

BRIGHT CAPTURES PADDLEBOARD RACE

BY BION ABBOTT

Mike Bright, a lean and heavily tanned 19-year-old athlete from Hermosa Beach, finished first in the grueling 32-mile third annual Manhattan Beach Paddleboard race from the Catalina Island Isthmus yesterday.

Bright, competing in the open division, completed the grim ordeal in 6h. 35m. 42.4s. This was less than three

minutes ahead of Tom Zahn of Honolulu, who won the more difficult stock-board division in 6h. 38m. 36.4s.

Bream Second

Bright was 43 minutes ahead of the second-place finisher in the open-board class, Roy Bream of Corona del Mar. Weldon Gibson of Manhattan Beach, third in the open class, wound up in San Pedro and had to paddle an extra six miles up the coast.

Bob Hogan of Hermosa Beach finished second in the stock division in 6h. 59m. 43.8s., only 11 minutes behind Zahn and third over-all.

After finishing first for the second straight year Bright said he is retiring from this competition.

"It isn't any fun," gasped the dead-tired Bright.

The 26 competitors entered the water at 6:24 a.m., encountered some difficulty threading their courses through the many boats in the Isthmus cove and then found three miles of choppy water a short way out.

After that, progress was over a glassy sea and only the wakes from the many pleasure craft near the mainland caused further trouble.

Only nine completed the course in the AAU-sanctioned event.

How they finished:

OPEN DIVISION

- 1—Mike Bright, Hermosa Beach, 6h. 35m. 42.4s.
- 2—Roy Bream, Corona del Mar, 7h. 18m. 33.8s.
- 3—Weldon Gibson, Manhattan Beach, 7h. 53m. 9.8s.

STOCK DIVISION

- 1—Tom Zahn, Honolulu, 6h. 38m. 36.4s.
- 2—Bob Hogan, Hermosa Beach, 6h. 59m. 43.8s.
- 3—Robert Guard, Santa Monica, 7h. 44m. 37.8s.
- 4—George Kepoo, Honolulu, 8h. 24m. 22.8s.
- 5—Pete Bentler, Beverly Hills, 8h. 31m. 40s.
- 6—Wayne Kocher, Manhattan Beach, 8h. 46m. 22s.

DID NOT FINISH

Bill Bragg, Gardena; Bob Chambers, San Pedro; Richard Salmi, Manhattan Beach.

DROPPED OUT

Miklos Dora, Los Angeles; Hideyo Haga, Gardena; William Hinkle, North Hollywood; Hawaiian Bill Kaleikilo, Wahiawa, Oahu; Doug Martin, Long Beach; Gregg Noll, Manhattan Beach; Ronald Riddle, Burbank; Forrest Taylor, San Pedro; Fred Tixue, Rivera; Eugene Williams, Downey; Bill Sorrells, Laguna Beach; Joe Sokolich, Dana Point; Sheridan Byerly, Compton; Dale Larson, Los Angeles.