

# OCC Paddlers No. 1 in State

By Jack Wyatt  
Special to the Star-Bulletin  
Ho hum. Outrigger Canoe Club's talent-laden crews paddled off with another title, this time yesterday's All-State Canoe Racing Championship.

Only the day before, on Saturday, Outrigger's same band of stokers waltzed away with the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's State title. Both events were held at Kaneohe MCAS on Kaneohe Bay.

"Our women's sophomore and novice 'B,' and our men's freshmen and sophomore crews, really came

through for us," said Outrigger Canoe Club coach Nat Norfleet of yesterday's big win.

"I WAS A LITTLE worried about having two regattas on successive days. Our crews must have been tired. But they really did the job."

Honolulu's Hui Nalu Canoe Club placed second both days.

Outrigger, in yesterday's HCRA-Hui Wa'a and Surfing Association All-State competition, won only four point-scoring heats in the 24 event regatta. But OCC proved that consistency pays by taking three second places and four thirds.

Meanwhile, Hui Nalu, which staged a magnificent late surge by winning the final four events, lacked Outrigger's crew-depth in the early heats. When the points were totaled, OCC won over Hui Nalu, 35-29.

For two long days, the rocky shores of the Kaneohe MCAS were lined with 40-foot canoes, sun-baked paddlers and spectators, frolicking children and barking dogs.

BETWEEN THE DEAFENING cheers of the race followers, the roar of the ever-hovering helicopter, and the thundering voice of announcer Lord "Tally-Ho" Blears, the race site resembled a Time's Square carnival.

Yesterday's regatta was billed as a competitive match between the HCRA and the Hui Wa'a. But when the final score was tallied, the championship became an HCRA romp.

Only Hui Wa'a's fourth place finisher, Loa'a Outrigger Canoe Club of Kaneohe, saved the day for the five-year-old association. HCRA clubs paddled off with 11 of the meet's first 12 places.

Yesterday's leaders: 1. Outrigger Canoe Club, 35 points; 2. Hui Nalu Canoe Club, 29 points; 3. Hanalei Canoe Club, 20 points; 4. Loa'a Outrigger Canoe Club, 17 points; 5. Kailua Canoe Club, 15 points; 6 (tie), Waikiki Surf and Healani canoe clubs, 14 points; 8. Lanikai Canoe Club, 12 points; 9. Hui Lanakila Canoe Club, 10 points; 10. Kahana Canoe Club of Maui, 6 points.

"WITH HUI NALU'S momentum near the end, we would have won the championship had there been more events," said a sad-eyed Hui Nalu booster upon hearing the final results. "Next year we'll start winning earlier and we'll sink Outrigger."

By winning three events, third place Hanalei Canoe Club of Kauai became the meet's surprise club. "I don't want to say that we used ringers in our men's masters win," smiled steersman Jerry Lynn, a Garden Island businessman, "but it appears that I am the only permanent resident on the team."

The other five crewmembers are school teachers from the Mainland who own vacation homes on Kauai. I've also heard that all five men even played football together at Long Beach (Calif.) State. The crew did seem to possess a great amount of strength as we powered out of the turns.

While Outrigger, Hui Nalu and Hanalei canoe clubs stroked off with

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THEY'RE OFF!—They all look about even at the start as the field for the Boys 16 event of yesterday's State Regatta Championships begin their 1/2-mile race at Kaneohe Marine Air Corps Station.—Star-Bulletin Photo by John Titchen.

## Two Titles in Two Days for Outrigger

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most of the victories yesterday, nearly every club had its moment.

Hui Nalu's Thompson family had another good day. While Laura Thompson was winning in the women's masters, her daughter Lita

Thompson Blankenfeld was steering Hui Nalu to an upset victory over Waikiki Surf Club in the women's senior race, and her sons, Myron and Nainoa, along with her son-in-law, Bruce Blankenfeld, were stroking to another victory in the men's senior event.

