



LAHAINA'S LADIES— Lahaina's distance crews have been working "extra hard" says head coach Doug Snyder and these members of the women's crew proved it. They jumped to an early lead in the

Rev. John Kukihiku distance regatta and finished second in the seven-mile grinder.

Maui News photo by Matthew Thayer

Invasion set for Lahaina

By MATTHEW THAYER
Sports Writer

The big State HCRA Championship Regatta in Lahaina is only one day away and the canoe clubs from Oahu and the outer islands have already started to arrive on the Valley Isle. With them they bring their different brands of paddling, canoes and competition for the first State Championship held on Maui in 20 years.

Outrigger, one of the perennial favorites in the state, will invade with over 215 paddlers to compete. While most clubs are planning to make a weekend mini-vacation out of the trip, Outrigger is keeping it all business.

"We're not treating it as a vacation," says Walter Gill Outrigger's head coach. "Most of the paddlers will be flown in in the morning and will be flying out that night."

Gill said his reason for the short stay was two-fold. He said arriving in the morning would let his paddlers get a better night's sleep since they would be in their own beds and it would be easier to keep everyone together once they got to Maui. Secondly he said he didn't want to be responsible for 150 kids.

"It's hard to control that amount of people. I don't want anyone to get into trouble."

He said the team would be

"I think the outer islands will be a factor. I don't know if they'll be up there to win, but they'll be a factor in deciding who does win."

having a party of their own at the Outrigger Club after they get back to Oahu.

Outrigger qualified for all but seven of the races but due to openings at the lane drawings Gill said he was able to pick up another five lanes. Therefore Outrigger will be entered in 22 of the 24 scheduled events.

Gill said the team was very excited about coming to Maui to attempt to accomplish one of the team's two main goals.

"At Outrigger our goals are to win the State Championship and the Molokai Channel Race. We have crews who have been practicing for this weekend's meet since last February."

Gill said he was impressed with the effort and time that the people from Maui have put into the organization of the championships.

"We're very, very excited to race on Maui and I hope we can conduct ourselves in a manner which is deserving of the job the people on Maui are doing putting into this race," he said.

The team which placed third in the Oahu championships in July, Kailua Canoe Club, will be bringing over 17 crews to compete in the regatta. The club's president, Joan Malama, says the com-

petition on Oahu, which has gotten very tight, "should prove for an exciting state race."

She said the club's kids, women and senior men are the team's crews to watch.

"The senior men won the Oahu championship and they really have picked the club up. They are very special to us."

Malama said a lot of the club's younger paddlers have never been to Maui and they were looking forward to coming to the outer island.

"For a lot of them it's their first time, but we have a few kids who have grandparents on Maui they will be staying on with after the regatta."

Her son Paul Malama, who is on a basketball scholarship to the U.H. Hilo and is a paddler-coach with the Wailani Canoe Club on the Big Island, says the team to watch on the Big Island is Kai Opu. He said the team hasn't lost a regatta on the Big Island in five years and he thinks they may have a shot at third place in the state this year.

"Third place doesn't sound like much but that means a lot. I've been paddling for 11 years and I've never seen an outer island club win a state."

He said the competition on Oahu is so tight the teams will be taking points away from each other but he added the lack of competition on the Big Island has hurt Kai Opu.

"They don't have anyone to push them here because they run away with it so much. When they go up against the Oahu teams they aren't used to the competition."

He added that the clubs on the Big Island are more friendly.

"We're loaning our koa canoe to Kai Opu because their's is illegal. You would never see that on Oahu. The Oahu Clubs are so competitive they look inward. I know because I used to do it myself."

Kala Kukea, of Hui Nalu on Oahu, says he sees the regatta as a toss-up between his team, Outrigger and Healani but said he feels the outer-island teams may determine which of the teams win.

"I think the outer island teams will be a factor. I don't think they'll be a factor in deciding who does win."

His club will be bringing over 180 people to Maui for the weekend and according to Kukea they are excited. He said most of the team will be coming over Friday night and staying until Sunday.

Kukea said his club qualified crews in every event.

All of the coaches and paddlers interviewed said they were very excited at the prospect of coming to Maui. Estimates of the expected attendance at the one-day affair in Lahaina have run between 10,000 and 15,000 people to gather at Canoe Beach!

It's going to be quite an affair.

