

OCT 15 1979

## Big Win for OCC Women

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

"It was great, simply beautiful. Everything went our way," shouted an exuberant Anne Hogan, who, with Traci Phillips, steered Outrigger Canoe Club to a big win in yesterday's first Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race for women.

"We got off to a good start and although pressed by Balboa Bay, Hui Nalu and Healani canoe clubs, we were never headed," said Hogan. "The channel conditions were almost perfect. My crew really did a job of paddling."

Hogan has every right to be happy. OCC's 12-woman crew successfully completed an Outrigger sweep. It was just two weeks earlier that the Outrigger Canoe Club's male paddlers, using the same red fiberglass canoe, Manu'ula, won the Aloha Week Molokai-Oahu race. And interestingly, California's Balboa Bay Canoe Club, which placed second to OCC in yesterday's women's race, also came in second to OCC in the men's contest.

MASTERING A relatively small channel swell, 17 all-women crews completed the 41-mile trip from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach with only slight fatigue, a few blisters and sunburned faces to show for their efforts.

First-to-finish Outrigger arrived at the crowded beach shortly before 2 p.m., taking six hours, 35 minutes and 14 seconds for the channel crossing. Second place Balboa Bay Canoe Club arrived just four minutes and six seconds later. Oahu's Healani Canoe Club, with a time of 6:45:16, placed third.

Runner-up Balboa Bay proved a worthy competitor.

"After leaving Molokai's Laau Point, we chose a northerly route across the channel in hopes of riding the swells past Koko Head," sighed Balboa's game steersman, Leslie Davis of Redondo Beach, Calif. "Then we anticipated and that extra distance hurt us. But our California crew is stoked on this race. So watch out for us next year."

OUTRIGGER CANOE Club's stoker, Anita Minter, turned in an outstanding performance for her first year of paddling.

"It felt great to be stroking on Outrigger's first team," said the former champion catamaran sailor, while nursing a few blisters after the race.

"In fact our entire Outrigger team was up for the race. Our crew changes went well, no one died, no one became ill, and there were no complaints. When things became tight, the crew simply worked harder. And this paid off."

Outrigger Canoe Club's winning crew consisted of Kaula Downing, Sue Olot, Tiare Richert, Diana Smart, Sharon Bintliff, Suzy Johnston, Monte Costa, Michele St. John, plus Anita Minter and Connie Maguire, stokers and Anne Hogan and Traci Phillips, steersmen.



COOL BATH FOR A HOT TEAM—Members of the Outrigger Canoe Club's winning team (left) begin to relax and savor their victory in the first annual Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race for women after crossing the finish line at Ft. DeRussy Beach yesterday, while (right) Anne Hogan gets the celebration going by emptying a bottle of champagne on Anita Minter.—Star-Bulletin Photos by Alexis Higdon.

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## Kaneohe Marines participate in tough 50-mile canoe race

By RICHARD MacDONALD  
Special Writer

KANEOHE BAY

Four Kaneohe-based Marines and five Windward Hawaii youths of the Windward Kai Canoe Club teamed their muscles, hearts and souls together earlier this fall and paddled the "Kau Makani Kai" canoe from Molokai to Oahu in the grueling 50-mile Aloha Week race.

Their six-hour and 45-minute finishing time was not enough to win—the Outrigger Canoe Club team captured that honor.

It was, however, more than a respectable showing which placed the young team 22nd out of a pack of 39 canoe teams.

The teams represented clubs from Oahu; Hilo, on the Big Island; Tahiti; Bora Bora, and Balboa, Calif.

The annual Aloha Week canoe race began at 8 a.m. from Hale O Lono Harbor, Molokai.

A wave of the green flag and the canoes were past the starting line. Behind the canoes were approximately 110 escort, chase and official boats.

The escort and chase boats supported the teams by providing supplies, relief paddlers and helpers for the canoe crews.

"The beginning is always the hardest," commented Cpl. Manuel Holstein, one of the four Marine Air Base Squadron (MABS)-24 participants.

"You work so hard and it seems like you'll never

get there; sort of like boot camp!"

About 45 minutes into the race, the Windward Kai canoe team performed its first change of paddlers. The escort boat cruised out in front of the canoe and dropped three relief paddlers into the surf.

As the oncoming canoe pulled alongside the men in the water, those to be relieved bailed out over the canoe's right side, and just as quickly, the three relief men pulled themselves into the race craft from the left side.

Even this relief procedure demanded strenuous muscle effort because the men had to climb in and out and swim through the choppy surf to and from the two boats.

With only nine men comprising a team, six were always paddling, and the rest periods were short.

They provided just about enough time for the men to guzzle some water, take a couple of unrestrained breaths, stretch their strained muscles, yell a few words of encouragement to their teammates, and then dive back into the sea to start again.

After 6½ hours, the Windward Kai canoe team rounded Diamond Head and stroked to the race destination of Fort DeRussy beach.

"Everybody thought I was nuts when I first introduced the idea of having a Molokai to Oahu race, eight years before we actually did," said Albert "Toots" Minville, organizer of

the first race in 1952.

"They said it was too dangerous. Today, it is a tremendous accomplishment just to finish such a grueling contest with the sea."

Competing for the Windward Kai canoe team were Cpl. Holstein of Kalapana, Hawaii; Cpl. Patrick Warner of South Bend, Ind.; Lance Cpl. John Ballem of Cranston, R.I.; and Salvador Gonzales from Santa Ana, Calif., all from Marine Air Base Squadron-24, and Russel Yee, Carlton Ching, Seoki Keawechu, John Cieslewski and Coach Henry Palakiko.

"I love rowing," stated Holstein. "It takes one heck of a lot of guts and muscle to keep going. The conditioning is tremendous and so are the people."

