

9/25/80

SEP 25 1980

Visiting Paddlers Gear Up for Race

Watch out Outrigger Canoe Club. Don't look back Waikiki Surf Club. Keep on stroking Hui Nalu. Why? Because paddling in Saturday's Molokai-to-Oahu Aloha Week outrigger canoe race is a band of Californian and Tahitian athletes who are determined to win the race in record time.

type stroke which has about the same quick cadence as the Tahitian stroke but is more efficient."

BOTH BALBOA AND Imua clubs boast several Olympic-class canoe and kayak paddlers in their crews.

"I have a feeling," Campbell added, "that you'll see big changes in outrigger canoe paddling techniques as the result of what we've learned in recent mainland competition."

Campbell would like to see the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association regulate visiting clubs and their paddlers.

"My Imua crew are all bonafide club members," explained the coach, "but several of Balboa Bay's crew are Olympic athletes recruited especially for this race."

"This season," he continued, "we've beaten Balboa with regularity in distance racing. Quite frankly, Balboa has had a dismal year. But paddling against Balboa's crew of all-stars in this race, I'm not certain just how well we'll do."

In the early years, the annual Aloha Week classic started at Molokai's tempestuous Kawakui Beach, but in 1983 the race start was changed to the calmer waters of Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai's south shore.

The Molokai-Oahu contest has finished at several Waikiki locations—fronting the Moana Hotel, the Duke Kahanamoku Beach, at Magic Island, and at its current terminus, Ft. DeRussy Beach.

forming. I am sure that the race record will be broken. I just hope Imua is the club that breaks it."

THIRTY-FIVE OUTRIGGER canoes, including 11 made of koa and 24 constructed of fiberglass, are scheduled to depart Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor at 7 a.m. on Saturday. The first canoe is expected to arrive at Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.

In addition to the two California and 31 Hawaii crews, two Tahitian teams—Puu Pueu and Tiare Roa—have entered. All crews will be paddling to break Outrigger Canoe Club's five-hour, 39-minute and seven-second record set five years ago.

OCC is also the Molokai-Oahu defending open-class champion, having won overall honors last year in 5:46:38, two minutes, 42 seconds ahead of second place Balboa Bay, and 10 minutes in front of third place Imua.

"Imua's crew is really up for this race," said 35-year-old Campbell. "We'll be using an Olympic canoe-

SEP 26 1980

Outrigger defends title They'll have to see about sea

Defending champion Outrigger Canoe Club would like "Goldlocks" seas — not too flat, not too monstrous — for the 29th Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race tomorrow morning.

But OCC and the 30 other clubs entered in the 39-mile race know they should be prepared for anything.

"We've had the weather change on us so fast it isn't funny," said Stu Brissette, Outrigger race chairman. "Last year we went out there expecting it to be smoky and it was like a lake."

"We're hoping for moderate conditions," Brissette said. "I don't think we want a flat sea — it gets hot — but not a monstrous sea either."

"When it's too big you're constantly worrying about where the next swell is coming from," he said, "and if one hits you broadside you could tip over. May be good with 8-10-foot swells out there."

In-between conditions should be good for Outrigger's in-between stroke — a hybrid of the bend-over, long-pulling Hawaiian stroke and sit-up, short-pull Tahitian style.

Calm seas are expected to give the edge to the Tahitian and California entries, both of which use the Tahitian stroke.

Thirty-five canoes, 24 fiberglass and 11 koa, will head from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor to Fort DeRussy Beach in the most celebrated event in long distance paddling.

There will be 20 Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association clubs, seven clubs of the Hui Wa'a & Surfing Association, two clubs from Tahiti and two from California.

The Tahitian entries are the Pueu Canoe Club of Tahiti Hele Island and the Tiare Roa Canoe Club of Tuamotu Island.

Balboa, last year's runnerup, and third-place Imua of Newport Beach are the entries from California. Blazing Paddles, the surprise winner of '78, has since disbanded.

Not much is known about the crews from Tahiti. The early favorites include Outrigger, Hui Nalu and Koolau of Hawaii and the two California clubs.

"Imua's looking tough," Brissette said. "Based on the records, you'd have to say they're the toughest from the mainland and we're the favorites from Hawaii (Outrigger is unbeaten in Hawaii long distance races this year). Man for man, I think we have a stronger crew compared to last year."

