

Ez. Crane's Column

SPORTS ISLANDS



HAWAII SHOULD GIVE MARIECHEN HER CHANCE

MARIECHEN WEHSELAU, Hawaii's woman champion, and we sincerely believe, the greatest woman swimmer in the world, has been offered an opportunity of proving herself in Florida in February. The fact that the A. A. U. has not the sufficient funds to send Mariechen to Florida should not prevent her from competing in the Nationals.

IT IS UP TO HAWAII, to every man, woman and child in the territory to join together in a campaign to send her to St. Augustine for the big meet. The publicity that Hawaii would receive would be the reward and we are certain that Mariechen would return with a few records that are now credited to others than herself.

Mariechen defeated Eleanor Garatti in Honolulu in 1925. The mainland would like to see for itself, whether the Hawaiian champion is all we say she is.

Here is Hawaii's chance. Let's go!

THIS IS FOR THE ENTIRE TERRITORY

THE drive for funds should not be confined to the city of Honolulu. This is a proposition in which the entire territory is involved. When Mariechen is introduced, she will be the "girl from Hawaii," and as such will bring fame to every island in the group.

We say this in the hope that, before the drive closes, Monday evening, there will be several contributions on the list from fans from the outside islands. Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and the rest of them, all should be represented on the list.

Hawaii's men swimmers were neglected when they were at the peak of their glory. National meets were allowed to slip by without so much as the name Hawaii appearing on the program.

Now the game, from the women's angle, is up for the test. Is Hawaii going to be found wanting, or is Mariechen going back to Florida to show the mainland that this little spot out in the Pacific still produces swimming champions? We ask you, fans.

MARIECHEN COULD WIN AT LEAST ONE TITLE

CWIMMING coaches and followers here feel certain that Miss Wehselau could come out of the St. Augustine meet with at least one title to her credit.

She would probably enter the 50, 100, and 220 yards swims in Florida. The competition would be great, for the strongest and fastest swimmers in the country will be entered in the National championships; but Mariechen established herself as a great swimmer by handing Miss Garatti a trio of set-backs in the events mentioned above, and she could do the same thing again if given a chance.

Mariechen's best distance is the century, and we would back her against the field if she were sent to Florida. And she would be among the leaders, if not the pace setter, in the 50 and 220 events.

At any rate, she has earned her right to a chance at the national titles in her favorite event.

GARATTI WOULD BE HER STRONGEST FOE

IN SPITE of her three reversals here, it is believed that Miss Garatti would be Mariechen's strongest foe at the nationals. Miss Garatti is a splendid swimmer, and is capable of making faster times than she was credited with in Hawaii.

RECORDS WOULD BE IN DANGER

WITH both women at their best, the records in the three events named in the foregoing, would be in immediate danger. We venture to say that at least one of them would topple from its perch.