

MAUI NEWS  
AUG 11 1981

## Canoe racers find limelight

It isn't difficult to remember back to the days when canoe paddling and racing was very much a sporadic thing. Interest would surface, a few loyal, committed people would work long and hard to nurture it, only to watch it fade and die.

But it is going strong now, with interest sky-high and if we can judge by the level of interest this time it is here to stay. The teams are here, the talent is here and the fans can be found lining the

canoe paddling. Our defense then was that it had limited interest and appeal. We can scarcely rest on that defense today.

It is going to take some building years for Maui teams to take the likes of the Outrigger Club, but we will get there. We will get there because the spirit is here. Maui paddlers and their support systems are second to none when measuring fighting spirit.

There are a lot of happy people on this island, many who in the past hoped and worked for the restoration of this oldtime sport. They were a little ahead of the time.

But the time has come, canoe paddling has come of age on Maui. And those involved in the sport, and those who merely like to watch it, will have no difficulty finding full and fair reports on it in the sports pages of this newspaper.

We are as happy as the rest of Maui to see this exciting revival of an ancient and noble Hawaiian test of strength and endurance packaged in a lot of fun.

### editorial

beaches, cheering on the stalwart teams.

This past weekend saw a crush of people turn out for the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship races here on Maui at Hahakea Beach. Numbering over 5,000, the screaming, cheering mass of fans left no doubt that the sport has taken hold.

This newspaper has long been taken to task in the past for failing to give proper coverage to

GARDEN ISLE  
AUG 12 1981

## Hanalei paddlers win three races at meet

by Naka

Only a few cases of unavoidable circumstances prevented the surging Hanalei Civic Canoe Club from capturing first place in the statewide regatta conducted by the Hawai'i Canoe Racing Association last Saturday on the placid waters of the new Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lahaina, Maui.

The Garden Isle club was ahead in overall points until the final four events of the regatta when things went wrong and permitted the Outrigger Canoe Club of Honolulu to emerge a hairbreadth winner. The final count was so close that even members of the Honolulu club started congratulating the Hanalei members after the last race thinking Outrigger lost out before the official totalling of points.

Although disappointed by the final outcome, Peter Cornwall, headcoach, and his assistants, Nick Beck, Dick Parks, Carl Simpson, Judy Richardson and Legs Yokotake were extremely proud of their young charges, who gave the state's best a run for their money. With more depth in the paddlers and crafts, the Kaula'i contingent could have given the state canoe zealots a new champion.

The regatta which attracted a slew of 30 clubs representing every island in the state with the Hanalei club the only one from Kaula'i, was highlighted by the Hanalei Men's Freshmen crew which came in first in this event by defeating the only hitherto undefeated crew in the state, the Outrigger Canoe Club of Honolulu. The Hanalei crew consisted of Legs Yokotake, Steve Landis, David Killingsworth, Sean Hickey, Earl Simpson and Emilio Fernandez.

Among age group paddlers, the crew of 12 and under performers won its state crown three years in a row under the direction of Dick Park. The winning crew consisted of Gregg Nitta, Steve Burrell, Bobbie Philipson, Earl Spencer, Mike Montgomery and Jaedda Catley.

Also placing first were age group 12 and under girls, two year champs in a row consisting of Maureen Jimenez, Raynel Kahananui, Jewel Enrique, Lianne Yadao, Nicole Wilcox and Nicky Boskoff. Judy Richardson was the coach for these girls.

Another first place winner was the 13 and under boys with Gregg Nitta, Steve Burrell, Paul Enrique, Monte

Panui, Hobey Beck and Jaebba Catley.

The women's sophomore crew was headed home in first place in its race, however, a big wave flipped the boat over at the final turn.

The following scored second in their respective races: Men's Novice A crew with Sean Hickey, Tom Bartlett, David Killingsworth, Dan Sullivan, Dale Middleton, and Nick Marvin.

The sophomore men: Jeff McBride, Carl Simpson, Jim Gair, Scott Bigbee, Jim Edens, and Nick Marvin. Junior Men: Rex Burrell, Legs Yokotake, Peter Cornwall, (men's coach) Sean Hickey, Gaylord Wilcox and Nick Beck.

Women's Novice A: Amy Onerod, Lavae Johnson, Judy Richardson, (age-group girls coach); Mary Gay, Cindy Van Cleave and Pam Lightfoot.

