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Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

WAIKIKI BEACH PRESS

DEC. 23 1968

International Surf Championships Under Way at Makaha Beach

A select entry of 263 of the world's finest surfers are vying for laurels in the 16th annual International Surfing Championships, now being run at Makaha Beach.

The meet is scheduled through December 31, with the exception of Christmas Day. Surf conditions are studied each morning to decide if the meet will be run that day.

The final entry list this year has been trimmed down considerably from the vast number of surfers who have signed up for the competition in years past.

Officials accredit this to the tremendous Makaha surf. Many contestants in the past found the surf too difficult and scratched at the call of their heat because of inability to handle the surf conditions.

This year's participants are all recognized champion calibre surfers and the public can expect to see some of the best talent ever entered in what has been called the world's greatest surfing championship.

Joey Cabell of the Outrigger Canoe Club will be defending his 1967 senior men's championship title at the Waikiki Surf Club sponsored meet.

Big names in the field of men and women include top-flight visitors such as Keith Paull, current Australian champion, and Peter Drouyn, former Aussie titlist; Rodney Sumpter of Ireland and Felipe Pomar of Peru.

Defending champion Fred Hemmings and Paul Strauch will carry the colors of the Outrigger Canoe Club, as will Cabell, Aka and Butch Hemmings.

Former International Surfing Championship winners George Downing, Buffalo Keaulana and Rabbit Kekai will represent the host Waikiki Surf Club.

Also with Waikiki will be Nappy Napoleon, Leroy Ah Choy, Andy Miller and Richard Henning, to name a few.

Four have entered from the Lord Blears family -- Lord Blears in Seniors; son James in championship; daughter Laura in the women's division, and son Clinton in the junior men.

Former champion Jamaa Kekai, now stationed with the military in Alaska, may receive permission from his commanding officer to compete at Makaha, according to meet officials.

Among other well known surfers entered are

Mike Doyle, Windansea Surf Club, Calif; Jeff Hakman of Maui; Rusty Miller, Windansea; Randy Parick, surfing unattached; Butch Van Artsdalen and Dewey Weber of California and Sharron Weber, the trim Honolulu competitor, are among the fine field of women's surfers scheduled to test the waves.

Competitions will be in senior men, junior and women's divisions, plus

the tandem event.

Teams entered -- Laguna Surf Club, Armed Forces Surf; Diamond Head Surf; Makaha Surfing Association, Freedom Riders, Ewa Beach Surf Club; Maui Son's, Kauai

Surfing Association, Surf Riders Association, Kui

O Hawaii, Outrigger Canoe Club, Windansea, Manly Pacific Surf Club (Australia), Greg Noll's Surfcenter.

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HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

DEC. 27 1968

13 gain semifinals

Makaha's waves put on a show yesterday, even impressing veteran surfing official Wally Froiseth, as the surf ranged from eight to 15 feet in yesterday's competition of the 16th annual International Surfing Championships.

Froiseth called yesterday's waves "ideal for surfers, no chops or bumps, real smooth, a little windy at times, but nothing troublesome."

Thirteen surfers yesterday qualified for the men's senior semifinals. Survivors includ-

Failing to make the semis were:

Mike Doyle, who only last week captured the Duke Kahanamoku Classic; Australians Keith Paull, Peter Drouyn and Peter Cornish, who did not report on time; Jeff Hakman, a former Duke champion and big-wave rider Tony Galento.

Six heats were run to determine the qualifiers with two being picked from each heat except the fifth in which three were selected.

AH CHOY outsurfed Hemmings and Aikau. "Choosing between Hemmings and Aikau for the second spot was impossible," said head judge Froiseth, "because they both

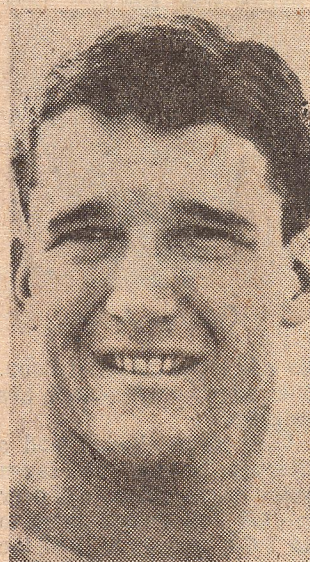
were wearing red and yellow trunks and the judges were not positive of the identification. They both had beautiful rides."

