ASKS REASON WHY ATHLETES FELL DOWN

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General MacArthur Thinks There Is Reason Why Times Were Slow; Here's the Dope On Crabbe At the Olympic Swim Finals

By Don Watson

MAJ. GEN. DOUGLASS MacARTHUR, president of the American Olympic committee, wants to know why the athletes from the United States did not do as well at the Olympic games as they did in practice meets before going to Amsterdam.

In an effort to find out what was wrong MacArthur has asked the various Olympic coaches to file reports with him giving their opinions and suggestions for remedies.

One thing that is certain to be mentioned as a reason for failure of American athletes to make faster times at the Olympic finals will be that they did too much barnstorming before going to Amsterdam. The system of having the swimmers and runners appear in Olympic benefit meets three and four days in succession just prior to their departure for Europe has drawn criticism from mainland sports writers and coaches.

After the Olympic swim trials at Detroit our swimmers were required to perform in six or seven meets before boarding the steamer to go to Amsterdam. World's records fell in some of these meets, showing that the swimmers hit their fastest strides rather than merely swimming exhibitions.

NO ALIBIS NEEDED

We hesitate to write anything that might look like an effort on our part to alibi for "Buster" Crabbe because he did not beat Arne Borg and Boy Charlton.

However, in fairness to Crabbe we feel that local fans should know exactly the conditions under which Buster performed at Amsterdam. The Outrigger Club star suffered from indigestion for five days before the meet opened and was unable to participate in a practice swim before the relay trials were held.

When he swam 200 meters in the relay trials it was the first time Buster had been able to have a workout after his arrival at Amsterdam. He swam the distance in 2 minutes 27 seconds, and we venture to say this is the first time he had been over two minutes and 20 seconds in a year.

We get this dope from several sources—none other than Alberto Zorilla, the Argentine swimmer, says that after watching Buster in the relay trials he was sorry he could see that Buster was weak. A few days later Crabbe swam the 1500 meters in 20 minutes 28 seconds. He has covered that distance many times under 20 minutes. It was a case of tough luck for Buster, and he was game enough to go in and try to win despite the fact that he had been under a physician's care up to a few days before the swim.

WATSON