Lahaina C.C. suffering the pains of a losing campaign

By MATTHEW THAYER
Sports Writer

The Lahaina Canoe Club will be in the spotlight this weekend not so much for its paddling prowess as for the fact that they will be hosting the first State HCRA Championship Regatta to be held on Maui in 20 years.

The once mighty Lahaina club, which will have 28 teams and over 800 paddlers as its guests to the championships, probably won't be a factor in the outcome of many of the races as they are in the midst of one of their most dismal seasons ever. They finished second-to-last in the Maui Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association and only qualified eight crews in the championships.

The club saw several factors (factors which all clubs are susceptible to) spell the skid from its standards of a dominating power of the past.

This week Lahaina's rookie head coach, Doug Snyder, explained a few of the problems which have af-

fecting the club. "A person's heart and spirit has to be in it and many paddlers this year didn't have it," Snyder said about the attendance and attitude problems which have plagued the club.

He said many paddlers have either quit or "only show up when they feel like it."

"You have to learn each other. . . know that the guy in front of you isn't going to give up. You have to learn each other's rhythm and you can't do it if you don't show up."

He said he tries to get the paddlers to think about paddling when they are at home or at work — to live paddling. Some do he says and many don't.

"It's hard for them to have confidence in me because I've never done it (coached) before," Snyder says. He said due to the lack of confidence in him he has had times when there were too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

"I tell them what to do and other guys say, 'hey why don't we do

this.' But you can't have 15 guys running things, you wouldn't get anything done."

He said that his main problems as coach have been the attitude and attendance problems with paddlers.

"I tell them first, you have to be here and second, you have to be here on time. People who work late at restaurants want to sleep in but I tell them if you can paddle tired or hung-over just think what you'll do fresh."

He said due to the lack of depth on the team his hands have been tied.

"I'm in a position where if I have someone with a bad attitude, I can't kick them off the team because I need them to fill the crews."

Snyder says he has tried new ideas like posting an anatomy chart in the club's hale to help show the paddlers what parts of their body they use for movements in paddling. But he says he has learned the most by establishing a rapport with other coaches and

gaining information from them by asking questions.

Snyder, a 24 year-old who has only paddled two years, said he "really didn't want to be a coach" but he was voted in by his team.

He said after Lahaina's former coach decided to call it quits before the beginning of this year's season, the team voted and selected tri-coaches. He has since evolved, he says, "into a head coach — co-coach with Rick DeMille."

This season will be Snyder's first and last as the coach of Lahaina since he will be moving to the mainland to pursue his intended career as a restaurant manager.

When asked what is going to happen to the club next year, Snyder says that he doesn't know.

"It's sad because I've been really pleased with the attitudes as of late. The people paddling the distances are the ones who are really into it. I really hate to leave and I don't know who'll coach next year."

WEST HAWAII TODAY

AUG 7 1981

Big Isle canoe clubs set to paddle in state champs

By STAN DZURA
WHT Contributing Writer

The Big Island canoe clubs are off to Maui to pit their strength against the state's best in the annual Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's state championship.

Over 30 HCRA member clubs are slated to compete in tomorrow morning's 28-event program to be held in the waters off of Lahaina on the Valley Isle.

Big Island champ Kai Opu will head the Moku O' Hawaii entry list with 24 crews. Kaukaeouli, going to her first HCRA championships ever, will send 17 while Kamehameha of Hilo will enter four, Wailani of Hilo-two and Keoua of Honauau, one. Powerful Moku runnerup Kawaihae of South Kohala elected not to compete in this year's championships.

Last year recap

Last year, Kai Opu surprised many outrigger enthusiasts by placing fourth in the HCRA Kaneohe bay-held championships, scoring 26 points. Hui Nalu won the crown with 55, followed by Healani-52, and Outrigger with 37. Proving that this was not a fluke Kai-O came back to take third place in the next days HCRA-Hui Waa championships behind Hui Nalu and Outrigger.

This year everyone is waiting the arrival of the Kona powerhouse with baited-breath as there shapes up an interesting competition for the overall club championship. The Oahu clubs have always produced the HCRA champion with one or two clubs taking the regattas. Last year Hui Nalu ruled the roost. This year there has been no clear-cut regatta champion as Hui Nalu and Outrigger won three apiece with last week-end Oahu's championships going to Healani.

