

# SPROULL GAVE ONLY DECISION IN RELAY MEET

Official Disqualified Out-rigger Because He Was Called Upon To Act On Report Made By An Inspector At Turn

By Don Watson

LIEUT. R. D. ("Lefty") SPROULL, athlete and official, was the official shock-absorber at the Rainbow Relay carnival at Kamehameha field Saturday afternoon.

In other words Sproull consented to help make the meet a success by acting as an official and it turned out that he was also acting the "goat" for the day.

As an athlete Sproull used to be among the topnotchers. He still ranks in that same position as an official. When it comes to knowing rules, etc., in almost any branch of athletics, "Lefty" can compete with any of the lads. But Saturday afternoon he was made the butt of much criticism merely because he carried out his duties as an official.

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The growls and shouts arose because Sproull allowed the protest filed in the medley relay and disqualified the Outrigger team, which had won the race. As soon as he announced this decision there was much "kicking" from coaches and others who seemed to think that Sproull acted on his own initiative in the matter.

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## Protest Filed

During the medley relay a protest was filed with Sproull by the Army, the claim being that Hooper, Outrigger miler, cut in too soon after passing the Army runner.

There was only one thing for Sproull to do and that was to investigate. A moment later the inspector at the turn where the foul was supposedly committed reported to Sproull that Hooper had fouled the Army man. With these facts before him, together with the knowledge of a mixup in the passing of the stick from one Outrigger man to Hooper at the start of the mile run, Sproull disqualified the Outrigger team in the race.

The inspector was supposed to know his business, and when he reported the foul Sproull had no course left except to allow the protest.

There was a display of ignorance of rules on the part of several officials who were under the impression that a runner must be two strides ahead of a man before cutting in. As a matter of fact, the rules provide two yards and not two strides. This has nothing to do with Sproull's decision, however, as he acted on the inspector's report to the effect that the Army runner had been fouled.

## SCHOLZ FOR SPROULL

Commenting on the arguments which arose after the meet Saturday Jackson Scholz, national sprint champion, declared that he believes Sproull was absolutely right in the stand he took.

"Those who criticised Lieut. Sproull were very unfair and I think something should be said in his defense," Scholz said.

"Sproull had no choice in the matter. He gave the only decision it was possible for him to give and he would have been a poor official if he had acted any differently. He was forced to acknowledge the protest and when one of the judges or inspectors, placed on the turns for the purpose of watching for fouls, reported that a foul had been committed there was nothing left for Sproull to do but disqualify the Outrigger team."

Incidentally Scholz praised the officials in charge of the meet for the manner in which they ran off the program. He declared that the events were put on in as snappy a manner as he has seen anywhere and that Chairman Otto Klum and other members of the committee are to be congratulated on the way they handled the meet.