Boys 12 and Under B: Mike Montgomery, Forrest Nelson, Hoby Parks, Peter Montgomery, David Mickaelian and Cylar Parks.

12 and under Mixed Crew: Earl Spencer, Robbie Shillynar, Gisselle Rivera, David Michaelian, Lianne Yadao and Nicky Boskoff.

Coming in for third place finishes were: Women's Novices B with Leisa Kowall, Laura Johnson, Lebra Hagen, Valli Smitly, Rene La Coca, and Pam Lightfoot.

13 and Under Girls: Maureen Jimenez, Tara Boskoff, Raynel Kahananui, Jaselle Enquiru, Jisselle Rivera and Nicole Wilcox.

Boys, 14 and under: Chris Carswell, Paul Enrique, Shawn Chandler, Filas Chandler, Monte Panui and Hobey Beck.

Others finishing fourth and fifth and scoring points for Kaula'i were: Men's Novice B: Bob Middleton, Jerry Leskowitz, Jim Tovar, Dan Sullivan, Victory Williams and Nick Marvin.

Women's Juniors: Amy Onerod, Debra Hagen, Laura Johnson, Lianne Kowall, Valli Smitly, and Cindy Van Cleave.

Men and Women's Mix: Fifth: David Beck, Sue Burrell, Dick Parks, Susie Thompson, Debbie Coreno and Rick Zeissas.

The various Hanalei crews will immediately go into training for the Labor Day distance races at Kona and the Molokai to Oahu races for women on Sept. 19 and for men on Oct. 11.

HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN  
AUG 13 1981

## Molokai-to-Oahu Canoe Race Out of Troubled Waters?

By Jack Wyatt  
Special to the Star-Bulletin

While Hawaii's outrigger canoe paddlers are content stroking for achievement, canoe race administrators seem to thrive on controversy.

So far this season, heated discussions have involved the dates and sponsorship of the annual Molokai-to-Oahu race, measurements of racing canoes, improper lane settings, slow regatta scoring—and beer drinking on public beaches. Controversy, it appears, is as important to some race officials as the koa canoes they administer.

But hang on to your paddles, canoe race followers, for cool heads and sound thinking have surfaced and things seem to be changing for the better—at least in this fall's Molokai-to-Oahu race.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in its long histo-

ry, the race will be professionally administered and promoted to help it gain its rightful position as the most prestigious outrigger canoe race in the world. This is all that we're looking to do," said Fred Hemmings, the event's executive director.

"Any direction we take in the Molokai Hoe Race (Molokai-to-Oahu event) on Oct. 11 will be for increased benefits to the paddlers and the promotion of the Molokai race in general."

If what Hemmings says is true, then it's about time. The annual race has been battered and banged about by race administrators for nearly three decades. It's lucky to have survived at all.

The popular cross-channel event has started from several Molokai locations and has finished up and down Waikiki Beach—from the Moana Hotel to Magic Island. There are almost as many course records for this race

as there are canoe clubs paddling.

THE ANNUAL RACE FROM Molokai also has spawned more protests, hard feelings, and heated arguments among paddlers and race officials than any event on the racing calendar.

Even the winners have drawn criticism—the Tahitians, when they won using a streamlined canoe and paddled with a revolutionary quick stroke; California's Blazing Paddles, for using hand-picked, highly-trained athletes in its crew, and Waikiki Surf Club, in the early days, and Outrigger Canoe Club, more recently, for winning much too often.

But the most recent flap, when the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association pulled the men's race out as a traditional Aloha Week event and decided to go it alone, topped them all.

"The race needed a shot—it needed to be

promoted," Hemmings added. "California is boosting its outrigger canoe race to Catalina Island and Tahiti is playing up its canoe races big. Our Molokai-to-Oahu race is the best one of them all and we hope to give it the recognition it deserves."

Money Talks. And, according to HCRA, Aloha Week couldn't provide the big bucks necessary for race promotion and for paddler benefits. So along came AMFAC, Inc., the event's Santa Claus, so it first appeared.

"INITIALLY, WE CONSIDERED underwriting the entire race to the sum of \$50,000," said Keith Mabee, AMFAC's corporate communications manager. "But because of HCRA's situation (the break-off) with Aloha Week, an event which AMFAC also supports, plus one or two other sensitive reasons, AMFAC decided to withdraw as sole under-

writer and become one of the race's sponsors."

