WEISSMULLER TAKES BOTH EVENTS

SQUABBLE ON IN 100 BACKSTROKE

HUI MAKANI SCORES MORE POINTS

By MIKE JAY

Slam! Bang!

And down went two world records Saturday night at the Hui Makani meet at Punahou tank. But it is likely that only one of those records will ever get into the little blue dope book issued yearly by the national A. A. U.

There is no question of the victory of Johnny Weissmuller, Illinois Athletic club star, in the 100 yards free style, which record he cracked as wide open as the Pacific ocean by making it in :52.3. But when it comes to the 1:04.4 in the 100 yards backstroke, the timers say Warren Kealoha made it though the judges say the visitor finished first.

And there it stands, with the matter taken under advisement by the games committee of the meet.

The Punahou tank sounded like the left field bleachers at a ball park when the judges announced their verdict for Weissmuller with Warren Kealoha second in the century supine.

"Robbery."

"Burglars."

"Call the po-leece!"

If there had been any soda water bottles handy they would have gone flying into the tank as part of the protest against the decision which came only after a long conference between officials.

Great Go!

It was a beautiful race. The visitor swam in the extreme makai lane, while Warren had the outside mauka path. In between was Charles Pung, who incidentally was not more than a yard behind at the finish of the record-breaking swim. They got off perfectly. It was the first time in the meet that Weissmuller got away with the others. At the end of the first 25 yards they turned together as one man. Coming into the end of the half century, Pung was leading by a hair with Weissmuller and Warren together.

Warren got into the lead down the third lap, but he and Weissmuller were together on the last turn. Pung was a foot behind. The two stars sprinted down the home stretch. Weissmuller appeared to be a breath ahead of Warren at the 85-yard mark, but Warren was coming like a house a-fire. The crowd rose to its feet yelling:

"Come on, Warren!"

Some Finish

The two came on, Warren's arms threshing the water like a flail in a wheat field. Weissmuller's arms seemed to work slower and it looked like he coasted the last foot to the finishing line. "Boof!" went the flashlight apparatus overhead, blinding everything for an instant.

"Warren wins!" yelled most of the spectators, and those who were in doubt said:

"Well, it was a close one. By a hair, whoever got it."

Then came the Genoa conference that lasted so long. The fans grew impatient and grumbled for the results. The grumble swelled to a murmur and the murmur rose to a yell that finally became a roar, and the officials broke apart while Scorer Warriner and the announcer took up a position of vantage.

The Madding Crowd

The big crowd grew silent. So silent that one could hear the little waves lapping in the cuppers of the tank.

"Result 100 yards backstroke open," droned the announcer, and then continued after a pause:

"First, John Weissmuller——"

That's as far as he got when the house moaned its disapproval. The moan mounted into calls, and no bull ring in Spain ever heard so much abuse. There were even some hisses hurled down.

The indignation meeting continued into the next event and for the remainder of the meet, too. It was thought that the judges' decision was final, but it was learned later that the games committee has the power to change it should it see fit to do so. The committee still has the matter under advisement.

All But One

All the timers but one clicked their watches on Kealoha as being the first hand to touch. The timers were Robert Horner, R. A. Vitousek, A. H. Myhre, Ben Hollinger, P. M. Smoot and Merle M. Johnson.

The judges, H. N. Mosher, Duke P. Kahanamoku, Herman von Holt, B. H. Clarke and Lawrence Cunha picked Weissmuller as the first to finish.

The time made clipped one and three-fifths seconds from the old mark and incidentally proved that Warren has it in him, when pushed, to make new marks in the backstroke. Some of the old natators have held that the backstroke century would never be brought down below 1:05 but the performance Saturday night indicated that the day is not far distance when the time for the event will be set close to the minute.

Clean Win

Weissmuller scored a clean-cut victory in the 100 yards open. There was no question of his win in this event. He simpled outclassed the rest. Bill Harris, who finished second three feet behind the winner, swam the best century he has ever done and in that he showed that he is still coming forward. Weissmuller's time of :52.3 is the best ever made anywhere, tank or open water, for the distance. Duke's best time in a tank, the world record up to Saturday, was :53.1.

