# Outrigger captures Molokai race

By CAROL HOGAN

years of paddling is that you can never tell how the race is going to turn out," said an elated Tim Guard, oldest member of the Outrigger Canoe Club's fiberglass canoe team, which was the first out of a fleet of 39 starters to finish yesterday's annual Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race.

Guard and teammates, decked with leis, were on the beach at Fort DeRussy just five hours and 46 minutes after the start off Hale O Lono harbor, Molokai. The reason Guard was so jubilant was because until the OCC team reached Diamond Head lighthouse, it had a firm grip on second place, with Balboa Bay Club of California in what looked like a shoo-in position for first.

"It was a question of being men-tally tougher," said Guard. "The experience factor is the major thing. You learn to look at the situation and know you can't be discouraged in the middle of the race.

"They (Balboa) are marvelous competition. They contested us through the whole race. I paddled in '75 and '77 and I'm damn proud that Hawaiian canoes are coming across and showing them that we've got it. Today was won on desire and it was a grand win. The best of the 13 races

The paddlers got under way offi-

1-4 Honolulu, September 30, 1979 The Sunday Star-Bulletin & Advertiser

"The one thing you learn after cially at 7:59 a.m. yesterday under overcast skies in approximately five knot winds with what paddlers refer to as "malia" (calm) seas. In the opinion of most contestants, conditions were excellent.

John Rader, president of the BBC team said, "It was perfect, the best I've ever seen. In any one of these races it just depends on the conditions of the water and the course you're taking. Outrigger did a super job. They went up a little higher and came right up under us.

Both teams were manu ihu to manu ihu (bow to bow) at the start. By 8:30 they had reached Laau point and were heading out into the channel's open ocean. But it just wasn't BCC's year, beginning with a rule infraction that forced them to change their Hobie ama for one of Hawaiian design.

At 8:40 the first change of paddlers was made - three in and three out - bobbing alone in the big

When making changes the normal procedure is for the large escort vessel to run well out in front and to the left side of the oncoming canoe, then make a wide circle around to the right side taking care not to let the wake interfere with the canoe's progress. Three relief paddlers jump into the ocean in front of the advanc-See OCC on page I-4



The Outrigger Canoe Club entry receives a royal welcome at the beach at Fort DeRussy yesterday after finishing first in the Aloha Week Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race in a time of 5 hours and 46 minutes.

# OCC overtakes Balboa to win Molokai race

Continued from page I-1

ing canoe and when alongside, pull were gonna be in second place." themselves up over the left side as three tired paddlers roll out on the

Once in the water the paddlers hold an arm over their head for ease of spotting then wait until the same escort vessel circles back to pick them up. It's a lot easier to do in malia water, and if done well, takes less time than it does to write about

In mid-channel the swells remained at two feet with occasional chop but the sky remained overcast which was probably an asset to the California crew. Their changes appeared to be perfect and OCC was closing the gap. The rest of the fleet was spread out from north to south and positions

were hard to determine. If, during the first hour of the race, people on shore were wondering what happened to the marvelous MARS communication network that was supposed to be relaying news of the racers back to officials on the beach he assured that it wasn't the all the equipment's fault - blame it on an upset stomach. The Navy communications operator on board got seasick and the antenna wasn't installed properly. Race committee officials handled the job smoothly.

Shortly after noon position reports for the top two boats remained the same - Balboa far ahead of the rest, but at Diamond Head it was a new ball game and according to OCC paddler Tom Connors, passing them embrace from Pat Spencer, a crew member of the Hawaiian Warrior was "the hardest thing I ever did in my life. For 35 miles I thought we

The first woman ever to paddle the race with the men was on the California Imua Canoe Club team. Her name is Sue Holloway who said, 'My friends went last year and we

got together in Vancouver. They asked me if I wanted to come and I said yes. I usually paddle kayaks this was very exciting.' First to finish in the Koa class was

Hui Lanikila. Coach Billy Mitchell said of their tactics, "It was easy. OCC was supposed to be the favorite so we raced with them and went by 'em; then we tried to outrace both divisions. We passed some but it's hard to tell how many, out there you think you're passing everybody.