Enter Kai Opu

The Kailua-based club should make its presence felt again, scoring heavily in the hotly-contested upper men's and women's classifications. Last year Kai-O's point total was amassed by taking state crowns in the women's freshmen and ephoromes, silver medals in the senior men and boy's 12B, and bronze medals in the boy's 18, senior women, and girl's 12A. The boy's 12A also added a fourth place for one point.

Kai Opu should be even stronger that last year's showing overall especially in the men's classes. However, Kai-O does face an uphill march in its quest for a team crown. This reason being that the HCRA races feature 28 events as compared to the Moku O' Hawaii 21 event schedule. Although K-O will be entering some of these extra seven events, their chance of gaining a point-scoring place is limited. In last year's HCRA championships K-O failed to score in even one of these "special" races.

The importance of these events on a club's performance was exhibited by Kai-O's showing in the HCRA-Hui Waa championships held the day after the HCRA finals. In a racing program that more closely followed the Moku schedule, Kai Opu took a solid third place overall. Kai-O's crews placed similarly in the HCRA-Hui Waa regatta but placed higher in the team standings because of the

absence of the seven extra events.

By classification the leading chances for Kai Opu points will be their freshmen. Kamehameha of Hilo will also send their last year's fourth place state crew to do battle with Outrigger's undefeated frosh.

The odds

The sophomore classification in this year's Kai-O men's crew is undefeated locally and is accustomed to winning by wide margins and is given an even-money shot at beating Makaha (three Oahu Hawaii Canoe Racing Association regatta wins) and Outrigger (two wins).

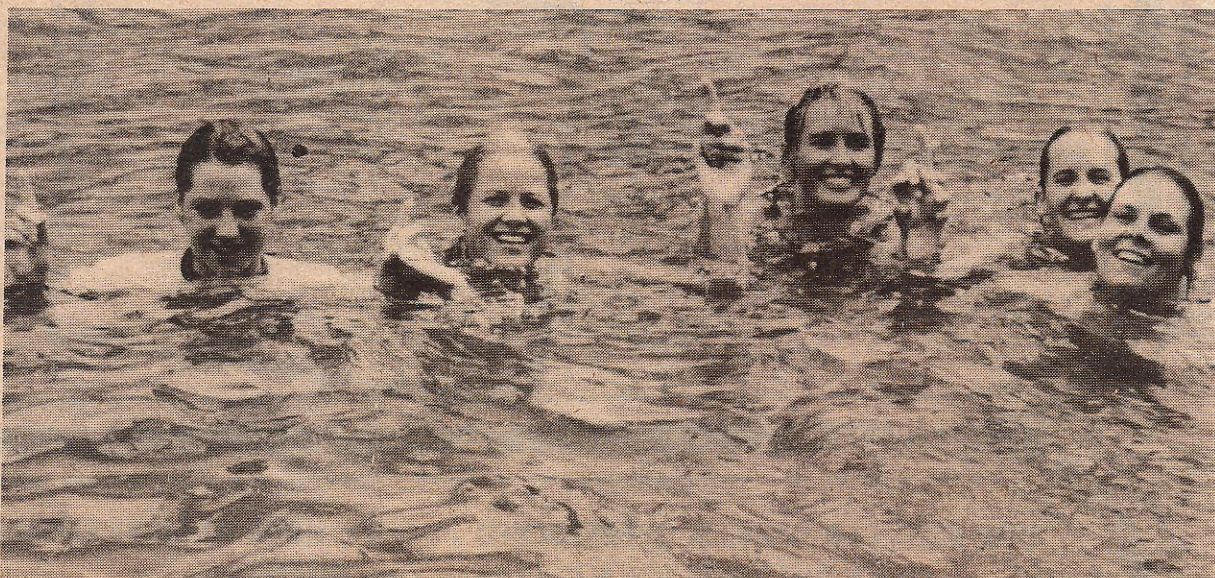
The K-O soph ladies were last year's state frosh gold medalists and should be favored to win there new classification over Healani (2 wins), Lanikai (2 wins), and Hui Nalu (two wins).

The junior men's one and a half mile race will put the favorite Outrigger (4 wins) against an improved K-O bunch. K-O is used to going two miles, the Moku distance for the junior men's race, and could surprise in this competitive class. Perhaps the island's top junior men's crew, Kawaihae, would also had to have considered one of the prime contenders had they chose to enter.

