

CENTER MAY RETIRE AS PREXY FIGHT FOR A. A. U. CHAIR FIGURED CONKLING AND RAWLINS BOOSTED

By MIKE JAY

Weather forecast for Hawaiian A. A. U. would read: Clouds gathering; barometer falling, and big storm coming!

George "Dad" Center, president of the Hawaiian A. A. U. for the past two terms, and the man who by force of personality raised the organization from the depths into which it had sunk and placed it on a new high pinnacle, speaks seriously of retiring from active business directorship of athletics to devote his time to developing young swimmers. Even before that announcement it is generally reported that both William T. Rawlins and D. L. Conkling were in the race for the presidency of the Hawaiian A. A. U.

The Outrigger Canoe club meeting comes July 27, a week from tonight at the Library of Hawaii and at that meeting it will not be at all surprising to hear "Dad" Center resign as captain of the club. The captaincy of the club is generally understood to be a permanent job, although each year, the members go through the form of electing the man holding it but while it has a high sounding title it has also a lot of work to it. Besides that, Center has been swimming coach to the Outrigger Canoe club for many years without pay.

Offer Him

It is understood that an offer has been made to him to become a professional swimming coach. That he is competent there is no doubt. That he has the personality of the successful coach cannot be disputed for it came out when Otto Wahle was fired by the American swimmers on the trip. The American Olympic committee. The swimmers held an election and picked "Dad" Center as coach and though he did all the heavy work he got little of the credit. The American Olympic committee even overlooked his work in the volume they issued on the performances of American athletes in the meet.

But the swimmers and divers, who worked under his direction to the greater glory of American athletics, did not overlook him. Alleen Allen, Charlotte Boyle, Margaret Woodbridge, Norman Ross and other swimmers and divers who wrote for various newspapers and syndicates lauded Center and the foremost authority on swimming in United States, L. de B. Handley of New York, gave Center a whole page in pictures and praise in one of the leading Gotham newspapers.

Two Others

As a professional swimming coach naturally Center could no longer remain head of the Hawaiian A. A. U. or even be a delegate from the Outrigger Canoe club to the local amateur athletic union.

That would mean that there would have to be a new president for the Hawaiian A. A. U. W. T. Rawlins has been president before and is reported to have ambitions in that respect again. D. L. Conkling is being boosted by his following for the job. The first named is Hui Nalu representative and the second is Hui Makani representative on the board.

May Hold Him

It is still a question whether the Outrigger Canoe club will allow Center to resign as captain. His work has been such that the club members would rather have him remain than anything else and strong pressure will no doubt be brought to bear to retain him in the job of captain and representative of the Outrigger Canoe club on the Hawaiian A. A. U.

turns to the A. A. U. as Outrigger representative it will mean a three-cornered fight for the presidency with probably Center being reelected.

Gone Upward

During his presidency, the Hawaiian A. A. U. has gained a position of respect through the excellent work done in promoting amateur athletics. This could not have been done without cooperation and that was the one thing which Center worked for and succeeded in getting. Under his guiding hand all the clubs prospered and for the first time in years really successful swimming meets were held and the first successful track meet took place. Without doubt there will be a strong effort made to have him reelected president of the A. A. U. for another term at the annual meeting in September.

Into the Outer Darkn

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A. P. Kraomlein

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M. C. Buermeyer

Charles K. Patach

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