

MARIECHEN WEHSELAU SAYS PAU

Hawaii's Woman Swim Champion to Retire

MARIECHEN WEHSELAU, Hawaii's greatest woman swimmer to retire?

Just at her peak of form, endurance and ability, such a question sounds incredible. Yet the champion made this statement Friday noon.

This will be a severe blow to the local swimming fraternity. Unless she changes her mind later, Hawaii's standing in the aquatic line, women's division, will be in continual danger. Just to what extent has already answered itself—in the victorious march of the Cunha-May combine from California in the big Uluniu meets.

Up to this meet, it was Miss Wehselau, the defender, upholding Hawaii's name above all invading stars. In the fall meet of last year, Mariechen rose to supreme heights, when she showed her heels to the fastest 50-yard racer of the world—Eleanor Garratti of San Rafael, Cal. Not in one race but three, namely, 50, 100 and 220. And so all along in the past, whether it was the sophisticated champions from the Atlantic cities or from way down in the Antipodes.

Since her return early this year from the national championships, Mariechen has not competed once, though there were three big meets staged.

"I haven't much time to practice because of my work," she said. She is connected with the United Welfare Association. "And I don't think I'll swim in future events."

America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand—she has seen them all in her conquest. Once she held the world's record in the 100-meters freestyle. She was an Olympic games star in 1924.