

# CRABBE MAY BE DOUBLE CHAMPION



Father Expects Him To Win in the 1500 Meter Event; Buster Credited With Better Than 19 Minutes 30 Seconds in Practice Swims

By DON WATSON

THE victory of Clarence (Buster) Crabbe in the 400 meter swim finals Wednesday gave the United States its first Olympic title in a men's swimming event this year.

Of course the Americans won the diving, but lost out in both the 100 meter free-style and the 800 meter relay.

Crabbe must be in perfect condition to swim the 400 in such wonderful time, breaking the world's record hung up by Arne Borg. Buster was not supposed to be "hot" in the 400 meter event—it was the 1,500 meter swim that he was pointing for this year.



Jean Paris of France was the most feared man in this event, while the Japanese were supposed to be on a par with him.

Taris came through as expected, but Crabbe had too much endurance for the Japanese boys.

With this victory under his belt it is going to be hard to stop Buster in the 1,500 event.

Crabbe has the toughest assignment of any of the American swimmers. He was the only one named to appear in two events, and the United States officials pinned their hopes on him in both races. If the United States retains the men's swimming championship it will be because of the fine work of the Honolulu boy.

## First Title

This was Crabbe's first Olympic title—he finished third in the 1,500 meter event at the 1928 Olympics.

It would be a great thing for Buster if he could win two Olympic titles, and it now looks very much as though he will turn the trick in spite of the fast times turned in by the Japanese swimmers in practice.

Before Ned Crabbe, Buster's father, left for the mainland to attend the Olympic games, he expressed confidence that his boy would win the 1,500, but doubted that he would make much of a showing in the 400 event.

The reason for the confidence of Crabbe Senior, he informed us, was that he had received reports on the time Buster had been making in practice in the 1,500 event—times that were not made public.

The best time ever recorded for the 1,500 meters was 19 minutes 7.2 seconds, made by Arne Borg in 1927. The best time the Japanese swimmers have made is around 19 minutes 42 seconds.

According to his father, Buster has made better than 19 minutes 30 seconds in practice. If that is the case, we will probably have a Honolulu boy crowned a double Olympic champion.

## NOT RECORD NOW

When Buster Crabbe swam the 400 meters in 4 minutes 48.4 seconds yesterday he broke the existing world record of 4 minutes 50.3 seconds made by Arne Borg in Stockholm in 1925. He also broke the American record of 4 minutes 52 seconds made in Honolulu in 1927 by Johnny Weissmuller.

Crabbe's time, however, will not stand as a world record for the simple reason that the International Swimming Federation met last night and recognized as a new world record the time of 4 minutes 47 seconds made recently by Jean Paris of France.

That is certainly hard luck for Crabbe. However, the Honolulu boy is in such wonderful condition right now that perhaps he will get another crack at Paris' record in a post-Olympic swim.

At any rate he will hold the American record and has the satisfaction of having knocked over one of Johnny Weissmuller's marks.

## LAST CHANCE

This will probably be the last time Crabbe will perform in the Olympic games.

Temptations are being placed in his path to turn professional, and it is unlikely that he will be able to withstand them over another four year period.

Buster is a big, good looking chap and the movie folks have approached him with a very flattering offer. No doubt this offer will be renewed now that he is an Olympic champion.

It is a fine thing to remain in the amateur ranks, but we have often heard folks express the opinion that Duke Kahanamoku should have turned pro and made some money out of his swimming ability at the time when he was riding on the crest of public favor.

Crabbe is having a hard time making a decision on just what he will do. He has finished his preliminary law studies at the U. S. C. and wants to continue his studies at Yale or Harvard. Perhaps he will do that and wave the movie offers aside until a later date.