—By Andy Yamaguchi

OCT 10 1980

BOTTOM LINES: John Toner, Hyatt's sales mgr. for Hawaii, celebrated his birthday and anniversary twice when he flew around the world in 36 hrs. Sunday. He got the surprise of his life on his Tokyo flight when the stewardess wished him happy birthday — thanks to a call from his wife. . . Fashion designer Baba Kea White seen dining forehead-to-forehead with S.F. wardrobe consultant Robert Pante at the Outrigger Club — maybe discussing his new tropical clothing line □ □ □

NOV 3 1980

LAMONT — George V. Lamont, 86, of 3209 Collins St., died Oct. 27. He was born in Canada. Services 5:30 p.m. today at the Outrigger Canoe Club. Ashes to be scattered at sea. Borthwick Mortuary in charge of arrangements. Casual attire. Survived by sister, Mrs. Myrie McGuire of Oregon.

Hanalei goes it alone Moloka'i-O'ahu race up



ONE PADDLE, two paddle, all the way across; it's no trip for the short-winded. (Nick Beck photo)

by Nick Beck

On Saturday morning at 7 a.m., a field of over 30 crews from Hawaii, Tahiti, and California will line up for the start of the annual Molokai to O'ahu canoe race, the year's Grand Prix of the sport.

The 40-mile course is over some of the world's roughest water . . . and a hurricane is headed this way right now, last reported about 1000 miles east-southeast of the Big Island.

The finish line is at Fort DeRussy Beach in Waikiki. Outrigger Canoe Club from O'ahu is the defending champ. They will be up against a tough California crew whose paddlers have been in training for Olym-

pic competition. The Tahitians, who have won in the past and left their mark on Hawaiian canoe racing with the introduction of new styles, paddles, canoes, and techniques . . . are also back and looking for a win.

Kauai's only entry is the Hanalei Canoe Club, and their paddlers are shooting for a top slot among the finishers.

The race is a combination of teamwork and endurance. The paddlers and the helpers who pull them from the water after a mid-ocean change . . . and the escort boat skipper who helps with the course strategy and in setting up the crew changes that take place every 15 to 20 minutes.

SEP 29 1980

OCC proved who's expert in paddling

By Andy Yamaguchi
Advertiser Sports Writer

Football players aren't the only jocks who tape caustic newspaper clippings on the locker room wall.

"It meant a lot when the Imua guys started shooting off their mouths and saying they're going to break the record by 15 minutes," Tom Conner of the Outrigger Canoe Club said Saturday.

"It" was OUTRIGGER'S victory Saturday in the 29th Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race, and Conner, for one, got great satisfaction out of beating the Imua Canoe Club of Newport Beach, Calif.

Last week Imua coach Dennis Campbell was quoted in a newspaper story as saying one of the two California entries, given normal conditions, "should beat the record by 15 minutes. . . I have a feeling that you'll be seeing big changes in outrigger canoe paddling as a result of what we've learned in recent mainland competition."

"That," Conner said, "provided the extra incentive we needed. They think they're the only ones who know anything about paddling." With Conner steering the entire six-hour, 39-mile race, OCC took its second consecutive Molokai title and its fourth in the last six years.

Off Shore of Newport Beach was second, Hui Nalu third and Imua fourth. Imua was the first koa canoe crew to finish.

Even more critical than extra incentive was the mishap-free race Outrigger enjoyed while its chief competitors were foiled by mechanical problems or Mother Nature.

Six Imua paddlers had to "iron-man" it for almost two hours when its escort boat, which carried their three relief paddlers, broke down. Paddlers generally are relieved every 20-30 minutes.

Off Shore spent about five minutes in mid-race repairing a broken ama (outrigger arm). As it turned out, Outrigger beat them by only two minutes and 16 seconds.

Hui Nalu's problem was perhaps the most frustrating. The state short-course champs led or shared the lead for the first 25 miles. But when it was time to veer toward Oahu, unpredictable currents kept Hui Nalu virtually stranded.

"It's really disappointing," said Hui Nalu steersman Brant Ackerman, who went the whole way. "We were ahead the whole way until Koko Head. Then saw a quarter-mile lead go to a quarter-mile deficit in 15 minutes."

That left the race to OCC and Off Shore, which had caught up just as they approached Koko Head.

"When we heard they were coming up it really lit a fire under us," Conner said. "Fortunately, it was at a part of the race where we were ready to run downhill." OCC blazed away from Off Shore when it reached Koko Head, turned south and rode the swells in to DeRussy.

The day's closest finish was between Lanikai and Koolau for sixth place. As thousands on the shore cheered both of them on, Lanikai prevailed by a two-second margin.

"We came together at Diamond Head and were fighting the rest of the way," said Dr. Howard Keller of Lanikai. "Sometimes you find a little extra juice."

NBC had film crews in boats and helicopters to film the race for a "Sports World" segment to be aired sometime in January.

