

MERMEN LEAVING TOMORROW



Expect American Swimmers To Cop Most Laurels In Japan Meet; Buster Crabbe May Lower World's Record On the One-Mile Swim

—By Don Watson—

SEVERAL local and mainland swimmers will leave tomorrow for Japan, where they will perform as an American team in the Pan-Pacific swimming meet.

The recent men's national swimming championships held in Honolulu showed



that the Japanese swimmers are coming along fast and must be considered as real opponents in international competition.

However, the mermen in Japan have quite a ways to go yet before they reach the stage where they can cop the major share of laurels in a meet in

which the best American swimmers perform. However, when it is remembered that swimming has only been developed in Japan the last four or five years the showing made by the Japanese mermen is exceptionally good.

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The meet in Japan will mark the fourth competition between Japanese and Hawaiian swimmers within a year. A team from Japan was first brought to Honolulu. Then several local swimmers were sent to the Orient. The Japanese swimmers then came here for the national championships last month and now comes this Pan-Pacific meet.

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FAST TIMES

Fast times are expected in the meet in Japan, especially in 440, 880 and one mile freestyle swims.

Harry Glancy and Clarence ("Buster") Crabbe will again battle for honors in these races, with K. Takaishi as a third possible winner. At present it looks as though Crabbe

will be the winner in all three races. Crabbe came within six seconds of the world's record in the one mile swim last month and there is every reason to believe that he will make faster time when he swims in Japan.

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Too bad Walter Spence will not be a member of the American team. When it comes to breast-stroke swimming Spence is a marvel. The Japanese swimmers would have benefited a great deal by watching him perform, just as they have in watching the work of American swimmers in other strokes.

SURPRISED

After the recent meet here Takaishi expressed surprise at the remarkable improvement shown by Buster Crabbe since the Honolulu star performed in Japan last year.

Crabbe cut about half a minute off his 440 time within a year. When he last swam against Arai, Japan's distance star, Buster was defeated in the half mile. When the two clashed last month Arai did not have a chance against the Outrigger club swimmer.

Takaishi was also much impressed by the slow, powerful stroke used by Crabbe and expressed the opinion that this stroke is much better than the faster arm stroke which he uses.

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The American swimmers who leave here tomorrow have an important mission. They are to represent the United States in a real international competition in which Japan, China and the Philippines will also be represented. We wish them good luck and know that they will give a good account of themselves as sportsmen as well as in swimming.