

AFTER NATIONAL SWIM EVENT

Local Swimming Enthusiasts Making Organized Effort To Bring Championship Here; Janice Lovett Shows That She Is Real Comer

By Don Watson

THE biggest event in sight on Hawaii's athletic program is the movement now under way to hold the national swimming championships for men in Honolulu next year.

A real effort is being made to obtain this event for Hawaii and a definite program has been adopted and will be carried out by those who are endeavoring to have the championships assigned to the Hawaiian association of the A. A. U.

The local branch of the A. A. U. has gone on record as being in favor of bidding for the championships. The chamber of commerce has shown a helpful attitude and a committee has been formed to work with George ("Dad") Center, president of the A. A. U., and the A. A. U. special committee.

Chances are very good that the big meet will be staged here. The whole thing hinges on whether or not the bid made by the local A. A. U. is considered large enough by the national swimming committee. Of course it takes more money to stage the meet in Honolulu than it would on the mainland because the champions will have to travel longer distances. However, local swimming enthusiasts who are backing the movement believe that such a meet would draw a large enough crowd to warrant bidding rather high in comparison to the bids of mainland associations of the A. A. U.

MEANS MUCH

Holding the championship in Honolulu would mean much to the swimming game. For several years swimming was rather dead here but during the past year it has started to regain its place as one of Hawaii's leading sports.

Many folks are inclined to take the stand that just because Duke Kahanamoku is no longer the nucleus of Hawaii's swimming team the swimming game will never become as popular here as it used to be. There are plenty of swimmers in Hawaii today who are very close to Duke's times in the sprint events. There is no reason why it should not be expected that these swimmers, who are still young, will develop to the stage where they will make even faster time than Duke.

Johnny Woodd has shown that he is a real comer. So have the Crabbe boys, Sharp, Komenaka and many others. These are the chaps who are counted on to bring Hawaii back into the championship ranks. It is true that swimmers who performed for Hawaii in the past were very good—but they are no longer in competition and it is necessary to look for new material. There is plenty of it available. No matter how good some of the old-time swimmers were there is always another fellow coming along who can equal, or almost equal their performances.

ANOTHER COMER

At Punahou tank last night, the opening night of the Uluniu swimming meet, another comer was seen in action—this time a girl. When Janice Lovett, Outrigger Canoe club star, defeated Cecily Cunha, Pacific coast champion, in the 440 yard event she defeated a swimmer who is being heralded as a coming world's champion.

Janice Lovett improves in every meet in which she competes. Her time for the 440 last night was six minutes 44-5 seconds, just 10 1-5 seconds over the American record. When a girl swimmer gets that close to a 440 yard record she is swimming in championship style.

Miss Lovett not only has the swimming ability of a champion but she also has a great deal of fight. She doesn't give up in a race. Last night she set a very stiff pace and the writer for one, was expecting every moment to see her "break." But the Outrigger star kept fighting as though she was tailing behind and was trying to catch up.

Miss Lovett is young, she has one of the best coaches in the world. Last night she finished about 12 yards in the lead. If she had been pressed more closely chances are that her time would have been better. She is a real comer—and is one of the reasons why Hawaii should work hard to boost swimming and make it possible for the local swimmers to perform against the leading mainland stars.