Surfers in the junior men's division also had their day with six qualifying for the finals: Keone Downing (son of George); David Holton, Tommy Winkler, John Johnson, Stanley Saragosa and Bill Seamans.

Today's competition depends on the waves.

Waves like yesterday would influence the officials to go through the men's divisions--senior and juniors.

In the event of smaller waves, the women's event will be held.



Fred Hemmings

ed George Downing and Fred Hemmings, winner of this year's World Championship in Puerto Rico and two-time winner of the Makaha title.

OTHER QUALIFIERS: Buffalo Keaulana, Felipe Pomar, Barry Kanaipauuni, Corky Carrol, Brandt Ackerman, Rick Steere, Bob Cloutier, Reno Abellira, Randy Rarick, Leroy Ah Choy and Clyde Aikau.

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Top International Surfers in Match

After a one day breather for Christmas, almost 300 of the world's finest surfers returned to the Makaha Beach surf Thursday, December 26, for what was to be the fifth day of the 16th Annual International Surfing Championships.

The final entry list this year has been trimmed down considerably from the vast number of surfers who have signed up for the competition in years past.

Officials accredit this to the tremendous Makaha surf. Many contestants in the past found the surf too difficult and scratched at the call of their heat because of inability to handle the surf conditions.

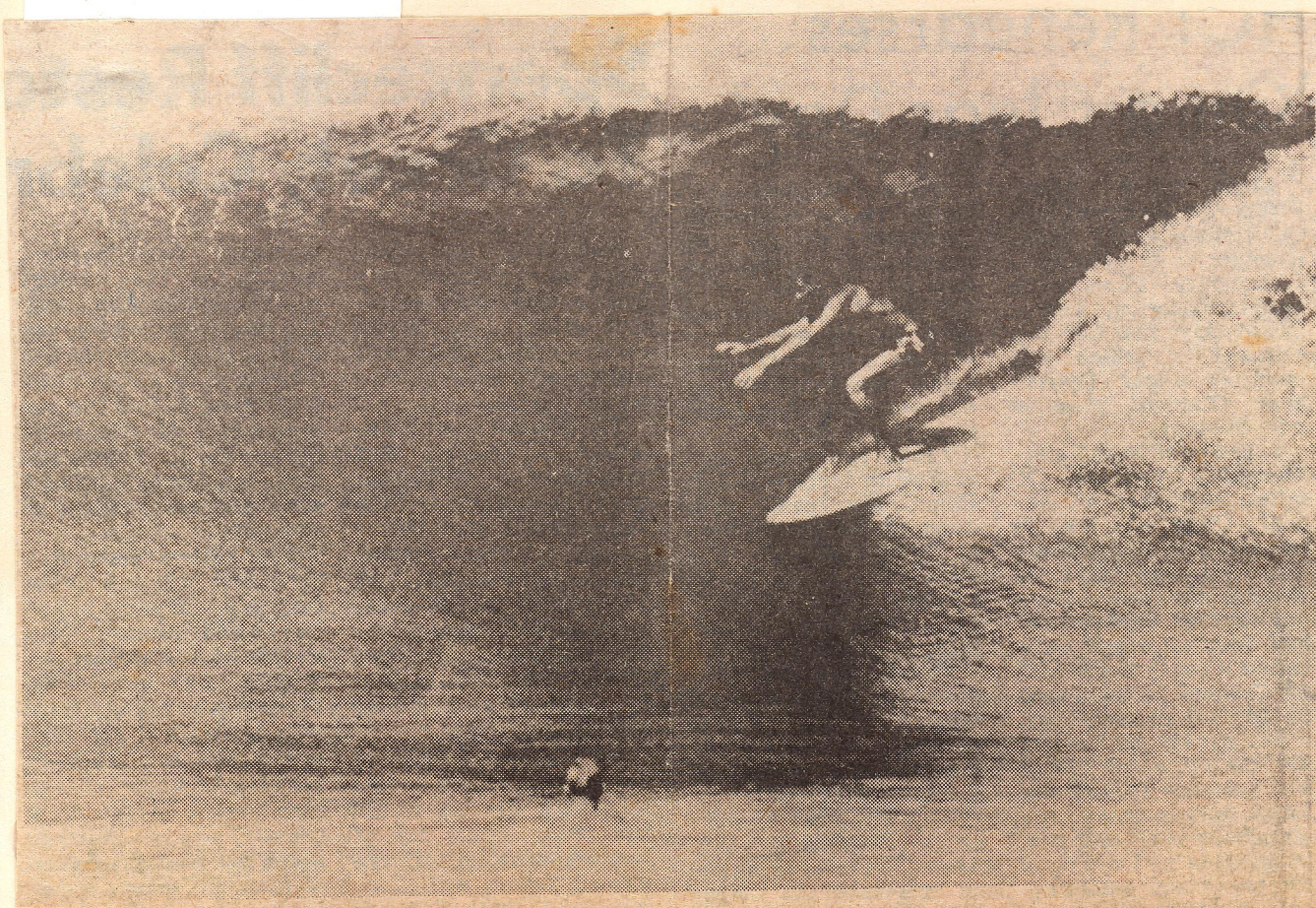
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pants are all recognized champion calibre surfers and the public can expect to see some of the best talent ever entered in what has been called the world's greatest surfing championship.

