

# Champion Swimmers Put Hawaii In the Forefront Of World Water Sports

Despite Apparent Success Zenith of Achievement  
Has Not Been Reached; New Punahou Tank  
Will Provide Means And Incentive For  
Detailed Instruction And Greater  
Feats.

By MRS. E. FULLARD LEO,  
Secretary Hawaiian Association Amateur  
Athletic Union of the United  
States.

The history of swimming in Hawaii is also the history of the A. A. U. in Hawaii, and it is hard to tell whether swimming made the A. A. U. or whether the A. A. U. made swimming. Be that as it may, the fact remains that no other factor has helped more to put Hawaii on the map than this combination. Credit goes to three men who helped to start the work and stuck to it before our public recognized what it had in swimming, gave unstintingly of time and means; therefore let us not forget the late John H. Soper, Lorrin Andrews and Wm. Rawlins. Others have arrived and carry on successfully, but they stood the test.

In spite of our apparent success, I don't believe we have nearly reached our zenith, for think of the many handicaps: until now lack of tank for detailed instruction in the finer points of the game, including diving, plunging, polo, etc.; apparent lack of club spirit which means so much in other countries; lack of swimming facilities on the other Islands of the Territory, where talent lies undeveloped. Therefore, with the opening of the two college tanks this year, we are only just arriving. It is most gratifying to know that at last educators and our leading citizens recognize the worth of swimming, and may we live to see every public school equipped with a swimming tank.

## Big Advertising Asset

I know of two countries where no policeman or school teacher receives appointment unless they have qualified in swimming and the useful part of it—life-saving. Swimming and our public meets form the biggest advertising asset this Territory has, and yet when foreign competitors are invited here the Tourist Bureau finds itself without a fund from which to give a ten-dollar trophy.

The Amateur Athletic Union is doing its share. What may we expect from our public bodies? Whether it is for trophies at swimming and track meets or to send our deserving champions to compete in national events, we must face the humiliation of public begging. By giving the children of today public playgrounds and swimming pools you fortify the citizens of tomorrow and help them to find other use for the goals we leave them.

The board of managers of the A. A. U. stands ready at all times to cooperate with the public in matters athletic, and through experience recommends to the government "Amateur Athletics" as an A1 Americanization factor.

## The Discovery of Duke

The first swim meet held in Hawaii under Amateur Athletic Union rules was on August 12, 1911, when Duke P. Kahanamoku was discovered. As a result of his fast times doubted by A. A. U. officials on the mainland, he was taken through the States to "deliver the goods" in person. At the Stockholm Olympiad in 1912, Duke, representing America, established a 100-meter record (which stood, and was only beaten by himself twelve years later at Antwerp), and from that time on Hawaii has been in the world's limelight as the home of swimming. It

has led ever since, not only in record but in staging swimming meets such as were never before witnessed in the United States. Hawaii has always been ready to bring the best talent here, as many as five swimmers at a time, wild trips, according to an Eastern authority, was the principal incentive for the development of mainland swimmers. It is safe to say that more national and international marks have been hung up in Honolulu harbor than in any other course in the world.

## Won Laurels Abroad

Three local swimming teams visited the States at different times, another going to Australia in 1915. Hawaii's greatest swimming success was achieved in 1920, when our team of seven swimmers went to the Olympiad tryout, all qualifying, and, together with caperou and manager, made the American team at Antwerp, to further add to Hawaii's laurels. Apart from this team, Hawaii furnished the navy with three of its best swimmers. Immediately after the return of the Olympiad team, two of our boys went to Australia and New Zealand, where they were received like princes. We returned the compliment by inviting an Australian team for the May, 1921, meet, and now have an invitation to New Zealand.

## World's Records Established

The first A. A. U. meet, August 12, 1911, brought to the front Duke. Since then annual championships and intermediate meets have been held, through which Hawaii has become famous, every one larger than the former. The first meet had some forty entries, and recent ones registered well over 400.

June, 1915, Duke established the 100 yards world's record of 53 seconds, which remained untouched until equalled by his countryman, Pua Kealoha, in August, 1921. Duke's 23 seconds straight-away for 50 yards still stands since September, 1917. Olympic records are held by Duke as follows:

One hundred meters, 1 min. 2/3 sec. (the classic of the swimming world, in which Pua finished second in 1 min. 2 1/5 sec.; Harris finished third, in 1 min. 3 1/5 sec.)

Warren Kealoha—100 meter back stroke, 1 min. 14 4/5 sec.

Duke and Pua on winning relay team of four men, over 800 meters, won by America in 10 min. 4 2/3 sec.

Mariechen Wehselau ties American 50 yards with Bleibtrei in 28 4/5 sec.

## Duke of Leinster Dead

EDINBURGH, Scotland, Feb. 4.—(Associated Press)—Maurice Fitzgerald, sixth duke of Leinster and premier peer of Ireland, died today. He was born in 1887 and was not married. His heir is his brother, Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

## TWINING TO COMMAND SPECIAL SQUADRON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—(Associated Press)—Capt. C. L. Hussey, who is in command of the naval reserve division in the bureau of navigation here, was ordered today to London to succeed Rear Admiral Nathan Twining as naval attache at the American embassy. Admiral Twining has been designated as commander of the special service squadron.