This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Lei Faria, and although no records were set, some very happy paddlers walked away with a pocket full of prize money. In the Koa division, prizes were \$1400, \$800 and \$500 for first, second and third respectively. In the fiberglass division, the prize money was store

OPEN CLASS
1. Outrigger 88, 5:46:38.4, 2. Balboa Bay-Calif., 5:49:20.4, 3. Imua, 5:56:19.5, 4. Laniaki 74, 6:01.27, 9. 5. Hui Nalu, 120, 6:04:33.2, 6. Kai Opua 056, 6:05:41.5, 7. Hanalei, 6:07:32.0, 8. Leeward Kaj, 6:08:37.4, 9. Koolau 118, 6:09:47.3, 10. Lahaina 405, 6:16:31.1
11. Paiarapu-Tahiti, 6:17:35.8, 12: Loa'a, 6:19:11, 9. 13, Tiare Roa Faa, 6:19:42.2, 14. Hawaiian Warriors, 6:23:23.4, 15. Waikiki Beach Boys, 6:24:17.5, 16. Kailua, 6:24:43.8, 17. Honolulu, 6:26:13.8, 18. Hui Lanakila 110, 6:24:34.5, 19. Kihei-Maui, 6:31:40.5, 20. Makaha, 6:32:55.3, 19. Kihei-Maui, 6:45:05.20. Makaha, 6:32:55.3, 19. Kihei-Maui, 6:45:05.20. Makaha, 6:32:55.3, 19. Kihei-Maui, 6:45:05.27, 9. 24. Kamehameha-Oahu, 6:46:59, 9. 25. Kamehameha-Hilo, 6:51:24.2, 26. Koa Kai, 6:53:16.4, 27. Hui 'o Halawa, 7:11:01.0; 28. Hui 'o Kai Ko'o, 7:17:01.7. KOA CLASS
1. Hui Lanakila, 6:14:50.8, 2. Bora Bora Tahiti, 6:16:45.4, 3. Waikiki Surf, 6:20:32.3, 2. Bora Bora Tahiti, 6:16:45.4, 3. Waikiki Surf, 6:20:32.3, 2. Bora Bora Tahiti, 6:16:45.4, 3. Waikiki Surf, 6:20:32.3, 2. Lanikai, 6:20:54.1, 5. Outrigger, 6:23:53.3, 6. Hui Nalu, 6:26:46.1, 7. Healani, 6:32:05.7, 8. Koolau 27,6:38:00.4, 9. Kai 'o Pua, 6:39:13.1.

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OCT 4 1979

### Trophy returned

## Oahu club wins Molokai race

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Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

the "first ten" in the annual Molokai-to-

As things turned out, Kihei placed 19th

Anything can happen in a canoe race of

this type, and for Lahaina to finish in the

top 10 is quite an achievement," said de la

Howard Cooney of the Lahaina club

described the challenge of the Molokai

Channel as being somewhat different than

expected. "The sea was pretty calm," he

said. "We had expected rougher seas and

more wind. When you paddle this type of

race in calm seas the men gets more tired

because there is more work. You can't use

higher, but one of the crew members be-

came sea sick, leaving them with only

Lahaina, said it was a tough race. "It went

the way we expected as far as being a

tough race. We went by our schedule, and

paddled as fast as we could," said

strategy used, Bouchard said, "We went

straight across from Molokai. A lot of the

other crews headed north and around

which helped us. The main strategy was to

kinder. "We could have used a few swells

or a good tail wind to help, but it just

wasn't there," he said. Bouchard also said

the team was hurt by only having eight

men. "When one of the guys got sea sick

things became harder. We didn't have the

Bouchard said the sea could have been

When asked if there was a special

Bouchard.

just paddle like hell.

Lahaina might have been able to place

Wally Bouchard, one of the paddlers for

in Saturday's 38-mile crossing while the

Lahaina Canoe Club wound up as Maui's

top finisher, taking 10th place.

Oahu canoe race.

Lahaina CC paddles

Kihei Canoe Club president George de time needed to rest between turns at pad-

water. But the guy that got sick couldn't

help it. It happens all the time, and when

you get as sick as he was you are just too

The Lahaina team onlyhad three mem-

bers who were experienced in the Molokai

crossing, and Bouchard said it was an

education for them. "One of the paddlers,

Courtney Warren, is from Oklahoma, and

he has never paddled before," said

Bouchard. "He is on Maui for a rest before

going on to New Zealand. We asked him if

he would like to come along, and he

agreed. It was a real experience for him,

and the others who had never been in this

what the Kihei club had expected, either.

