

"JOHNNY WOODD IS THE BOY"—WARREN KEALOHA

JOHNNY WOODD is the boy—our next champion," said Warren Kealoha to the writer last Friday night at Punahou following the Yale meet, in which the sensational Hawaiian youngster had distinguished himself by smashing records in the 100 and 220 open events.

"Johnny showed me plenty tonight, and I believe that in another year he will be eligible for national and international competition. Tonight his stroke was smooth and powerful, much improved over his last showing, and his times were better than he ever made before. Those facts are significant in themselves," said the world's backstroke champion during our conversation.

We are inclined to hold the same belief with Warren. Woodd is young, ambitious, and, we are told, an industrious trainer. He has all the earmarks of a champion and what's more, he has made up his mind to the task.

We look for great things from the sensational Waialua product.

DIDN'T FULFILL THIS "EXPERT'S" OPINION

NOT long ago a certain A.A.U. official informed us that this same John Woodd had reached the limit of his performance ability.

"Woodd has shown but slight improvement during the past two years and I doubt whether he will ever get below :55 flat," was the "expert" opinion rendered, when Woodd was suggested as a possible Hawaiian entry at the Sesqui-centennial games, by the writer.

As a matter of fact, Woodd's improvement since last fall has been so great as to mark him as our best prospect since the days of grand old Duke P.

With youth, ability and a good coach all on his side, Johnny faces a bright and promising future.

COULDN'T WIN IN :57

LAST fall at the A. A. U. meet, Johnny Woodd finished in virtually a dead heat with Lester Smith in the 100-yards Hawaiian championship event, although the decision went to the visitor and Woodd was awarded second place. The race was a hard fought affair with both men giving all they had to win. The time was :57 flat.

Last Friday night Woodd entered the Interscholastic 100-yards championship. He established comfortable lead in the first two laps and thereafter glided in to win in :54.4-5—two and one-fifth seconds better than Smith's time in 1925.

Now bring on your mainland competitors. We have real opposition for them in the sprints, in the person of one John Woodd.

FURLONG TIME EXCEPTIONAL

WOODD'S time in the 220-yards swim was exceptionally fast. In fact it was one of the fastest furlongs ever turned in in a local 25-yard pool.

He finished in a dead sprint with Benton Wood hanging right at his heels in 2:22.4-5, exactly two seconds faster than Lester Smith's time made in the same pool last fall.

It does not require a stretch of imagination to see this youngster clipping off the furlong in better than 2:20 in the very near future.

BENTON WOOD ALSO PROMISING

BENTON WOOD is another promising youngster who came into full bloom in the Yale meet last Friday night. He did not turn in

any record breaking performances as did the Cardinal flash, but he demonstrated his prowess in the water by pressing Woodd all the way in the 220-yards swim after having won the quarter mile grind not an hour before.

While "Tudy" Hough and Harvey Chilton deserve all the credit for the development of Johnny Wood, "Dad" Center is the man who discovered and brought out Benton.

To our mind, Benton ranks second to Johnny as Hawaii's most promising swimmer. Benton will be turning in quarter mile times that will knock Lester Smith's 5:16 Hawaiian record into oblivion within the space of a year.

WATCH SHARP AND TWO WOODS

LOCAL fans will do well to keep their eyes on Sharp and Benton Wood of Punahou and Johnny Woodd of St. Louis. This trio is going to help put Hawaiian swimming back on the map, or we miss our guess.

The first named is a husky lad who has two more years of high school competition, just as have the Woods. Sharp turned in a 50-yards swim last Friday night at :25.2-5 and placed second to Johnny in the century.

"Dad" Center is looking forward to a future for his two crack natators.

When the Outrigger meet, featuring the Japanese swimming team, is staged here next month, we will be given an opportunity of seeing these youngsters pitted against the best from the Far East. And we will be backing them to win their events from the visitors.