

OCT 15 1979



Over the finish line

KAUAI WOMEN . . . proved that they are Na Wahine O Ke Kai, the Women "of" the Sea, yesterday as they crossed the often treacherous Molokai Channel from Haleo Lono to Waikiki in blessed, and peaceful conditions. An amazing achievement, Kauai came in 5th out of 17, in this first women's race ever held on the course that has long belonged to men who call their race, Men "Against" the Sea. See page 5 for race results. (photo by Julia Neal)

Kauai women in race

A contingent from Kauai was in the historic first-ever Molokai-Oahu canoe race completed successfully Sunday. They were Jo Soares, Lei Engelhard, Kelly Rice, Bonnie Brown, Linda Becker, Keani Reiner, Sue Selbach, Mary Romo, Dianne Striegel, Louisa McBryde, Debbie Enoka, and Desiree Enos, with alternate Nina Anderson on the escort boat to keep spirits high. The race was won by Outrigger Canoe Club of Oahu in 6:35.14. The Kauai team came through in 6:57.31. For a full, in-depth account of the race, read Julia Neal's eye-witness report in Wednesday's paper.

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It can be done

After being told for years that it could not be done . . . it was done. Na Wahine O Ke Kai (The Women of the Sea) canoe race was held Sunday in the Molokai channel. A race that "has belonged to Hawaii's kane paddlers for too many years," as several women stated, had now been conquered by Hawaii's best wahine paddlers. And the first two finishers were the female counterparts of the winners of last month's men's race. Oahu's Outrigger Canoe Club took first place with a time of 5:35.14 and California's Balboa Bay Canoe Club took second place with a time of 6:39:20. The times in the 38-mile Molokai to Oahu race were about one hour slower than the men's times but were still very good for a first time effort. Valerie May of "Na Wahine O Maui" (The Women of Maui) said last week that her team was "aiming for the first five" with hopes of winning the maiden voyage. The Maui team fell short of its goal, but turned in a commendable job by finishing 10th in the field of 17 with a time of 7:15:31.

Paddling for Na Wahine O Maui were: Lynn Kino, Kathleen Street, Louie-Jean Taylor, Naomi Akiona, Genie Livingston, Mary Palakiko, Vickie Dobbs, Patty and Phyllis Cook, Martha Young, Ginger Hinau and May.

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Outrigger women stroke home first

By BARBARA VOBEJDA
Advertiser Sports Writer

The Outrigger Canoe Club women won the first-ever Na Wahine O Ke Kai, a canoe race that began on Molokai just after sunrise yesterday and ended on Oahu with music and beer and an overwhelming sense of accomplishment.

The day capped a 25-year dream that women, like male paddlers, would compete in their own Molokai-to-Oahu race. Outrigger led a field of 17 crews by finishing in 6:35.14, just 49 minutes slower than the OCC men's crew clocked two weeks ago to win the Aloha Week men's race, which took the same route between the two islands.

And like the men's race, OCC women edged the Balboa Bay Canoe Club, an all-star crew from Southern California. Balboa, the only out-of-state club in yesterday's race, finished in 6:39.20.

Healani Canoe Club was third in 6:45.16. "That has to be the ultimate in canoe paddling," said Anne Hogan, OCC's steersman. "It's a long way, but I feel so good right now," she said on the crowded Fort DeRussy beach.

Her hands taped against blisters, Hogan said the race "felt great physically. We just got stronger and stronger as it went on."

"The girls in this crew are so

tough. At one point Hui Nalu almost passed us and the girls went full guts.

"I just kept thinking, 'We gotta get to the beach. We gotta win this race. We want it, this is our day.'"

Since 1952, when Hawaii's men began paddling the Molokai Channel yearly, women paddlers have asked for their own race.

"It's a 25-year dream," said Hanne Anderson the night before the race. "And I can't sleep."

Anderson, who was race director, was also one of an original crew of six women that wanted to paddle the race in 1954, but were refused by coaches and officials who insisted women could not handle the treacherous waters.

Encouraged when two women's crews made an unofficial crossing in 1975, Na Wahine O Ke Kai — Women of the Sea — was planned and executed this year.

Five from that original crew watched the race.

Officials and paddlers were up by 4 a.m. yesterday, and the beach at Hale O Lono on the southwestern shore of Molokai was busy before dawn, the lights of Honolulu against the horizon. As the sun rose, more than 200 paddlers and scores of officials and supporters held hands and prayed for a safe race.

The paddlers, many of whom are young and new to long-distance racing, were nervous and had slept little. "No more fingernails this week," said one paddler, "I ate 'em all."

The canoes, rigged the night before, were carried into the harbor and the crews lined up for the start, dropping leis in the water in honor of the late Leinani Faria, who put the race into the planning stages after the 1975 crossing.

At 7:12 a.m., the gun went off and the crews, each with two escort boats, pointed toward the faint outline of Oahu in the distance.

For the first 3/4 miles, most crews took advantage of the protected bay with an all-out sprint, and Balboa and Outrigger were even out of the pack. But it took only a few minutes



Advertiser photo by T. Umeha

After 40 miles and 20,000 strokes, the Outrigger team arrives first in yesterday's Na Wahine O Ke Kai.

before OCC pulled in front, leaving Balboa alongside Hui Nalu.