# OCC trades distance wins with Hui Nalu

By BARBARA VOBEJDA  
Advertiser Sports Writer

Hui Nalu and Outrigger canoe clubs traded firsts yesterday — Hui Nalu winning the men's 5-mile in record time, and OCC nosing first across the women's finish line — in the annual Duke Kahanamoku long-distance canoe race.

For that matter, the two clubs traded seconds, OCC behind the Hui Nalu men by only a quarter mile and in front of the Hui Nalu women by just a fraction of a second when the paddlers pulled in to Kailua Beach Park, where hundreds of cheering spectators lined the beach.

The race, sponsored by Lanikai Canoe Club for the past 12 years, included a women's 5-mile event for the first time this year, setting a course across the calm water from Kailua Beach to Mokulea Rock and back. And also for the first time, the 27 men's crews took off from Magic Island at Waikiki Beach and paddled around Diamond Head, into the wind around Makapuu, ending at Kailua. In past years, the course has run from Lanikai to Waikiki.

Hui Nalu's men's crew, which has dominated the senior event throughout the regular regatta season, held on to a slight lead, rounded Lanikai (Alala) Point and passed the finish flags in 3:10.21, with the Outrigger crew only three minutes behind. The times competed with the fastest finishes clocked for past Lanikai races, when crews didn't battle the wind.

Lanikai coach Kalani Dawson said the sponsors of the race expected the best crews to take at least five hours to paddle the course.

"The water was mala (calm)," Dawson said. "If it had been rough the times would have been another story." He said winners of the race have averaged four-hour finishes in the past.

Hui Nalu steersman Myron Thompson said his crew's slight lead served as an advantage. "With a lead you tend to stretch out. It went a lot better than we expected. All our combinations went well."

The winners, like many of the crews, used 12 paddlers, rotating three at a time, and Thompson said his crewmates paddled 20 minutes, resting 10 before switching.

The race marked the first long-distance event this season and may be the last race for many men's crews until the Molokai-to-Oahu race in late September. Most of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association crews have voted not to attend a long-distance race in Kona next week, although three clubs may sponsor a Waimanalo-to-Hawaii Kai race early next month. Women's crews can participate in the annual Dad Center long-distance race Sept. 16.

