

West Hawaii Sports Report

Lower finish than expected

Kai Opuia slouches in disorganized state champs

By STAN DZURA
WHT Contributing Writer

LAHAINA— "It was a hell of a mess", muttered Kai Opuia Canoe Club head coach Zachary Kanuha on the disorganized aftermath of the Hawaiian Canoe Club Association's (HCRA) state championships and the club's unexpected lower than hoped-for sixth place finish.

Kai Opuia was favored by most off-island, and as well as on island, experts to be in the thick of things for the top three club places in the championships held this past Saturday off of Lahaina, Maui. Outrigger pulled out a 52-point win over second place Hanalei and Healan's 47-point production. Kailua-28, Hui Nalu-27 followed in the scoring with Kai-O accumulating 23 digits. Kai Opuia had taken fourth in last year's state meeting and was considred to be even more explosive this year.

Big Island crews did pull off two golds with Kai-O's men's novice A crew and Wailani's freshmen women checking in first. The meet, however, did leave a sour taste in all of the attending coaches' mouths not the least being the bitterly disappointed Kanuha.

"Most poorly-organized state championships I've ever seen". Kahanamoku

Moku O' Hawaii acting president Mary Jane Kahanamoku echoed Kanuha's sentiments when she observed, "It was the most poorly organized state championships that I have ever witnessed". The Moku O' Hawaii is the Big Island's outrigger racing governing body and generally acknowledged by all associations as being the best organized in the sport. Kahanamoku has also seen quite a few as she was one of the founding "fathers" of the HCRA and has seen all the state races in the HCRA's 30-year history.

The litany of foul-ups started early in the day when it was discovered that the two outside lanes, 13 and 14, were found to be 100 feet shorter than their inside counterparts. Combined with a favorable outside running current made entries in these two lanes unbeatable. Coaches complained but the officials ruled that the discrepancy was within their limits for error tolerancy.

Confusion also reigned on crew and lane assignment. Many competing clubs did not own a "legal" racing koa and were forced to scurry around to borrow a canoe from a club that owned one and that had not entered that particular race. Often, officials failed to forward this communication to their race-involved comrades thus creating a "shell game" on just what crew was in which canoe. Coaches would come up to the stand to find out the order of finish for their crew for that respective race only to find that the officials didn't even have that club as being a participant in the race.

Crews won without racing

Crews not in the competition were called winners, winning crews went unacknowledged, and even worse were disqualified. Kai Opuia's victorious men's novice A crew were disqualified for not being in the proper canoe until coach Kanuha set officialdom right and the gold was preserved.

Long and tedious delays liberally punctuated the competition's progression as the day's 28 events laboured-on till after 6 p.m., some 10 hours after the 8 a.m. start.

One delay that really ignited the participants occurred on the conclusion of the women's sophomore half-mile contest. Several coaches had called a conference for a rules infraction that happened during the women's race forcing a delay in the men's sophomore race.

Fourteen crews milled-about the starting line or warming-up out on the course while the arbitration ensued.

Sud only, and without any kind of warning, the officials gave the starting signal for the race. There were only four canoes anywhere near the starting line with the other 10 crews, after seeing the signal, paddling furiously to

regain their starting position and enter the race legally from their assigned lane.

A could be expected 10 angry coaches assaulted the officials' shorestand to have the race halted. They were successful but not before four crews had finished half of the mile race.

Mother nature's touch

Nature added her touch to the man-made screw-ups. The late afternoon sun set directly on the course and made it impossible for the judges' beachstand position to accurately give the order of finish for the competition crews. Kai Opuia had several sixsomes dropped to lower places. Kai-O's senior men appeared to be the clear-cut fourth place victor, they were awarded fifth place by the officials.

Earlier in the day's proceedings Moku O' Hawaii president Kahanamoku suggested that they follow Moku procedure in which the order of finish is determined by the official's boat and then forwarded to the judges' stand where the club point total is tabulated. The HCRA officials opted for this manner but elected to leave the point totaling till the regatta's conclusion—a decision that kept the officials figuring up team point totals and left the determination of the state champion until well after 9 p.m.

It was rumored that the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCA) clubs decided to remove their sanction from the regatta—allowing members clubs to move crews up to higher classifications for this race but allowing them to go back down to their old class for the 1982 regatta season. This rumor disgruntled Kai Opuia coach Kanuha further as knowledge of these moves would have aided him in bettering his club's final point total.