Harris hit the water first in this number. Weissmuller was a touch behind Harris at the first turn but he took the lead at 30 yards and was never threatened after that. Harris was two yards behind at one time in the race but his gallant spurt on the stretch brought him within a yard at the finish.

The other record to fall Saturday night was an island mark. Mariechen Wehselau swam one of the hardest races of her career to nose out her clubmate, Lillie Bowmer, in the 50 yards women's open. Lillie beat the champion to the turn and seemed to have the race in hand when Mariechen spurted on the final stretch and won by a hand. She clipped three-fifths from her own mark.

Points

So far as the women's events are concerned, the Outrigger Canoe club girls won the meet with 45 points for the two nights with Hui Makani second with eight points.

In the men's events, excluding the medley relay, which is a freak event, the Hui Makani took high honors with a total of 27 points. The Illinois Athletic club was second with 18 points, Weissmuller being the highest individual scorer. The Outrigger and Hui Nalus tied for third place with 16 points each.

Minor Events

The first race of the night was pretty. Buster Brown took the lead in the 50 novice breaststroke and held it to the finish. The time was slow but the event was thrilling enough for Philip Kahala gave Brown a tussle for honors. Kahala was disqualified for using a wrong kick.

Eleanor Bickerton had the race to herself in the 25 yards for girls under 13 years when half way down the stretch but seemed to slow up there and had to sprint finally to nose out Elsie Brown of Palama.

Ah Kong Pang pushed Sam Kahanamoku to within a fifth of a second of the record in the 100 breast stroke. Sam won by a yard following a hectic pace down the last 25 yards.

Lillie Bowmer was more or less an easy victor in the 50 yards women backstroke for novices. The rest of the field straggled in behind her. The consolation races were distinguished by the fact that there were few entrants, there being two for the men's and only one for the women's.

Surprise

There was a surprise in the 400 yards A. A. U. national junior women's club relay championship. The Outrigger club's best team finished second while the team headed by Ruth Scudder won. The time was slow.

Slow time was recorded in the 200 yards men's club relay which wound up the meet. The Outrigger club won by a yard from the rest of the field, an unusual number of teams taking part. The Hui Nalus and Hui Makanis, each had two teams in this event.

The diving events were good. The quality of the men's diving is rapidly improving. Jack Hjorth won the high diving but there were plenty of other good performers also. Only three were in the women's diving and all three gave creditable performances.

"Mark your winner now and guess the second man" is the way one fan put it as the men's plunge started. Simerson, as expected, won but his time was slow.

THE INSIDER

The crowd at the Hui Makani meet Saturday night was roughly estimated at 3000 fans.

All the records were made in the early part of the evening but the rest of the meet was not dull.

The press stand being securely hidden behind the diving stand, the scribes were in poor position to judge the backstroke problem.

"But just wait till we get him in the open water" is the exultant cry of the local swim fans with regard to Johnny Weissmuller's feats in the tank.

"More" yelled the fans when Jack Hjorth, Hui Nalu diver, wanted to cease his clowning.

Hjorth did a skate along the floor level tank, a gunpowder dive, a Yiddish dive and a Hui Nalu special besides a dive with no name.

There was more talk over that backstroke race than there is at a Bolsheviki banquet.

Starter Cottrell had to fire his "recall" shots for the first time in many moons for the men's plunge.

The only timer who caught Weissmuller in the backstorke cannot be called a green hand for he has timed swimming races in the past.

The od thing was that Weissmuller swam over at the end of the backstroke and congratulated Warren Kealoha.

"Gee that was a close race" yelled some funny-bone expert in the stand when Helen Young, solo entrant, finished the women's consolation event.

Lillie Bowmer's showing in the women's events has centered the eye of the swimming public upon her and she will be watched closely in the future.

"E-nay" Makinney was the smallest diver in the men's events. But his form is improving rapidly.

As a matter of fact a "high-out-of-the-water" swimmer like Weissmuller should be aided if anything in salt water, which has greater lifting power.

It is an absolute certainty that every fan who took in the tank meet is going to see the open water meet just to watch Warren and Johnny again in the 100 backstroke.

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