'The guys planned tactics for other condi-

tions. It is a matter of experience and

knowledge of the currents and weather

conditions. The men found out they have a

lot to learn about channel crossing," said

Bloch, Ted Wexler, Rich Milano, Joey

Uvale, Bouchard, Bill Bahl, Ken Sinclair,

Rick DeMille and Warren) completed the

race in six hours, 16 minutes and 31 se-

Kihei paddlers Abrahamn Ah Hee,

Wedemeyer Au, James Platz, Larry

Miller, Clayton Eaton, James Souza, Mark

Whitford, Ray Mains and Rob Hoonan

were clocked at six hours, 31 minutes and

captured first place with a time of 5:46:48.

The Balboa Bay Club of California was

second at 5:49:20. Hui Lanakila, also of

Oahu, was first in the koa division with a

Oahu's powerful Outrigger Canoe Club

Lahaina (whose paddlers included Rich

De la Nux said the conditions were not

tired to go on," said Bouchard.

la Nux said last week that his crew of pad- dling. The guys only got 15 minutes in the dlers were confident of finishing among boat to rest and then it was back in the

to 10th place finish

By STAN DZURA **Contributing Writer** 

MOLOKAI-The Outrigger Canoe Club of starting point for the Honolulu made perfect mid-ocean changes and utilized their knowledge of local waters to return the Molokai Channel trophy to Hawaii last weekend.

But the Oahuans had to hurry to better the Balboa Bay Club of Newport Beach California and keep the Californians from winning the Molokai Channel crossing for the second consecutive year. Dark horse entry Kai

passed Laau point, the last land bearing until Koko Head on the Oahu side of

Leadership

the channel.

Opua of Kailua surprised

the 39-boat flotilla by

taking an early lead in the

malia waters off-of Hale O

Lono beach, the official

prestigious 41-mile race.

Balboa Bay, conquerors of the Liliuokalani Race last month, took over leadership as the canoes

Kai Opua appeared to mination was difficult due to the five-mile spread that the boats took in navigating

Balboa Bay was given the lead as the canoes neared the Oahu shoreline and appeared to have the gold wrapped-up as they neared the Diamond Head light house.

the channel.

Outrigger pushed its 'nine cylinder engine' into high gear and beat their mainland adversaries to the Fort DeRussy finish-

have a grip on fourth place after negotiating the channel only to have Imua of California, Lanikai and Hui Nalu pass the Big Island club along the Waikiki shoreline and having to settle for a sixth placing - best ever for a Big Island squad.

Kai Opua's koa canoe placed 29th overall to complete Kai Opua's muscular showing in this international event.



THE START—The canoes start to spread out at the beginning of the Molokai Channel Crossing held last week end. The boats spread as far apart as five miles before reaching Oahu. The nearest canoe is the Kai O Pua team from Kona consisting of (from left) Joe Kimitete, Richard Kimitete, Ed Miller, A.D. Ackerman, Jayme Depontes and Cap Willis.—Photo by Stan Dzura.

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# Women Battle Molokai Seas

Billy Mitchell (right), coach of the Hui Lanakila crew which won the

Koa class in yesterday's Molokai-to-Oahu race, receives a warm

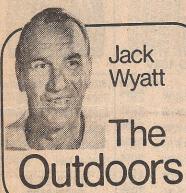
the right to vote, recognition in a few sports-and what happens? If the ladies are canoe paddlers, they immediately want more, like attacking one of man's last bas-

tions in Hawaii, that of racing an

outrigger canoe across the some-

times tempestuous Molokai Chan-

But if the women must subject themselves to the agony of pad-dling a 40-foot, 400-pound canoe



over this usual rough stretch of ocean, instead of dusting furniture while watching the "soaps" on television at home, so be it. As most men have come to painfully realize, when women make up their minds to do something, there is nothing more to say or

WEATHER AND SEA conditions permitting, the first annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai (Women of the Sea) Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race begins Sunday at Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor at 7 a.m., with the first canoe expected to finish at Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Seventeen all-women teams have

Advertiser photo by Roy Ito

entered the 41-mile race. "If the channel is a little rough, that's okay," said the pert 16year-old, Dana Darval, who, with her sister, Dennise, 18, will steer Hui Nalu Canoe Club's koa boat. "The main thing is we don't want conditions to be malia (calm) because catching swells not only makes the race exciting, but it adds to the canoe's performance.