In simple terms, this means that HCRA will receive \$5,000 in AMFAC seed money instead of AMFAC's original \$50,000 underwriting contribution.

"We're working with several companies regarding sponsorship, including Hawaiian and American airlines and Crazy Shirts, to name a few," Hemmings said. "By having the HCRA promote and administer the race, it's going to be the biggest and best one ever."

Hemmings expects 40 canoes to compete in the koa and fiberglass divisions. In addition to crews from Hawaii's HCRA and the Hui Wa'a associations, entries from California and Tahiti are expected. The race will begin off Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor and finish near the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

AUG 13 1981

By Noel Black:

## Photo review of state Outrigger canoe champs

MAUI—Paddlers from some 30 canoe clubs throughout the state matched their brawns and brains against their rivals on the island of Maui for the annual Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's state canoe championships. Outrigger Canoe Club of

Oahu went home with the first-place trophy during the 28-race HCRA finals last weekend and were followed by own-island rival-Healani and Hanalei from Kauai. Oahu's Kailua club was next in line followed by Hui Nalu and finally, the Big

Island champs from Kai Opuu. WHT photographer Noel Black was there to catch much of the excitement and action for all to enjoy.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 21 AND 22.



READY—Paddlers line up at the start while some spectators frolic in the water during the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Club state championships, held in Maui waters last weekend. Paddlers from 30 canoe clubs vied for the title but Outrigger of Oahu won the honors. —WHT photo by Noel Black.



ALOHA—Richard Kimitete of the west Hawaii canoe club Kauikeouli waves his aloha as he and other members of the freshmen novice team get ready for one of the 28 races held during the event. —WHT photo.

Week in Review

MAUI NEWS  
AUG 14 1981

### Sports

**OUTRIGGER WINS STATE** — The Outrigger Canoe Club won its first state title since 1977 with a 52-point showing Saturday when the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship was held at Hahakea Beach in West Maui. Hanalei of Kauai and Healani, the Oahu association champ, tied for second, followed by Kailua, Hui Nalu and Kai O Pua of the Big Island.

In the Division A races for clubs entering 13 or less crews, Molokai and Koolau tied for the title, followed by Maui's Kahana in second, Hui Lanakai in third and Team Kihai and Makaha knotted in fourth. Gold medals won by Maui County teams included the Kihai Boys 12 "B" crew, Molokai's Novice "A" and Kahana's Boy's 16-and-under.

Protests, mostly regrading inconsistencies in the layout of the course, caused the meet to be halted after the Boy's 14-and-under race, the ninth event of the day. But meet officials corrected the problem and the races went on before a crowd that swelled as large as 7,000 during the day.

### Report



ONLY WIN—The face of Neil Conception of Kai Opuu's novice A squad reflects the joy of winning after he and his teammates won their race. In fact, it was the only race won by a west Hawaii team. —WHT photo.

AUG 17 1981

## Isle File

### Minaai in Finals, Twice

Joy Minaai reached the finals of both the women's singles and doubles events during Hawaiian Open Tennis Tournament action yesterday at the Diamond Head Tennis Center.

Minaai beat Rose Thomas, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, in her singles' semifinal, and will take on Vanne Akagi, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Barbara Joe Graves, in the final.

Minaai also teamed up with Thomas to top Arlene Kuboi and Sue Kealoha in the doubles semifinal. Minaai and Thomas will meet Barbara Linn and Suzie Swartman, who defeated Pat Parsons and Graves, 6-1, 6-2 yesterday, in the final.

In men's quarter-final action, the men's doubles teams of Rick Beacham and Fred Thompson, Cliff Tamura and Jim Kim, and Scott McKenzie and Stu Saiki all advanced.

### Outrigger Takes Challenge

Outrigger swept both the men's and women's titles in the Kaena Point Challenge as the first Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association long-distance event of the season was held yesterday.

The Outrigger men took first and second place in their 24.5-mile event, which started at Haleiwa and ended at Pokai Bay. Outrigger's fiberglass canoe crew crossed the line first in three hours, 12 minutes, 33.9 seconds.

The women, meanwhile, paddled a nine-mile course from Pokai Bay to Makaha and back. Once again, the Outrigger koa canoe crew beat a koa canoe—this time Healani's. The Outrigger covered the nine miles in one hour, 24 seconds.