

O. C. C.

MARIECHEN HAS NOT MADE PLANS IN MATTER YET

Mrs. Fullard-Leo High In Praise of Australian and New Zealand Hospitality

Mariechen Wehselau, Outrigger Canoe Club mermaid who recently returned from a swimming tour of Australia, has been invited to participate in swimming meets in New Zealand next fall and winter, according to an announcement made by Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo, who chaperoned the local girl swimmer on her recent tour. Mrs. Leo made the announcement in connection with her report of the journey.

She told about the new star which New Zealand is developing in Miss Ethel Stockley, a 16-year-old girl, who gave Miss Wehselau a hard battle in the sprint distance when the Outrigger girl visited there recently.

The New Zealanders were so impressed by the showing of Miss Stockley that they feel it will help her to come forward by giving her good competition and that is why they want Mariechen to visit there next fall and winter, Mrs. Leo explained. Miss Wehselau has not made any definite plans as yet in the matter.

Did Well

"A credit to the Hawaiian A. A. U. and the United States."

That is a characterization of Mariechen Wehselau and Sam Kahanamoku, which appears in a report of Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo.

"Both swimmers," says Mrs. Leo's report, "were most popular where ever they were taken and acquitted themselves in a manner which is a credit to the Hawaiian A. A. U. and the United States."

The Hawaiian swimmers had no formidable competition at their special distances in any of their contests.

Australia has brought nine Hawaiian swimmers to its shores since 1915 as against two Australians brought to Hawaii, said Mrs. Leo, and she expressed the opinion that while swimmers of the Antipodes have not proved to be stiff competition for those of Hawaii, it would be in the interests of sportsmanship to extend more invitations to Australians, who, she declares, are the "greatest sportsmen anywhere."

"The meets held in the Antipodes were losses financially," said Mrs. Leo "but that was never mentioned. Down there they are interested in the sport and no complaint is heard if financial returns are not adequate to meet expenses."

They are interested in developing swimming as a national sport, and while they have not the quality of our swimmers, they most certainly have quantity.

"Everyone swims in the Antipodes, men, women and children, and that has a national value. We seem to be satisfied if we can enter 10 swimmers in a contest. In Sydney I saw 180 women in one women's handicap race."

Well Cared For

"This board need have no fear for the care or safety or well-being of its athletes entrusted to the Australian Amateur Swimming Union. Its standing and methods are of the highest order. Visiting athletes are treated to only the best of everything. They travel first class only and are housed in the very best hotels. I cannot say too much for the hospitality, courtesy and sportsmanship of people in the Antipodes."

"We owe the Australian Swimming Union a great debt and I hope this association will take every available opportunity to try and redeem it."

It was at Mrs. Leo's suggestion that a plan was adopted by the Hawaiian A. A. U. under which a reception committee of the local A. A. U. will be named whose duties it will be in the future to meet and decorate visiting athletes with leis.