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NA KEIKI O KA MO`I USES HOME WATER TO ITS ADVANTAGE
Senior Men race twice

HONOLULU (July 5, 2002) — Host club Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i has been oh so close to taking home one of the top three trophies in the AA division each week, missing twice this season by only one point. This past Sunday, June 30, Ka Mo`i, hosting the Ma`ili Beach Regatta, used its knowledge of the its backyard to break into the top three and take home the 3rd place crown, finishing the day with 54 points.

Lokahi used a well-balanced attack, a few lucky breaks when other crews were disqualified, and an untimely point deduction to Kane`ohe to regain the number one spot finishing ahead of Kane`ohe 64-59. In the single A division, Koa Kai easily kept its undefeated streak with 35 points, while Kamehameha edged Windward Kai 23-22 for second and third place respectively.

A bright, clear, sunny day and clear clean waters (a blessed change from the brackish waters at Ke'ehi Lagoon) greeted the paddlers as they generally rolled in from afar to Ma`ili Beach. Races progressed relatively error-free throughout the day, until the premier 1-1/2 mile Senior Men's race resulted in a rare call to re-run the race at the end of the day. A huli by Manu O Ke Kai prior to the start of the race, and a protest of insufficient time to regain their composure precipitated the uncommon determination to run the race over. Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i won the race convincingly both times.

Kane`ohe, which posts the bulk of its points early in the day on the strength of its youth, surged with a strong second wind late in the day amassing 11 points in the last three races (Mixed Open 6 – 5 points, Women Masters – 1 point, Men Masters – 5 points) to fall short of overtaking Lokahi. Kane`ohe was penalized 5 points early in the regatta for failing to scratch an event. It is no longer enough to be flawless on the water, but also to be thorough on the land.

Racing returns to Ke'ehi Lagoon this Sunday as host Koa Kai promises fun on the water as crews "Race for the Case." The winners of the Women's Open 4, Men's Open 4, and Mixed Open 6 who are ALL properly attired in aloha shirts will receive their just reward from Koa Kai. A planned "impromptu" dance contest is a part of the scheduled post regatta festivities. Koa Kai invites everyone to join them. Races begin at 8:30am.

For the latest Hui Wa`a info, check out www.huiwaa.com

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