Big Island results

Withstanding the colossal HCRA foul-ups, Big Island crews acquitted themselves well in the competition. Kai Opuia finished a very respectable sixth with their men's novice crew of Mel Conception, Stu Felker, Ron Hodge, Gary Capri, Jack Polich and Kim Santo Taking the club's only gold.



COMRADES—The Kai Opuia senior women's crew smile together after a race in the Hawaii Canoe Racing Association state canoe championships just as they have been during the Moku O Hawaii regatta season.

The boys' 16 had a gold medal sewn-up until a three second penalty for hitting the flag on the turn was leveled against them and the sixsome of James Kanuha, Waysen Vannatta, Mitchell Pelekane, Billy Brown, Shannon Feliciano, and Doug Cataraha had to settle for the silver.

K-O's boys' 18 added a silver medal to their season's trove. Josef Salinas, Ross Crampton, Nolan Hao, Cliff Medeiros, Darel Haisuka, and Kina Kanuha rowed the mile effort.

Wailani's freshmen women surprised everyone with their superlative performance to take the gold for the other first place garnered by Big Island paddlers. Louise David, Randy Spector, Barbara Jensen, Lurline Kahapea, Sandi Combis, and Debbie Wana did the honors.

Kamehameha's freshmen men streaked to a third place in one of the most competitive divisions. Steve Blyth, Brian Peterson, Steve Zoll, Bob Ackerman, Wally Jennings, and Ben Kailli provided the muscle for the bronze-winning performance.

Long distance races slated

Moku O' Hawaii starts the long distance portion of its outrigger paddling season as the Sixth Annual Richard Smart Long Distance Men's race will start at 8 a.m. Saturday morning off of Kawaihae pier.

Competition will be waged in koa and non-koa classification with each island canoe club allowed a single entry in each category. The men will be allowed nine members for each entry and the course will stretch 26 miles to Mahukona return. Kamehameha is the defending men's koa champion.

Sunday, the Second Annual Richard Smart Women's Long Distance Race will start at 8:00 a.m. from the Kawaihae pier. The same rules in effect for the men's Saturday race will be in effect for the women's competition. The women will race 14 miles to Black Point return. An awards banquet is scheduled after the women complete their contest at the Kawaihae Club beach pavilion.

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
P.O. Box 10242-Honolulu, Hawaii
PHONE: 734-8124
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup
HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

SEP 24 1981

Kokua Line



By Harriet Gee

For help in solving problems, cutting red tape and answering questions:
Telephone 525-8686
or write: Kokua Line, Box 3080, Honolulu, HI 96802

Q — Could you check _____ restaurant on Kapiolani Boulevard? A group of us went there one night recently and we saw rats running all over the dining room floor. Employees told us that rats are a common sight there at the restaurant. How could the Board of Health allow a restaurant to operate under such conditions? Something should be done about this.

A — An inspector from the sanitation branch of the state Health Department found evidence of active rat infestation when he visited the restaurant last week. He told the restaurant owner to get professional help to eradicate the rat problem after he saw fresh rat droppings on the floor and shelves.

He reported the rats gained access through the kitchen's back door since it is often opened and even when it is closed because there is a large gap between the bottom of the door and the threshold. The inspector will keep checking the restaurant until he feels the rats have been eradicated. In the meantime, the restaurant may continue doing business. The sanitation branch often does not know about these problems until someone complains.

Q — What happened to the orange windsock that used to mark the channel opposite Sans Souci Beach? Many people used it as a point of reference when swimming and boating. It is now difficult to find the channel without it. Will the marker be replaced? It sure would be a service to many.

A — The Outrigger Canoe Club, as part of its beach services, put up that orange windsock but someone broke the pole holding it. The club then installed a flag and that was stolen. It plans to put up another pole with an orange windsock as soon there is a low tide and no swells.

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
P.O. Box 10242-Honolulu, Hawaii
PHONE: 734-8124
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup
HONOLULU ADVERTISER

SEP 21 1981



Hail the 'women of the sea'

Forty miles and some 20,000 paddle strokes later, Outrigger Canoe Club's Tiare Finney (left) can still flash a big smile after finishing Saturday's second Na Wahine O Ke Kai, the women's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race. OCC defended its title, clocking 6:47:11. The winning crew (left to right): Paula Carbone, Connie Young, Donna Kahakui, Jeannie Jenkins, Mary Franco, Anne Hogan, Anita Minter, Tiare Finney, Lesline Conner. Missing: Evie Black, Kaiulu Downing, Muffer Scully.



Advertiser photos by Marie Coyle