JAPANESE STAR GRABS HONORS IN OPEN RACES

Takaishi Proves To Be More Than a Match For the Local Swimmers

Banzai, Kealoha! Banzai, Takaishi!

While more than 2000 swimming fans cheered them on, these two supermermen, representing Hawaii and Japan respectively, plowed through the waters of Punahou tank to set new world's records in two features at the Japan-Hawaii swim meet Saturday night.

Warren Kealoha, veteran of eight years in competition against the fastest swimmers in the world, swam the 100 meters backstroke in one minute 11 2-5 seconds, cutting one and one-fifth seconds off the old mark which he held jointly with Johnny Weissmuller. Takaishi, the Japanese star, did not set a record alone, but it was largely due to his performance that the Japanese relay team set a new record of nine minutes 44 seconds in the 800 meter relay race.

The breaking of the records were features of the closing night of the big meet which turned out to be the greatest swimming event staged in Hawaii in years.

After coming within two fifths of a second of the world's record Friday night in the 100 meters backstroke Kealoha entered the 100 meters as a big favorite. It had been predicted that he would come close to the world's record, but no one dreamed that he would clip more than a second off the old mark.

Perfect Start

The race opened with a perfect start, the five swimmers taking the first stroke together. But by the time he reached the 25 yard mark Kealoha had forged a yard into the lead and pulled away from the field as the race progressed. The champion gave one glance at the opponents just before making the turn at the 25 yard mark but from then on gave every bit of his attention to his own race.

As he approached the 100 yard mark the fans rose to their feet cheering wildly and urging the Iiui Makani star to "break the record." Kealoha needed no urging and he left a path of foam behind him as he plowed under the rope that marked the finish line.

Both Kealoha, the Japanese swimmers entered in the race, were hopelessly outclassed and finished fourth and fifth. The surprise of the event was the showing made by Ihry Harris, who pressed Luning to the limit in the fight for second place, Luning nosing him out.

Shared Honors

Kealoha shared honors with Takaishi, the Japanese star, who took first places in the 100 meters and 200 meters freestyle events and then swam anchor on the Japanese team that broke the world's record in the 800 meters relay race.

Takaishi was by far the individual star of the meet, grabbing first honors in every event in which he was entered.

Blue Ribbon Event

The 100 meters freestyle, the blue ribbon event of the meet, will be the talk of Honolulu's swimming fraternity for a long time as one of the greatest races ever seen here. Johnny Woods, Hawaii's latest sensation in sprint events, entered the race as Hawaii's only representative and took second place, finishing one fifth of a second behind the Japanese star.

The 100 meter race was swum Friday night but was declared "no race" by the referee because of several mishaps which occurred, including a misunderstanding as to the finish.

Sam Kahanamoku, who finished first Friday night, declined to enter the race Saturday and young Woods was left alone to uphold Hawaii's colors in the event.

Perfect Start

Unlike Friday night Takaishi got off to a perfect start, the three swimmers hitting the water together. Saichi of Japan was the third swimmer. Takaishi and Woods pulled ahead of Saichi before they reached the 25 yard line and it was apparent that the race was to be between these two stars. They swam even for the first 150 yards and as they came closer and closer to the finish the bleachers full of spectators were transformed into a howling mob, the noise being so intense that the sound of the gun fired at the start of the final lap was drowned out.

It was at the turn at the 150 yard line that Takaishi got the real lead that spelled victory. The Japanese star made perfect turns each time but Woods lost out with a poor turn at the 150 yard mark and was unable to regain the lost ground. Takaishi finished in 59 1-5 seconds, the best time he had ever made, and four seconds better than the time made by Sam Kahanamoku Friday night. The 100 meter race was the first event on the program Saturday night and furnished the first of a series of thrills that kept the crowd on edge until the whistle sounded to end the water polo game that was the last event on the program.

Next Big Event

The next big open event for men is the 200 meters.