Thirty minutes into the race the officials sounded a horn, signaling the first opportunity for crews to rotate paddlers. Escort boats moved ahead of their canoes, dropping paddlers in the water. The paddlers climbed into the canoe as tired crew members rolled out the other side. The auxiliary boat then picked up the waiting paddlers, who rested about 20 minutes before they rotated again.

As the canoes rounded Laau Point — the silhouette of Maui's Haleakala Crater standing stark against the sky — they found the channel calm, swells about five feet and the wind a balmy 12 knots.

One hour into the race, Hui Nalu

used a burst of speed to close a gap of seven boat lengths and overtake Outrigger. But within five minutes, as the canoes passed the eastern tip of Maui, OCC had regained its lead.

In another 20 minutes, Outrigger was ahead by 30 lengths, and though Balboa threatened to close the gap, the winners never lost their lead again.

The California crew took the northerly course, a winning strategy in the past for several crews which have then caught a fast current around Diamond Head.

In the meantime, Outrigger pointed directly for Diamond Head while Healani and Waikiki Surf took the southerly course. The majority of the crews had already fallen out of sight behind the leaders.

Halfway across the channel, as the

buildings of Honolulu became clear, planes and helicopters began circling overhead and an armada swarmed around the Outrigger canoe.

Hidden among a cluster of escort boats, the crew of six women powered their way canoe around Diamond Head and along Waikiki Beach toward the Fort DeRussy Beach finish line. The full crew of 12, hands blistered and shoulders throbbing, had thrust its paddles into the ocean more than 20,000 times.

The canoe had barely hesitated over 40 miles and its crew, juggling mid-ocean rotations, had been paddling for more than six and a half hours.

In addition to Hogan, the winning crew included: Anita Minter, Kailua Dawning, Sue Oldt, Tiare Richert,

Diana Smart, Connie Maguire, Sharon Bintliff, Susie Johnston, Monte Costa, Michelle St. John and Traci Phillips.

Balboa's Leslie Davis said her crew had planned to take the northerly route, but turned for Diamond Head when they realized there wasn't enough surf to allow them to skirt quickly around the crater's base.

"I'm a little disappointed we didn't win," said Balboa stroker Carol Reid, citing the Balboa men's second-place finish. "I wanted to do it for the guys."

The top ten finishers: Outrigger 6:35.14; Balboa Bay, Calif. 6:39.20; Healani 6:45.16; Hui Nalu 6:52.32; Kaunani 6:57.31; Waikiki Surf 7:05.08; Kailua 7:07.15; Lanikai 7:13.26; Kai Opua 7:14.45; Na Wahine O Maui 7:15.31.

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Aloha!

Today is Monday,
Oct. 15, 1979

Hawaii

Honolulu Marathon Association is trying to launch a mass cardiopulmonary resuscitation education campaign

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Police seek a car that hit and killed a 75-year-old Kaimuki man Saturday night on Kalaheo Highway

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The Nation

Senate Democratic leader Byrd is "getting fed up" with some lawmakers' practice of tackling emotional social issues like abortion onto unrelated money bills that must be passed to keep the government running

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FBI, checking on President Carter's new special assistant for ethnic affairs, reportedly felt "uncomfortable" about the assistant's "close association" with the late mobster Joe Colombo

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Washington

"Sting" operations by police have reaped more than \$200 million in recovered property and savings, but government officials are concerned that a pending budget slash will hurt such programs

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The World

Before heading home for Havana, Castro says he still wants better ties with Washington

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Cambodian troops cross briefly into Thailand in pursuit of Khmer Rouge guerrillas

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Editorial

While fishing rights for the Soviets in the waters around the Cook Islands may or may not be a possibility, any important Russian naval base would seem unlikely

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Entertainment

"The Onion Field," a brutal drama based on fact, is author Joseph Wambaugh's milestone in perseverance

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Sports

Pirates finally play like champions, beat Orioles to send series to Baltimore

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It's a 25-year-old dream come true as the Outrigger Canoe Club women win the first Molokai-Oahu canoe race for women

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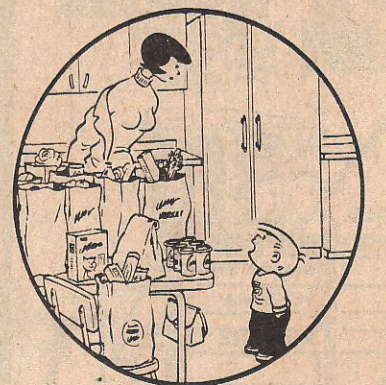
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The Family Circus

By Bill Keane



"When's dinner, mommy?"

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Canoeing results

NA WAHINE O KE KAI
Women's Molokai to Oahu
1. Outrigger Canoe Club 6:35.14; 2. Balboa Bay, Calif. 6:39.20; 3. Healani 6:45.16; 4. Hui Nalu 6:52.32; 5. Kaunani 6:57.31; 6. Waikiki Surf 7:05.08; 7. Kailua 7:07.15; 8. Lanikai 7:13.26; 9. Kai Opua 7:14.45; 10. Na Wahine O Maui 7:15.31; 11. Waikiki Beach Boys 7:23.21; 12. Hawaiian Warriors 7:31.26; 13. Kaneohe 7:37.26; 14. Hoo Na Koa 7:40.27; 15. Kai Koo 7:49.52; 16. Kani O Haleiwa 7:51.00; 17. Sons and Daughters 8:07.57.