"I haven't made the trip across the channel, but if you recall, Hui Nalu's women crew, with my sister and I steering, won the recent race from Lanikai to Waikiki. And we handled the waves around Makapuu Point and Koko Head

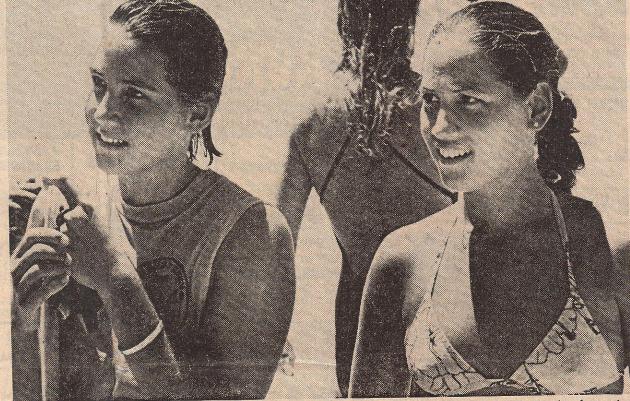
okay."
Dana, Dennise, coach Myron Thompson, and Hui Nalu's entire female crew, are up for Sunday's crossing.

"THE GIRLS HAVE been practicing long and hard," said Thompson, proudly. "Dana and Dennise shouldn't have too much trouble. Although Dennise has more experience than her sister, Dana has a good feel for the boat. They are both natural talents."

The race has become a mental challenge for Dennise, a freshman at Portland State College (Oregon), who flew home yesterday especially for the event.

"At school, all I've been thinking about is the race," she sighed. Fortunately, I'll have a couple of days to get the feel of the water before the race. I'd like the seas just moderately rough, but not too big. Just large enough so Hui

Since the first all-male Molokaito-Oahu canoe race some 27 years ago, Island women have been



STEERING COMMITTEE—Sisters Dennise (left) and Dana Darval (right) will have the task of steering Hui Nalu's koa canoe in Sunday's first annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race.—Star-Bulletin Photo by John Titchen.

awaiting their turn for such a

race. "The Kaiwi Channel (between Molokai and Oahu) is no place for women—it's too rough," countered many male canoe paddlers over the year. Even the Coast Guard, in the past, has discouraged women from paddling across

the channel.
BUT A FEW YEARS ago, when Healani and a pickup wahine crew from several clubs successfully paddled two outrigger canoes across the straits, the adrenalin began flowing among lady paddlers locally.

Within the past 12 months, Oahu's female paddlers have organized, promoted, held fundraisers, uncovered sponsors, and announced their "big" race.

"At Outrigger Canoe Club, we're all excited," said OCC paddler Connie Maguire, who also serves as Na Wahine O Ke Kai's vice-president. 'Our crew will rely primarily on Anne Hogan for steering

duties. Anne's ability to maneuver a canoe, and to hold it on a swell, is uncanny. She's the best I've

Maguire tells sadly of some of the resistance to the race from her male counterparts. "Its been running about 50-50 among men supporting and discouraging our event," she explained. "Of course they (the men) have their reasons

for not wanting women to cross the channel, some bordering on chauvinism, machoism, or just plain concern for our safety. But we women want this to be a successful, as well as a safe crossing, and we're not about to take chances. If the Coast Guard says conditions are unsafe, then we'll

Participating clubs include Kailua, Lanikai, Outrigger, Hui Nalu, Healani, Waikiki Surf, Hui Lanakila/Honolulu, Wahine O Maui, Hanalei/Kamualii, Balboa, Kai O Pua, Halawa/Kamehameha, Sons and Daughters/Windward Kai, Beach Boys/Koa Kai, Hawaiian Warriors, Kaneohe, Kai Koo

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Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

#### Outrigger Women First In Molokai-Oahu Race

for women yesterday, finish- third. ing just 49 minutes slower The 40-mile Molokai-tothan the outrigger men's crew run in 1952. Hannie Anderson, tition two weeks ago.

The Outrigger Canoe Club out-of-state entry, finished women won the first-ever second, and Healani was Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race Oahu race for men was first

which won the men's compe-director of the first Na Wahine O Ke Kali, was one of Outrigger led a field of 17 six women who wanted to crews away from Molokai paddle the channel in 1954 shortly after seven a.m., and and officials who insisted finished at Fort DeRussy six women could not handle the hours, 35 minutes and 14 sec- Kaiwi channel. She called onds latter. Ballboa Bay Canoe yesterdays race, "The reali-Club of California, the only zation of a 25-year dream.

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Canoeing Molokai-to-Oahu