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Defending champion Fred Hemmings and Paul Strauch will carry the (Continued on Page 33)



MAKAHA ACTION--Some 263 of the world's finest surfers are competing in the 16th annual International Surfing Championships scheduled through the end of the year at Makaha Beach. Visitors are welcome to drive out to Makaha to witness these top surfers battle the challenging Makaha surf.

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Surf Spray



by Ron Haworth

The seer hits again

Mike Doyle's well-deserved triumph in the Duke Classic has thrust a reputation as a seer upon us. We hinted that Doyle was the surfer to watch in a column prior to the contest.

Looking back on our prediction, it was really fool-hardy and mostly luck, it's tough to find a favorite among 24 surfers of that caliber.

But our success with Fred Hemmings in the World Championships in Puerto Rico the month before, when we predicted he could "explode", gave us a giddy sense of self-confidence.

Now the obvious question is—who will reap the Makaha glory?

Betting against either George Downing or Hemmings at Makaha is riskier than filling an inside straight.

If any one individual was more pleased with the Duke outcome than Doyle, it was television director Larry Lindberg.

Lindberg knew that taking a small-wave contest back to New York would be as impressive as blank film. So he bit his fingernails and waited. And fortunately the surf came before he got bloody knuckles.

Television viewers have seen small surf in too many California contests, and the viewing audience wants blood. They sit on the edge of a five-foot snowdrift in Midletown and wait anxiously for a giant wipeout in what is envisioned as a shark-infested sea.

Lindberg, a man who understands television as well as anyone, realizes the future of surfing lies with this medium. Without television's support the sport could die a painful death on films in high school auditoriums.

"This year's Duke will be the best surf ever seen on television," he said. "Not only have we learned from our past mistakes, but we came up with both big surf and constant sunshine."

"These conditions will have the thrills and that wonderful color."

A new image?

It will be interesting to see how the new professional surfing organization fares.

If we are to see thirty or forty athletes touring the world in a series of 13 contests, sponsored by big corporations, we are doubtless going to see a new image emerge.

This will be a must. Any surfer seeking a sponsor can expect that company to investigate his background.

Sadly, not all well-known surfers can survive such an investigation. And the reasons run the gamut from drugs to delinquent behaviour.

Oddly, the surfers who are to make the grade could really be anyone. It will matter not that all professionals are not highly ranked in one of the surfing associations. The public will point its finger at the pros and say "Here are the best. These are the pros."

Think . . . what a giant step forward . . . surfers who must compete in the same contests, in the same waves, and who must conform to a code of conduct.

It could just save surfing from a bitter end.

* * * *

Makaha has its problems. Missed heats and unannounced heat times have taken their toll. But no surfer showed up later than Butch Van Artsdalen, who missed his heat by six hours because he tried to reach Makaha via Kaena Point and got bogged down in a mud hole.