

Crabbe Learned to Swim When 11 Years Old; Has An Exceptional Record

First Took Swimming Seriously in 1926; Hardest Race Was 400-Meter Event Staged in Japan

By **GEORGE McKENZIE**

CLARENCE L. ("BUSTER") CRABBE, Hawaii's premier swim star and holder of two world's records—the mile and medley swims—never had the least intention of ever becoming a champion performer, that is, a few years ago.

"Buster" was born in Oakland, Cal., on February 7, 1909. He came to Hawaii when he was 1½ years old and has lived here ever since.

When asked what his early boyhood was like in the way of games and habits, he replied: "I knocked around just like all the rest of the kids did and I was awfully fond of the beaches."

He learned to swim when he was 11 years old.

"My fondest dreams," said the 19-year-old star in an interview recently, "were centered upon becoming a great oarsman or a star football player."

We wager he would have become either of these had he tried, for his physical make-up is perfect in all respects.

"I was first seriously interested in swimming, as far as competition goes," said Crabbe, "in 1926, when I won the 220-yard swim from some pretty good swimmers of the Olympic club of San Francisco in the Punahou tank. I was then competing for the Outrigger club."

It will be remembered that "Buster" defeated Lester Smith, crack Olympic merman in that race. Since then, it is common knowledge that the youthful swimmer has hung up an enviable record for himself.

Hardest Race

When asked what was the hardest race he has ever encountered up to the present time, the good-natured star replied, "The hardest race I ever swam was the 400 meters, in Japan, in 1926. I was sure tired as far from the finish as 250 meters and how I ever got to the finish line is more than I have ever been able to understand."

Crabbe has laid definite plans to go to Australia in January, next year, to compete in the big swimming event.

"I will leave Hawaii just before the Christmas holidays start at the University of Hawaii and will have to come back to school two weeks later than the rest of the students start in on their spring semester," said Crabbe.

He was asked what he considered the greatest impression he received from his recent trip to Europe, where he competed against the world's best swimmers in the Olympic games at Amsterdam. He answered with characteristic spontaneity, "The thing which impressed me most, and something which the people in America should fully realize, is the fact that the European people have more brains than we are accustomed to credit them with."

In the opinion of Crabbe, the two greatest athletes in the world today are Arne Borg, the famous swimmer, and Paavo Nurmi, the great runner.

"I think these two men are the world's outstanding athletes of the present time. I have competed against one, Borg, and have seen the other perform. Their athletic ability is not the only thing which makes them my favorites, but both of these men are fine fellows as well

as great performers. Borg, with whom I am more familiar, has a keen sense of sportsmanship values, which makes him very popular wherever he competes."

Future Plans

"Buster" Crabbe's future plans are clear-cut and decisive—characteristic of the type of athlete which he is.

"As I intend to study law," he said, "I want to swim in just one more Olympic competition and then quit competing altogether. I wish to express my thanks, through The Star-Bulletin, to the good people of Hawaii who have made it possible for me to attain what small fame, if any, I have received. It will never be known how much it has helped me with my swimming to know that the people here in the islands are back of any who might attempt to compete from here. I certainly was glad to get back home to a place where there is so much spirit shown in sports and other activities. I hope to do better in 1932," said Hawaii's most popular athlete, as he hurried off to answer the bell which was summoning him to his next class in school.

"Buster" Crabbe is representative of the highest type of athlete which exists. He doesn't smoke or in any other way diverge from the straight and narrow path of good training—the reason why he is on top today. He is a perfect model for any aspirant for athletic honors and his character is contagious wherever he goes. He is a good sportsman, modest in victory, glorious in defeat, and friendly to everyone.

A good part of the influence which has moulded him into the superlative figure which he is, is due to his father, Ned Crabbe. Crabbe has watched over his youngster, for in reality, Buster is still young enough to heed his father's good advice, with endless care and enthusiasm. Buster said that his father was the most influential factor in his career. Such interest on the part of parents is certainly a tribute which should remain in the minds of "sapling" athletes the world over, just as Buster has given all the credit to his father.

CLOSE SCORES IN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)

HILO, Hawaii, Oct. 11.—Close scores featured the second round matches in the Hawaii Japanese singles tennis championship last Sunday. Results of the matches follow:

Suyama D. Nakano, 6-2, 2-6, 8-6;
Kunimura D. Matsumoto, 6-3, 6-4;
Kubota D. Muromachi, 6-0, 6-1; Ni-
shimoto D. Morikawa, 7-5, 0-6, 6-3;
Fukumoto D. Taguchi, 6-0, 6-1;
Tamada D. Yano, 6-4, 6-0, and Ma-
katani D. Tsuchiyama by default.



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