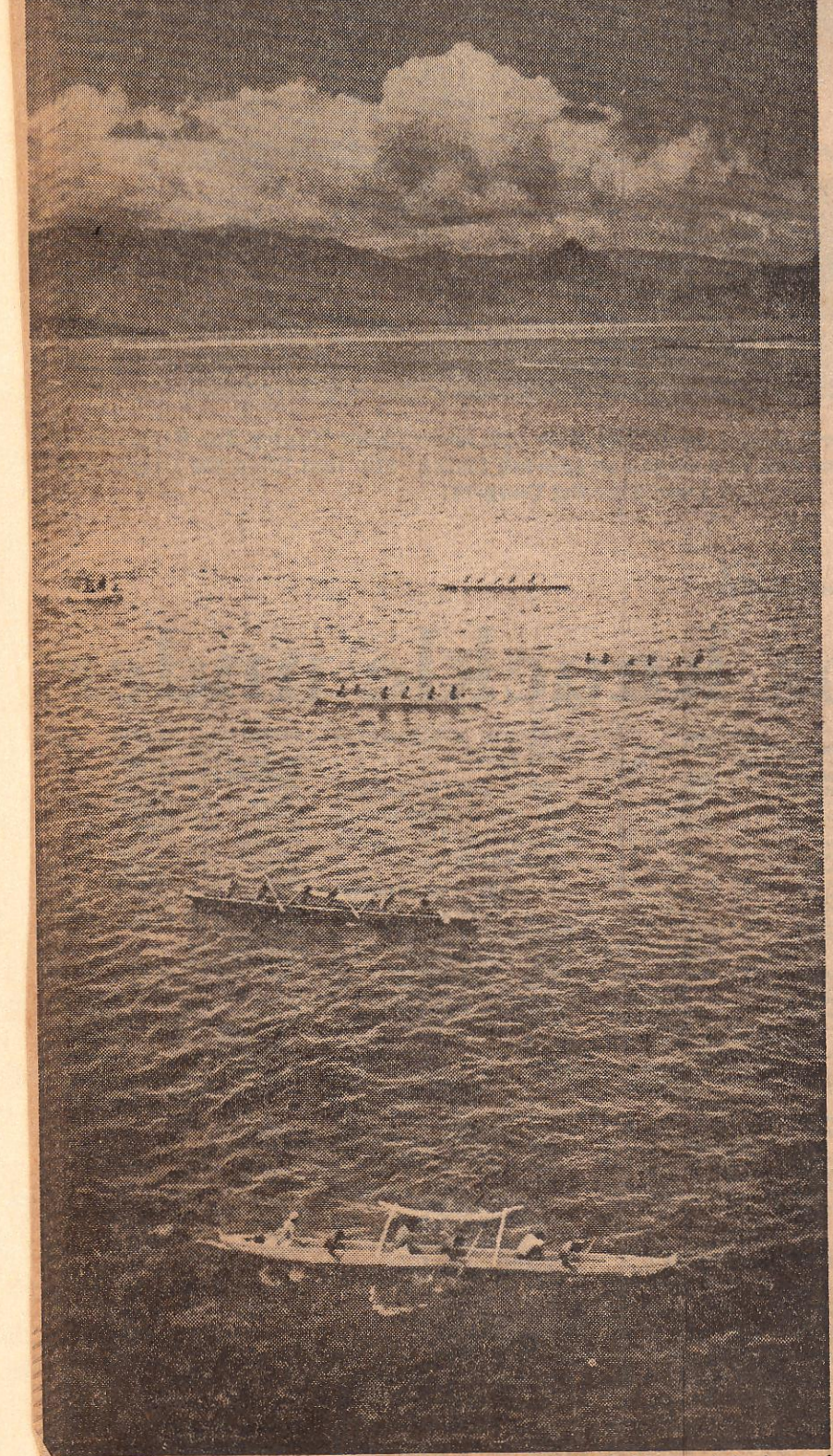
Outrigger and Hui Nalu women were bow-tow leading the pack of 25 canoes until Hui Nalu gained on a tight turn around "Black Rock." But in the last quarter-mile, OCC inched ahead, putting the two clubs even again.

"Then we caught a wave," said Outrigger steersman Ann Hogan. "I jumped and I thought if we catch it, we've got it, and we did. We rode it 100 yards after Hui Nalu. That's what won it for us," she said. "It was the toughest race I've ever paddled."

"It was a good race, but it's always better if you win," said Hui Nalu's Lana Kila, disappointed but still smiling. The crew, behind 15-year-old steersman Dana Darval, finished in 47 minutes and 23 seconds, behind OCC's 47.06.

The Outrigger men's crew, which finished 3.09 behind Hui Nalu, stayed even with the winners until they were off Sandy Beach, OCC steersman Steve Scott said. "It's always harder to catch up," he said.

MENS' RACE	
Male Island to Kailua Beach Park	
Hui Nalu 3:10.21; Outrigger 3:13.30; Koolau 3:18.42; Outrigger 3:19.09 (first koo canoe); Lanikai 3:21.04; Loa'a 3:22.44; Waikiki Surf 3:22.44; Hui Nalu 3:23.26; Hui Lanikai 3:25.14; Waikiki Surf 3:26.21; Koolau 3:28.23; Healani 3:28.23; Kailua 3:27.42; Makaha 3:28.38; Makaha 3:28.52; Hui Lanikai 3:29.22; Lanikai 3:30.37; Lanikai 3:31.77; Hui Aloha 3:31.89; Waikiki Beach Boys 3:32.31; Ohana O Waiheke 3:34.50; Honolulu 3:35.58; Hui Nawai Kai 3:40.22; Koa Kai 3:45.58; Kai Koo 3:57.10; Hui Ohana 4:15.50; Hawaiian Warriors women.	
WOMENS' RACE	
Kailua Beach Park to Mokulea Rock	
Outrigger 47:06; Hui Nalu 47:23; Healani 50:34; Healani 50:34; Kailua 51:10; Waikiki Surf Club 51:10; Hui Nalu 51:20; Lanikai 52:03; Lanikai 52:15; Waikiki Beach Boys 53:30; Kailua 54:51; Waikiki Surf 54:51; Kailua 55:44; Outrigger 55:50; Makaha 56:30; Hui Waialeale 56:55; Kai Koo 57:08; Waikiki Surf 57:15; Outrigger 58:00; Lanikai 58:01; Koa Kai 59:40; Healani 1:00:21; Hawaiian Warriors 1:01:31; Hawaiian Outrigger 1:11:03; Hui Lanikai didn't cross finish line.	



