

# CRABBE'S JOB WAS TOO BIG



Deserves Credit for Showing He Made in Olympics; Six Days of Continuous Olympic Swimming Proves Too Much For Champion

By DON WATSON

HAWAII swim fans had hoped that Buster Crabbe would be able to come through with a double victory in the Olympic games—finish on top in the 1,500 meter freestyle swim as well as in the 400 meter event.

When one looks back on Crabbe's program for the last week, however, it is easy to see that he tackled an almost impossible job. He had to swim the 400 meter trials, semi-finals and finals in three successive days. The day following the finals of the 400 he had to swim the 1,500 meter trials, then the semi-finals the following day and the finals the day after that event.

Six successive days of Olympic competition. It proved too much for both Crabbe and Jean Tarris, the two men who swam in the two events and who battled it out for second place in the first 1,500 meter trial the very next morning after they had staged a thrilling battle for first place in the 400 meters.

There is no question but this took too much out of the boys. This is clearly shown by the fact that Tarris, who is rated as a great 1,500 meter swimmer, finished sixth and Crabbe fifth in the 1,500 finals.

## HAD DONE BETTER

Both Crabbe and Tarris turned in better times in the 1,500 meter trials than they did in the finals.

It was just a case of going a bit beyond their endurance. Crabbe was apparently in wonderful condition and would probably have made a much better showing in the 1,500 had it not been for the fact that he and Tarris staged such a hectic battle in the 400 meter finals.

Swimmers of the class of these boys can swim 400 meters in 5 minutes flat and not lose a great deal of strength. But when they cover the distance in time that is 12 seconds faster than that it is a different story.

It's just the same as a sprinter who can run 100 yards in 10.1 seconds or 10.2 seconds and hardly notice it, but who loses a great deal of strength when he runs the same distance in 9.5 seconds or better.

Much credit is due Buster Crabbe for his fighting spirit. He tried hard to win both events, but couldn't quite make the grade. And don't forget that he was the only American to win a title in the men's swimming events. The United States won the men's diving and took most of the points in the women's events, but Buster was the only one to finish first in the men's swimming races.

## PRAISE FOR JAPANESE

Coaches and others who have spoken over mainland radio stations during the past several nights have had nothing but praise to say about the Japanese swimmers.

Two months ago it was hard to realize how the swimmers of any country could develop from practically nothing to Olympic champions within the short period of eight years. There were many arguments over that point, especially after Coach Bob Kipnuth of the American Olympic swimming team came out with the warning that the Japanese must be watched.

But the Japanese boys won the men's Olympic swimming championship, took it away from the United States. Perhaps with George Kojac on the U. S. team our boys might have squeezed out a victory, but even with him it would have been very close.

The only thing to do now is to start planning for the 1936 Olympics and lay plans to win that swimming title back. And don't forget that the Japanese are also going to improve during these next four years.

## HAS CHANCE

Here is a chance for Hawaii to break into the limelight again in Olympic competition.

Buster Crabbe, of course, is a Honolulu boy—he has just been loaned to California during the time he is up there attending university.

But what Hawaii should do is work harder than ever on its swimming program. A few years ago the swimmers from Hawaii practically won the Olympic swim title for the United States. It would be a great thing if Hawaii could contribute swimmers to bring the title back to America.

There are many youngsters coming along who, in four years, could be developed into world's champions. During the past few years interest in swimming has died down in the Islands and now is the time to start building the sport up again.

The best swimmer Hawaii had this year failed to reach the finals in the trials for the U. S. sprint team. Yet the best of the U. S. Olympic sprinters finished in third place. That shows just how far the Hawaii swimmers will have to go to become champions.



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