

SWIM MEET BIG EVENT FOR HAWAII

Getting Championships
Allotted To Hawaii Is
Only a Starter; Next
Thing Is To Get Pro-
posed Natatorium At
Waikiki Completed

—By Don Watson—

BIG events showing the development of sports in Hawaii are coming thick and fast these days.

First came the Japan-Hawaii swimming meet—something new in the line of meets in Honolulu. Then there was the completion of the new Honolulu Stadium, an athletic field large enough to accommodate the crowds. And now comes the announcement that Honolulu will get the men's national outdoor swimming championships in 1927.

The staging of the swimming championships will be the biggest sports event that has been on Honolulu's athletic program in years. It will be the blue ribbon sports event of 1927 and will attract the attention of the entire swimming world.

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The national swimming championships are events that all sections of the mainland would like to get. These annual competitions are not only of value from an athletic standpoint but they are also wonderful advertising for the city that is fortunate enough to have its bid accepted.

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FAVOR HONOLULU

As soon as it was announced that Honolulu was after the men's outdoor championships mainland sports writers started boosting to have the event allotted to Hawaii.

Already Honolulu has occupied a prominent place in the sports news of mainland papers as a result of the move to get the event here, and the comment made by the writers is all favorable to the islands.

Writing for the San Francisco Chronicle, George F. Lineer had many nice things to say about Hawaii in connection with swimming. "There is little question but what the Hawaiian association will not only receive the support of this association, but also the support of the other districts interested in aquatics," Lineer wrote. "Only once in a blue moon is a trip to Honolulu offered to aquatic stars. That they will be out in force to assist Honolulu in landing the championships for 1927 goes without saying."

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"Hawaii has done more for the swimming game than any other district governed by the A. A. U.," he added, "and all other things being equal, should be given the preference the first and only time they have asked permission to hold the national title events as a whole."

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MORE WORK

But, as "Dad" Center pointed out in these columns yesterday, the work has just commenced with the allotment of the meet.

Getting the championships for Honolulu is just a starter. Then comes the work of making a success of the venture. It takes money to stage swimming meets, but with such an attraction there should be little difficulty in getting the folks to attend the meet. Popular prices, plenty of advertising and the right spirit back of it is all that is needed.

This was demonstrated a few months ago when a small group of men representing The Star-Bulletin, Outrigger Canoe Club and the Nippon Jiji brought a team of swimmers from Japan, the first time Japanese swimmers ever invaded the United States, and staged a meet that went over the top in every detail—including finances.

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One of the most important things to accomplish is get a place where the meet can be held. There are only two places that can be considered—the proposed war memorial natatorium at Waikiki and Honolulu harbor. The natatorium is the proper place for the meet, as it will answer all requirements of the A. A. U., and the job now is to boost the memorial project along and try to get the natatorium ready for use by next August.