

Splashes At the Japan-Hawaii Swimming Meet

By RINGSIDER

The "inside story" of the reason why Takaishi, Japanese swimming star, stopped short of the finish in the 100-meter race on Friday night, is told by Ed Yamachika, sports editor of the Nippon Jiji. Yamachika talked with Takaishi after the race.

According to this story, Takaishi did not make a mistake as to the finish line, but stopped because he thought the race was stopped owing to Johnny Woodd's collapse.

Takaishi and Woodd were virtually even, going down the tank to the last at the ewa end. Both made the turn, but Woodd missed his kick-off a bit and caught a bad cramp or stitch in the side. He couldn't keep going. Takaishi, driving through the water and coming up periodically to get a breath, saw a rush of people at the tankside as they hurried over to grab Woodd, fearing he would sink. The Japanese star realized something was wrong when he saw scores of hands pointing at Woodd. That was just before the final turn.

As he struck the ewa end of the tank for the final turn, he heard a pistol shot. It was the starter's gun, signalling the last lap. But Takaishi thought that the gun signalled that the race had been stopped because of the accident to Woodd, and he stopped, too. It was then that Sam Kahanamoku, who had been third, came along, made a fast turn and although Takaishi started again, the Japanese couldn't catch Sam in the short remaining distance.

Takaishi explains his action by the fact that in Japan when a race is stopped before the finish, a shot is fired. The explanation is readily credible, and throws new light on an incident that will be the talk of swimming fans for many days.

Johnny Woodd is going to be a greater swimmer than he is now—no question about that, if he is properly trained. He is game and naturally fast, and when he matures further, he will be better able to go the entire distance of a race at top speed. Instead of feeling badly about his two races in the Japan-Hawaii meet, he ought to feel encouraged at his fine showing.

Warren Kealoha is winning for Hawaii the world's championship laurels that rightfully belong to this world center of speed-swimming.

K. Makinney of the Outrigger club is a comer in diving. He was beaten out by Bob Fuller Friday night but came back with work so clean-cut on Saturday night that he triumphed over the veteran. Fuller has held many championships here and is still a wonderful diver.

Governor Farrington could not attend the meet Saturday night owing to another engagement, and the medals were presented alternately by Mayor John H. Wilson and Acting Consul-General Takeuchi. Consul-General Aoki sailed for Japan on Friday and Takeuchi is the acting official. Mayor Wilson presented the big Davies silver cup, trophy for the 100-meter swim, to Takaishi amid thundering cheers from the bleachers.

With Johnny Benton Wood and young Hart Wood, looks like Hawaii has plenty of swimming timber.