Advertiser photographer David Yamada captured this aerial view of canoe paddlers in Kaneohe Bay yesterday during the overall state canoe racing championship.

# Outrigger the outright state canoe champion

By BARBARA VOBEJDA  
Advertiser Sports Writer

Gathering momentum from its Saturday success, the Outrigger Canoe Club yesterday went on to sweep the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association-Hui Wa'a combined championship before a crowd of about 2,000 at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station.

Once again, Outrigger made use of its depth to pull in five first places and three seconds and thirds, tallying 35 points, six more than defending champion Hui Nalu. OCC had dominated the HCRA state regatta competition Saturday, also held at the Marine base's protected bay in the shadow of the Koolau Range.

Hanalei, which trains through the season without competition — until this weekend — rallied for 20 points and third place, giving HCRA teams the first three slots and edging out Hui Wa'a's Loa'a, which claimed 17 points for fourth place.

The combined state championship marked the end to the regular season and paddlers began training today for long-distance events, which culminate with the Molokai-to-Oahu race, set Sept. 29 for the men and Oct. 14 for the women. A three-leg men's race around Oahu begins Thursday.

Hanalei brought its membership of over 100 paddlers from Kauai for the weekend competition and impressed Oahu clubs by taking home four firsts, two seconds and a third.

Coach Nick Beck said although there are two other Kauai canoe clubs, they are both inactive this year, so his paddlers have no competition.

"This is our big thing," he said. "Since we don't have any regattas, the paddlers don't know how good they are, so we just keep telling them the clubs on Oahu are the best. They believe us and it works."

even longer." Norfleet credited his club's success on a dedicated set of coaches, a "total team effort," and good canoes. He said his crews stayed with koo canoes yesterday because they were pleased with Saturday's times. Both fiberglass and koo canoes were allowed at the combined regatta.

"Hui Wa'a competition is getting better," he said, "and I still think a great deal of it has to do with the boats. We have respect for that."

OCC's 12 coaches "spend time with the paddlers," and that, according to Norfleet, answers for the club's performance.

Loa'a, Hui Wa'a's powerhouse for the past several years, claimed firsts in the boys' 13 and boys' 14 quarter-miles. Loa'a was the only Hui Wa'a club to finish near the top. Kaneohe was next, sharing 11th place with Honolulu and Hawaiian Warrior clubs.

Hui Nalu, which equaled OCC's five firsts but was still short on points, swept the final four events, both men's and women's junior and senior races.

Rob Burns, stroker for Hui Nalu's junior men, said his crew wasn't affected by the two straight days of sun and races. "We knew we would win today," he said, although the crew finished fifth Saturday and this was its first win, an 18:39.8 finish. "It was a good, fun race."

As the senior women took off on their mile race, Burns said, "they are unpredictable, but they could do it. We did. Anybody can do it if they get psyched."

The Hui Nalu senior women did win their event, clocking 10:04.5, safely in front of Waikiki Surf's 10:30.9.

It was no surprise when Hui Nalu's senior men's crew — which has dominated its event all season — led the field, finishing the two-mile, blue ribbon event in 22:24.5. Outrigger was second in 22:46.5.

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Canoe paddlers, churning nose-to-nose in the Kaneohe Bay, race to the finish in the 1/4-mile women's novice A race. The Honolulu canoe club nosed ahead of the crowd, nudging Kaneohe by half a second.