Among the sights they captured were the exquisitely-timed exchanges by relief paddlers. A canoe would maintain its speed while the relievers would hop in and begin paddling with an interruption of less than five seconds.

OCT 9 1980

Women Set for Molokai Challenge II

Although women have yet to crack the all-male Olympic marathon event, women paddlers in Hawaii, it appears, have made great strides toward equality.

On Sunday, despite past chauvinism-



tics grumblings about women invading man's last bastion of the sea, 17 all-women outrigger canoe racing crews will stroke their way from Molokai to Oahu in their second consecutive Na Wahine O Ke Kai race.

"Unlike the male skepticism of

last year," race director Hannie Anderson said, "for Sunday's cross-channel event the men have actually been supportive."

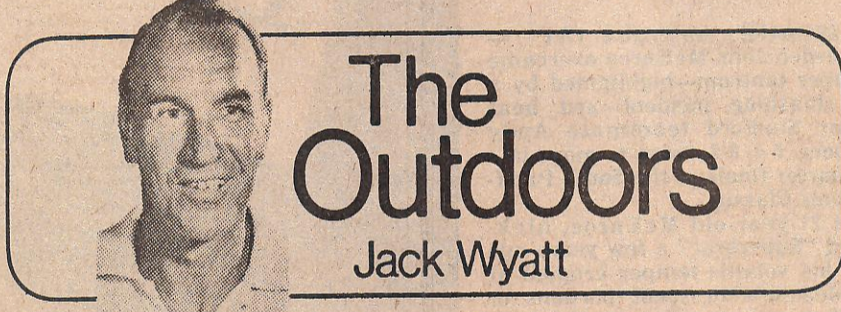
"They've helped train crews, the men will man the escort boats, plus they'll be lending a hand at the start, and at the finish. I haven't run into any chauvinistic problems this year."

IN LAST YEAR'S inaugural race, when all 17 women's crews safely completed the 39-mile course with apparent ease, male canoe-race followers felt that the women came out lucky because the channel was so calm.

So with Sunday's crossing and with the channel tradewinds freshening and seas beginning to build, the women will be watched by waterfront chauvinists stroke by stroke. The Na Wahine O Ke Kai race begins at 7 a.m. from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor and it will finish approximately 1:30 p.m. at Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach.

"I would like to see bigger swells than last year," said Anne Hogan, the steersman of defending champion Outrigger Canoe Club.

"However, I hope that the waves



The Outdoors
Jack Wyatt

are not that big where canoes will swamp and the crew changes become dangerous. Because the Mainland teams are perhaps more accustomed to flatter water, good surfing waves will favor our Island crews."

The 24-year-old Hogan, who helped steer Outrigger to victory last year, expects her closest competition to come from California's Balboa Bay and two Island clubs—Healani and Hui Nalu.

"I'M SURE THE race will be more competitive this year," Hogan explained. "I know that in our particular crew, performance has improved. Given a break in the weather, I expect to beat last year's six-

Race director Anderson, one of the founders of the sponsoring Na Wahine O Ke Kai, said that her committee will work closely with the Coast Guard regarding safety and if the channel conditions appear dangerous, the race is off. "We aren't out to prove anything," she added.

ALTHOUGH LAST year's event was the first well-organized Molokai-Oahu race for women, it wasn't the first time that women had successfully made the crossing. Five years ago, two all-women crews paddled the sometimes hazardous channel which started the wahines thinking of bigger things to come.

"Because we've organized everything—from securing sponsors, arranging escort boats, raising funds, and manning race committees," said Young, "I think that we've proven even to the most severe skeptic that women can be serious long distance paddlers. I truly believe that most of the men are supportive of what we are doing and we appreciate it."

The oldtimers still talk about the 1966 men's race where 11 of the 22 canoes either broke up, sunk, or were swamped. With 10 to 15 foot waves and with winds over 20 miles-an-hour, that race should have been postponed."



Anne Hogan

SEP 28 1980

They ain't heavy, they're the champions

By Andy Yamaguchi
Advertiser Sports Writer

After helping Outrigger Canoe Club win yesterday's 29th Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race, Walt Guild said his first order of business was to gain 20 pounds.

"It took some heavy dieting" to make weight for the race, said Guild, a former University of Hawaii football player who exemplified Outrigger's lean, mean, never-faltering machine. "But it was worth it."

OCC made it interesting for most of the way before bursting away from the pack 11 miles from the finish line and winning its second consecutive Molokai-to-Oahu title, one of most coveted in Hawaii sports.

Outrigger covered the 39-mile course — from Hale O Lono Harbor, across the Kaiwi Channel and to Fort DeRussy Beach — in five hours, 52 minutes and 26 seconds to capture its fourth Molokai title in the last six years.