Warner voiced a similar opinion. "Rowing for the Windward Kai Canoe Club has given me the chance to get out and meet, work and play alongside local people my own age. More

servicemen should join such clubs."

Coach Palakiko, recalling a time when Kaneohe Marines had their own canoe team, said, "Undoubtedly such intense conditioning is right in line with high Marine Corps standards and it gives the men an excellent chance to develop friendships with local youths."

"When the four Marines were first introduced to our club back in March, each was a little apprehensive," explained Mrs. Mary Winchester, who, along with her husband, William, own the Kau Makani Kai canoe.

"They stated, however, that they wanted to row; desired to get to know the people and wanted to do something constructive with their time. Today, we are very proud to have them."

"Among other things, they are in top physical shape, they are friendly and they always give it their all. We need this kind of spirit."

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## Nautical Notes Jack Wyatt

### OCC's Talented Paddler

Meet Anita Minter—a water sports buff with an ocean-load of talent.

One moment the Outrigger Canoe Club paddler will be practicing her stroke preparing for a canoe race, the next minute Minter might be found packing her seabag for a trans-Pacific sailing trip.

Her friends look for Minter at several Oahu sites—waterskiing at Hawaii Kai; scuba diving off Windward Oahu; swimming at Waikiki, or racing catamarans off Lanikai. When it comes to water, Minter has that wet look.

"What a neat experience it was to see more than 200 ladies together at Molokai Sunday morning for the start of the race to Oahu," said Minter, who held a key stroking position on the winning Outrigger Canoe Club team.

"It wasn't a lib thing. The women weren't trying to prove a thing. Most of the women simply wanted to experience the feeling and the challenge of crossing the channel by outrigger. During the touching pre-race ceremonies, there wasn't a dry eye on the beach."

Minter, who jumped from a rank beginning paddler on Outrigger's Novice "B" team last April to the important stoker's seat on OCC's first crew last Sunday, recalls one race highlight.

"The start was a thrill for me," she said, solemnly. "To see 17 women-crewed canoes in a line off Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor at sunrise, awaiting the start of the first wahine race to Honolulu, was exciting. My heart really pounded."

With a steady powerful stroke, Outrigger Canoe Club, paced by Connie Maguire and Minter, took six hours and 35 minutes to complete the trip. It was a long and exhausting day in the sun for all Molokai-Oahu participants.

"At a crew change near Molokai's Laau Point, Hui Nalu nearly caught us," said Minter. "For a short time, we were running bow-to-bow. I quickly looked over at the Hui Nalu boat and I said to myself, 'There is no way that I'm going to let them pass us.' I felt we had reserve power. I picked up the stroke, and we left Hui Nalu in our wake."

Competing on a women's team is new to Minter, who first became interested in water sports at nine years old while sailing off the beach in small boats at Malibu, Calif.

"I studied my course carefully, got a good start, and then sailed the right way—clockwise around the Island," the 19-year-old Martin explained. "I'm particularly proud of winning because the sail I was using is one that I made myself."

In winning, Martin led a Waikiki Yacht Club sweep when WYC's Les Vasconcellos, Jr. placed second and WYC's Russell Hook came in third. Kaneohe Yacht Club's Shirley Trefz topped the ladies division and KYC's Vincent Sinclair won in the junior competition. More than 50 skippers participated.

"When skipping sailboats in races both in Hawaii and on the Mainland, I've always competed against the guys," she explained.

"On the race course, the men never give an inch. It could be that they do not want to get beaten by a woman, or that most of them are competitive, and don't want to lose to anyone. But after the race, the men are first to offer help and encouragement."

For Minter, the jump from the Novice "B" crew to leading stoker in a single season was a giant step. "I think that my concentration and my feel for the water which I learned while racing sailboats has helped my paddling skill," she said. "Plus, pulling lines and handling heavy gear on sailboats may have helped my strength and endurance. Now that I am fortunate to be included on a top Outrigger Canoe Club crew, I'm going to work hard to stay there."

Minter has experienced no real problems while competing in a man's sailing world. The fact that she's pretty probably doesn't hurt, but, according to local racing sailors, Minter's major yachting strengths comes with her ability and her enthusiasm for the sport.

"I learned a lot about racing catamarans while crewing for Hobie Alter, the designer and builder of the Hobie cats," she said. "And in big boats, I had the opportunity to race on Merlin, the yacht which holds the Los Angeles to Honolulu trans-Pacific speed record. Steering Merlin, with its giant spinnaker straining in the tradewinds, is an awesome feeling—one which I enjoy. Now if you will excuse me, I'm due at Outrigger for canoe practice," she said.

### Breeze for Martin

Honolulu's Steve Martin, a talented young sailmaker from Waikiki Yacht Club, traveled across the Pali to Kaneohe Bay recently and breezed away with Kaneohe Yacht Club's annual Race for the Bull's Horns Regatta around Coconut Island.

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## 8,535 in Marathon

There are 12 days remaining before the start of the Honolulu Marathon and there are 8,535 entries which have come in from 45 states and several foreign countries.

Press conferences are scheduled for:

• Dec. 2 — 11:30 a.m., Outrigger Canoe Club

• Dec. 4 — 11 a.m., Pikake Room, Princess Kaiulani Hotel

• Dec. 6 — 1 p.m., (location to be announced)

Press headquarters for this year's marathon will be in the Pikake Room of the Princess Kaiulani Hotel from Dec. 4-8. Press registration and issuing of press credentials will be performed Dec. 2 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand, 9 a.m. to noon, and Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to noon in the Pikake Room.

No one without credentials will be allowed access to the course or the finish line area.