which the time of the downhill skiers was flashed after each skier's run on the companion Wide World of Sports feature.

The judging system was explained fully and Hemmings' comments as to the probable points earned after rides all put viewer interest into television surfing for, perhaps, the first time.

Size of Purse

We took special notice that for the second year in a row no mention was made of the size of the purse, although the program was billed 'professional' several times.

Obviously ABC doesn't want to belittle the whole drama and rave over \$2,150 when \$150,000 golf tournaments are on tap every weekend.

This isn't to say Duke Classic curator Kimo McVay is obliged to sweeten the pot, but it is proof the sport has a long way yet to go before being accepted on a true pro scale.

The fact that the Duke offers money at all was a whim of McVay's—one of those instant decisions. It began with the only reward being a Golden Duke trophy going to each competitor.

And it could very well go back to that this year or next. Because the Duke, unlike the Smirnoff World Pro-Am, was conceived in honor of a man who was Mr. Surfing. And to honor him in his golden image is certainly worthy.

Smirnoff was contrived from nothing and in a single year became the most talked about pro contest in surfing.

(Surfers who usually hold gripe sessions after competing in a contest praised Smirnoff.)

The two contests each serve the sport in an individual fashion. They are not rivals, but really allies.

They supply the strength the sport must draw on to survive.

Canoe Race

The canoe racing season gets an early preview Saturday, March 27, on the Garden Isle when clubs from Oahu and Kauai race from Waialua to Nawiliwili.

The eight-mile sprint will include Outrigger Canoe Club, Healan, Waikiki Surf Club, Hui Nalu and Kauai Canoe Club.

Prediction from our tipster — Healan in a breeze.

For any who might still care — Gordo Barrada and Gerry Lopez won the big and small-wave titles in this month's Peruvian mystery championships. Next year the public might not even know the dates.

Water Safety Week up in May. This year the public will be invited to watch the weekend program on the beach fronting the Outrigger Hotel.

An optimistic bunch of armed forces surfers will gather tomorrow at Makaha for the fourth annual championships.

The contest is sponsored by Alii Heenalu Surf Club and sanctioned by the Hawaii Armed Services Athletic Council and is open to all active duty military personnel.

The competition will feature three main events, men's (ages 17-25); senior men's (26 and older) and paipo. Buster Kellum, Patrick "Happy" Mariel and Barry Gooch are defending champions, respectively.

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HTA schedules sound-off day tomorrow

If you have an axe to grind, a gripe or just a suggestion about tennis in Hawaii, you'll have a chance to speak your mind tomorrow at an open meeting of island tennis players.

The Hawaii Tennis Association is holding a town meeting-type session and has invited anyone interested to attend the get-together at the Outrigger Canoe Club at 7 p.m.

"We would especially like to have a representative from each member club as well as players from other clubs who would like to join us," said Ira Gordon, the HTA's eager new president.

"There are many players who play at public courts, military bases and on the neighbor islands who don't belong to the HTA. We would be glad to have them come and tell us how we can help them."

Gordon said one of the main goals of his administration is to improve tennis facilities throughout the state. "We need to hear from the players first—to determine where we need courts most and how many—before we take our cause to state and city officials," he said.

A teacher at University High School, where he also coaches the varsity tennis team, Gordon will announce the HTA's goals for the year. It's rumored to be the most ambitious program in the seven-year history of the association.

According to his official statements since being elected in January, Gordon seems to be the first HTA president to champion the lot of public court players. There is strength in numbers and Gordon apparently knows it with his appeal to attract more public court players into the HTA fold.

The Hawaii section has 839 members, second smallest

in the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association. Puerto Rico is the smallest with 793.

NET NOTES: Australia's Tony Roche and Owen Davidson took in the Waikiki sunshine and bikinis during a three-day stopover this week. They were on their way back to the Mainland from playing Down Under in the Dunlop Open, in which Roche, Rod Laver and John Newcombe—the three biggies of Australia—were knocked off early to the dismay of tourney promoters. There's nothing like home to distract a touring net pro.

Roche and Davidson "hit" one day at the Punahou Tennis Club under the watchful eye of a trainer who was traveling with them. The money is getting so big in modern pro tennis that many players are employing trainers to keep them fit.

LCDR Gordon R. Gilmore, Navy civil engineer at Pearl Harbor, has come up with a unique idea to raise \$100 for playing with a Hollywood star like Elke Sommer in a proposed Celebrity Tennis Tournament gathering interest here. He is organizing a tournament between 10 fellow officers at the Pacific Seabee headquarters where he is assigned at \$10 per en-

TENNIS

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trans. The winner collects the \$100 pot and plays in the Celebrity Tennis event, hopefully with Elke. You guessed it—Gilmore is top seeded.

Hawaiian Bitumuls and Paving Co. is resurfacing five courts at the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base, where earlier this year two courts were converted into a parking lot.

It was a banner day for

Honolulu's Doris Hakman last Saturday as her Punahou girl's tennis team won the ILH title in the morning and her surfing champion son Jeff appeared on ABC's "Wide World of Sports" in the afternoon. The Buffanblu girls finished the season with a 37-3 team record to easily retain the ILH net title. Meanwhile, Mrs. Hakman's son, a Punahou graduate, was seen winning the

Duke Kahanamoku Surfing Championship in a delayed telecast of the December event held at Sunset Beach. Doris was featured in a short interview.

Local members of "Clipped Wings," a group of former airline hostesses, are planning a tennis-golf-bridge outing at Makaha Inn on May 19. Mrs. James Durham, one of the club organizers, said that thus far there are no tennis takers.

Don't be surprised if some of Hawaii's tennis players sue the city over the barring of so-called local professionals from entering city-sponsored tournaments, such as the Ala Moana Amateur now in progress. They contend that as Hawaii tax payers

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Wilcox-Milner



Miss Wilcox

Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Wilcox Jr. announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne Irene, to Kim Irish Milner, son of Mrs. Dorothy Addington Evans and John Bruce Milner.

The bride-elect graduated from Punahou School and is attending Patricia Stevens School. She is a member of the Daughters of Hawaii and the Outrigger Club.

Her fiancé, a graduate of Kaimuki High School, is a cadet with the Honolulu Police Department.

A late summer wedding is planned.