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LOKAHI WINS ITS FIRST REGATTA WHILE MANU BREAKS INTO THE TOP TWO *Families race together and sometimes, against each other*

HONOLULU (June 21, 2002) ³/₄ Parity. That is the word in the O`ahu paddling community this year. Host Manu O Ke Kai narrowly missed winning its first ever regatta this past Father's Day by a mere four points. Lokahi Canoe Club, which had been looking for its first win this season, found success in a balanced attack to outdistance Manu, and overcome its windward rival, Kane`ohe Canoe Club, by scoring 62 points to Manu's 58. Kane`ohe finished the day in third place with 56 points. Leeward gem, Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i, is knocking on the door with 50 points.

Manu O Ke Kai would have probably won its own regatta if its previously undefeated Men's sophomore crew had not been disqualified for a false start. In a day that started with seventeen undefeated crews, only nine found themselves with that exclusive bragging right by the end of the afternoon.

Koa Kai and Windward Kai continue to lead the single A division, having finished in first and second place each week so far. Expect a spirited showing from Kamehameha Canoe Club and Kalihi-Kai as they battle for the single A third place crown. Kalihi-Kai's Junior and Senior Master women are two of the undefeated crews, while Kalihi-Kai's Senior Master men are regularly in 1st place contention.

Outrigger canoe paddling has the unique distinction in sports of often finding multi-generations of family paddling throughout the day, usually for the same club. This reinforces the `ohana principle of the Na `Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a association. Occasionally however, friendly sibling rivalry can be found on the water. Last week, Hui Wa`a's assistant Race Chair, George Waikoloa from Kane`ohe, found himself lined up at the starting line next to his sister Cindy Kama of Kalihi-Kai. Each steered their crew, with Cindy prevailing and bringing home the gold medal, while George settled for the bronze.

This week, action moves back to Ke`ehi Lagoon where Windward Kai will play host to the field of 15 clubs. Races begin at 8:30am.

For the latest Hui Wa`a information, go to www.huiwaa.com

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