

Johnny Woodd Collapses Is Pulled Out of Tank Kealoha Also Winner

Japanese Champions Win One Race in First Night's Program; Officials Order Century Swum Over;
Benton Wood Shows Real Class; Monster Crowd Turns Out

By EZ CRANE

JAPAN'S SWIMMERS were all that has been said for them, and more, last night in the opening events of the Japan-Hawaii swimming meet at Waterhouse Memorial tank, but Hawaii's aquatic stars demonstrated the fact that they are still a powerful factor in the swimming firmament by staying with the speedy visitors in the three feature events, and winding up the first half of the meet a shade to the good.

Two of the international clashes last night ended in clear cut verdicts with Hawaii on the winning end in one and Japan the victor in the other. The third—and incidentally, the blue ribbon event of the meet—was stalked by grim fate and ended in a "no race" decision rendered by the referee—but here Hawaii gained the moral if not the actual victory.

Warren Kealoha won the 200-meters backstroke from Kimura of Japan to open the meeting of the stars from two Pacific lands. And the two time Olympic champion displayed all of his form and speed in doing it. Warren finished about three body lengths ahead of Kimura in 2:42 2-5, just two-fifths of a second slower than the American record for the distance.

EASY FOR TAKAISHI

Takaishi, the "Weismuller of Japan," left little doubt as to his supremacy in the 400-meters swim and defeated Benton Wood of Hawaii by a good 10 yards. He went into the lead at the 150 yard mark and was never headed thereafter. He continued to open up water until he broke the tape. The thrill came in the fight for second place when Wood staged a heartbreaking sprint on the last two laps and overtook Arai to gain the verdict by four yards. Wood swam a game race and the 17-year-old Punahou student established himself as one of the most promising swimmers developed in this country in recent years. Takaishi's time was 5:12 4-5 and it would have been faster had he been pressed in the final stages.

The 100-meters open was a disappointment to everyone of the 5000-odd fans who packed the Punahou tank. At the gun, Takaishi, Japanese marvel, was off to a poor start; later he was veered from his course and tangled with Sam Kahanamoku at two turns; and then at the 90-meter mark Johnny Woodd, Hawaiian flash, whose rise during the past year has been little short of meteoric, collapsed and was lifted from the tank in a semi-conscious condition. Takaishi would have won then and there had he continued, but he stopped at the last turn and Kahanamoku passed him to win the judges' verdict at the tape. Takaishi took second with Saitoh of Japan third. Later a "no-race" decision was rendered by the referee and a re-swim was ordered for tonight.

WOODD TAKES LEAD

Woodd took the lead at the crack of the gun, settled into a steady sprint and held off the threatening Takaishi. He continued out in front despite a poor turn at the 50-yard mark, and when the collapse came still had a lead of a yard over the famed star from the Far East.

It is a matter for conjecture whether Woodd would have beaten Takaishi had he continued. It is certain, however, that his chances of winning the feature clash between Hawaiian and Japanese swimmers was bright, and fate alone robbed him of his golden opportunity. It is doubtful whether he will be in shape to swim tonight, according to physicians in attendance last night.

The "no race" verdict was rendered in fairness to the visitor, but it came as a crushing blow to the local boy who won by fighting it

out despite the fact that he was apparently outclassed. Kahanamoku deserved the victory and while Takaishi is undoubtedly the better swimmer, the Hawaiian was a victim of circumstances.

UNDERSTOOD RULES

According to Art Powlison, starter, the rules and methods followed here were fully explained to the visitors before the meet. They indicated that they understood. While incidents to the race were regrettable the decision was hardly in keeping with precedent. Kahanamoku will not swim in the second race tonight which makes the "re-swim" a dual compet between Takaishi and Saitoh.

KEALOHA SURPRISES 'EM

Warren Kealoha's showing last night brands him as one of America's greatest backstroke swimmers. Despite the fact that he is in his eighth year of competition, Kealoha still carries a punch in his favorite event and last night would have cracked the American record had he been pressed in the 200-meters event. As it was he won easily from Kimura and missed the mark by two-fifths of a second. His showing last night makes him worthy of a chance at the national championships at Philadelphia this summer.

Gay Harris came up from behind on the final sprint to nose out Luning for third place, the latter tiring on the stretch. For one half the distance the four stars were well bunched with Kealoha holding a slight lead, but he pulled away after passing the 100-meter mark and Kimura soon opened up water between himself and Luning.

Aside from the 100-meters, the first night was a great success. The events were hurried off on time and the finishes were close enough to keep the record breaking crowd on its feet for half of the evening. Governor Wallace R. Farrington was present and officially welcomed the visiting swimmers and united the waters of the Pacific and Punahou during his short speech.

MISS LOVETT WINS

Janice Lovett of Outrigger won the feature event for women, the 400-meters swim, by more than 50 yards, finishing with a strong sprint in 6:07 2-5. Her exhibition was one of the finest put up by a woman in a local tank for many seasons and she demonstrated the fact that she is still to be reckoned with as a potential champion.

Ed Crabbe won the 100-novice from Sharp in a touch finish in :56 4-5 and Sam Kahanamoku copped the medley swim from Gay Harris in 4:17 2-5 after a neck and neck race.

The fancy diving from the high platform brought out lots of thrilling dives wherein Bob Fuller, veteran champ won from Lee of Army and Makinney of Outrigger.

Tonight the second half of the program will be run off at the Punahou tank, the feature of which is the 200-meter event between Benton Wood and Takaishi. It is not known whether John Woodd will enter owing to his collapse last night.

The complete summary of the meet follows:

100 yards free style, Japanese—1.
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