Off Shore Canoe Club — known last year as Balboa Bay — of Newport Beach, Calif., finished second in 5:54:37. Hui Nalu was third in 6:04:04 and Imua of Newport Beach placed fourth in 6:14:17. Imua also was the first koa canoe crew to finish, and for that distinction won the day's top prize of \$1,000. OCC won \$700 for its Open Division victory.

Kailua, Lanikai, Koolau, Hanalei, Leeward Kai and the Waikiki Beach Boys rounded out the top 10, in that order. The two entries from Tahiti — Pueu Tati and Tiare Roa — placed 18th and 22nd, respectively.

who tipped the scales at 255 last year when he played for the Rainbows. But he had a special incentive: this was the first time in nine years he wouldn't be playing football during the Molokai race.

"I've waited a long time to paddle in this one," said Guild, wearing a smile and several leis. "I'd played football since the ninth grade. Now this is it, and I want to be in many, many more."

The race started at 7 a.m., but Hale O Lono was buzzing well before dawn. Crews drove in from their hotels, though a couple of the 36 nine-man crews elected to sleep at the water's edge.

The channel was relatively gentle, just a little rougher than last year's male (smooth) conditions. Outrigger and Hui Nalu jumped out to the lead at the start, with Off Shore and Imua not far behind.

Twenty-six minutes into the race, as the fleet passed Laau Point and into the channel, all the canoes fan-curred. All that is, except Hui Nalu, which kept a dead-eye bead on Diamond Head.

At 11 a.m., OCC and Hui Nalu shared the lead while the rest of the fleet virtually dropped out of sight. Mechanical failures stalled the Californians. Off Shore stopped about five minutes to repair a broken ama (outrigger arm) and Imua had more carried the allotted three relief paddlers, lost a propeller shaft before the race was an hour old.

"We made our first change and then the boat never showed up," said Imua paddler Tim Rush. Paddlers generally are relieved every 20 minutes, but Imua "had to go 'iron man' for two hours" before another

escort boat could be found, Rush said. "That's not an excuse, but it's a damn thing to happen at the beginning of a race."

Hui Nalu also ran into trouble around 11 when it had difficulty bringing its canoe closer to the shoreline. "We just got stuck," said steersman Brant Ackerman. "The ocean changed on us and the swells just started to work against us, knocked us around."

But Off Shore was able to scramble back from its mishap, making an amazing recovery to join and Outrigger in the lead at 11:15.

OCC's crew was made up of Conner, Guild, Bill Bright, John Finney, Tim Kelly, Ed Pickering, Bill Mowat, Keone Downing and Dale Hope.

"Our crew is in such good condition, none of us ever got tired," Guild said. "We just kept going and going and going."

THE RESULTS

OPEN DIVISION
1. Outrigger 5:52:26, 2. Off Shore (Newport Beach, Calif.) 5:54:37, 3. Hui Nalu 6:04:04, 4. Imua (koa) (Newport Beach) 6:14:17, 5. Kailua 6:22:38, 6. Lanikai 6:26:04, 7. Koolau 6:28:06, 8. Hanalei 6:30:32, 9. Leeward Kai 6:31:43, 10. Waikiki Beach Boys 6:35:31, 11. Kamehameha-Hilo 6:34:01, 12. Hui Nalu (koa) 6:35:00, 13. Lokahi 6:36:06, 14. Outrigger (koa) 6:36:54, 15. Waikiki Surf (koa) 6:37:43, 16. Healani (koa) 6:43:35, 17. Honolulu 6:44:16, 18. Pueu Tati 6:45:40, 19. Lahaina 6:48:06, 20. Hui Lanakila (koa) 6:49:55, 21. Kihel (koa) 6:53:00, 22. Tiare Roa 6:54:11, 23. Hawaiian Warriors 6:56:30, 24. Kailua (koa) 6:55:31, 25. Kanehameha-Oahu 6:56:45, 26. Makaha (koa) 7:00:38, 27. Windward Kai 7:07:53, 28. Lanikai (koa) 7:08:57, 29. Sons and Daughters 7:09:13, 30. Kihel 7:19:03.

KOA DIVISION

1. Imua 6:14:17, 2. Hui Nalu 6:35:00, 3. Outrigger 6:36:54, 4. Waikiki Surf 6:37:43, 5. Healani 6:43:35, 6. Hui Lanakila 6:49:55, 7. Kihel 6:53:00, 8. Kailua 6:55:31, 9. Makaha 7:00:38, 10. Lanikai 7:08:57.



Advertiser photo by Roy Ho

Thirty-nine miles and about 20,000 strokes later, Outrigger is a happy winner