

HAWAII BACK IN LIMELIGHT

Invitation To Hawaii's Swimmers To Participate In Mainland Meet Shows That Officials Recognize Strength of Local Team

—By Don Watson—

HAWAII is back in the limelight in the swimming world. Hawaiian swimmers are once more in demand.

A few years back Hawaii reigned supreme in swimming. Led by Duke Kahanamoku Hawaii's swimming team "cleaned up" in the Olympic games, bringing top laurels to America.

However, swimming took a slump, as far as material was concerned. When Duke passed out of local swimming circles a number of other stars such as Ludy Langer, Bill Harris and "Stubby" Kruger left at the same time.



WATSON

The titles held by Hawaii in swimming gradually slipped away. A couple of flashes were exhibited in a movement to regain laurels in the swimming world but up to last year the attempts were not very successful.

With the staging of the men's national outdoor championships in Honolulu last fall local swimmers again started forging ahead. "Buster" Crabbe won the national one mile title. Several of the local sprint swimmers gave a good account of themselves. Some of the younger mermen and mermaids gave very promising exhibitions.

INVITATION

The invitation received by "Dad" Center to send at least enough swimmers for a relay team to the outdoor championships at San Francisco shows that Hawaii's swimming team is again considered near the front.

"Buster" Crabbe will definitely go to the outdoor championships and also to the Olympic trials in Detroit. Other swimmers will also be sent if they show in the Hawaiian championships April 19, 20 and 21, that they are capable of making a good showing against America's leading swimmers. It is believed that there are several other swimmers who will show real class in the coming meet. They are working hard and should show improvement in this meet.

There is no reason why Hawaii should not regain laurels in swimming. The coaches here rank with the best in the world. Every opportunity is offered for training. It was interesting to note that Walter Laufer, after spending several months in Honolulu training under "Dad" Center's tutelage, broke several world's records.