Kai Opu's junior women, last year's state sophomore champs, will also be dueling an Outrigger crew (four wins). This will provide an interesting match-up for first place with Hui Nalu and Healani trying to break through for the gold.

The race of the day

The men's senior event will be the race of the day. There is no real "top gun" from Oahu holding down the



HOPEFULS— Members of the Kai Opu women's sophomore paddling team raise their fingers showing that they're number-one after the Big Island canoe regattas but their skills will be put to a more demanding test when they meet the state's best in the

upcoming state championships tomorrow and Sunday on Maui. Paddlers are (from left) Renee Blythe, Noel Black, Helen Goodhue, Pua Fowler and Sandy Kaehele. Missing are Pat Schaughnessy and Kae Nakisa. —WHT photo by Stan Dzura.

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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

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Oahu champ slight favorite in state HCRA

By Andy Yamaguchi
Advertiser Sports Writer

Having gone from paupers to princes in one giant leap, Gary Murakami and his Healani Canoe Club paddlers are still getting used to the idea that they are the team to beat at tomorrow's Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association State Championships at Lahaina's Hahaione Beach.

"The kids know we're there, but I still have to remind our people that the other guys are after us now," said coach Murakami, whose club failed to win a regatta during the regular season but sneaked past favorites Hui Nalu and Outrigger two weeks ago to capture the Oahu title.

"Healani's not going to sneak up on anybody this time," vowed OCC coach Walter Gill.

But that's not to say there won't be any surprises tomorrow in what appears to be the most wide-open HCRA state regatta in memory. Outrigger and Hui Nalu, last year's champion, each qualified more crews than Healani, while Neighbor Island powers Kai Opu and Hanalei can't be counted out, either.

Healani's hopes lie in its Kiddie Korps, the younger division paddlers who scored 36 of the club's 59 points before lunchtime at the Oahu championships. Murakami even hinted he may move up a couple of his stronger boys' crews to milk more points out of his young 'uns.

Healani has 22 crews entered (27 is the maximum), but he's banking on quality over quantity. "The crews we have going up have been winning, and if they keep it up we should be OK. What worries me is the Neighbor Island crews taking points away from us. But they should be taking away from Outrigger and Hui Nalu, too."

Hui Nalu, edged by Healani 59-56 in the Oahu championships, qualified a perfect 27 crews but coach Kala Kukea isn't resting easy. "It's gonna be hot," he said. "I would say it's a tossup. Any one of us could win, even Outrigger, though they didn't do so well in the Oahu (championship — a third-place tie with Kailua with 44 points). I think we need to keep our younger kids doing pretty well. Our upper divisions are pretty strong, and if we can take the seconds and thirds so we don't give up five points at a time . . ."

Guild scouted the course earlier this week. "The water is beautiful in the morning, but in the afternoon it'll probably be rough," he said. "The variance in depth is kinda radical, and there's a good chance there'll be a strong current running through the course. It looks like the lower middle lanes will be the best."

The course will have 14 lanes — six for Oahu, three for Maui, two for the Big Island, two for Kauai and one for Molokai.

The narrow beach will be jammed, as about 6,000 spectators are expected to fight 2,000 paddlers for space. Parking will be available at the Lahaina Civic Center and on the golf course between the Hyatt Regency Maui and the Marriott Hotel. Amfac will provide a free shuttle bus from the golf course to the beach.

The regatta is dedicated to the memory of John M. Lake, the founder of canoe racing on Maui. His wife, Keolaha Lake, will be present for the awards presentation.

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Kai Opu finishes 3rd at state

MAUI—Hanalei of Kauai racked up 41 points Saturday at Hahaione Beach at Kaanapali to capture Division AA honors in the State Canoe Championships.

Oahu's Healani finished second with 39 points, followed by Kai Opu of Kailua-Kona on the Big Island with 15. Kailua of Oahu was fourth with 13 points, followed by Hui Nalu with 10. Other Division AA scores were: Outrigger, 9; Lanikai and Waikiki Surf, 8; and

Nakaiewalu of Maui and Kaukaeouli of Kona with one each.

Results of Division A competition were not complete by Wailani of Hilo scored a first when its freshmen women captured their ½-mile race. Other results were not complete at press time.

Besides Kai Opu, Kaukaeouli and Wailani, other Big Island clubs at the state championships include Keoua of Kona and Kamehameha of Hilo.