ND MERMAIDS

Century Dash and 200 Relay Marks Smashed In Punahou Tank Meet

Mariechen Wehselau Betters Time Made By Ethelda Bleibtrey In 1921; Helen Moses Wins Swanzy Cup; Ruth Scudder Swims On Relay Team

By MIKE JAY

GREAT moments come to every woman and in the life of Mariechen Wehselau, Outrigger swimmer, there came such a moment Saturday night last at the Punahou tank. It was that moment when she climbed out of the pool, panting and almost exhausted with a ringing in her ears that deadened the frantic cheering of the wild, excited swimming fans. She did not have to be told that she had broken the world record for 100 yards. She could see it in the startled faces of the veteran timers as they compared their watches. She could feel it in the tense, vibrating atmosphere about her. A world record in the blue ribbon distance of all swimming. Something surely to make one's head reel with the immensity of the achievement. And she had accomplished it and more than that, beaten her rival and clubmate who had scored over her a few evenings before. Yes, and one's best beau in the grandstand watching and applauding also! Can you imagine a greater triumph? Truly, it was a grand moment for Mariechen.

The century was the second event of the evening. The crowd fell silent as the girls lined up for the start. Lillie Bowmer was the favorite by virtue of her world record in the 50 yards Thursday night.

Off They Go!

Bang! They were off to an excellent plunge. Lillie seemed to have a trifle the edge on the first turn, but the margin was so small that it did not really matter. At the 50 yard mark they turned together. The rest of the field did not matter. The crowd knew that and devoted its attention to these two stars battling it out for supremacy in the distance which is regarded as the blue ribbon event of any swimming meet. Mariechen used her powerful, long pull, with a tremendous leg thrash. Lillie's stroke seemed more choppy and her feet seemed to come higher out of the water with the kick. Also the third turn Lillie's reverse was not as finished and neat and she lost possibly a foot. But that was enough for Mariechen.

All the blood of the Saxons that flows in Mariechen's veins came to the front on that dash down the stretch. She had been hitting a big clip in the first 75 yards and she's also known to have something left, for she opened up at the 85-yard mark and breezed into the finish a yard to the good and-four-fifths of a second better than the world record made by Ethelda Bleibtrey at the Brighton Beach baths July 16, 1921.

She Will Do It

There were plenty of swimming fans Saturday night willing to predict that if ever a woman will swim the 100 yards under the minute, that girl will be Mariechen Wehselau. Certainly her performance places her on the top of the heap, the one girl who can be regarded as the first claim to the title of the best woman sprint swimmer in the world.

Other Marks

The other world record to fall Saturday night was the 200 yards relay, in which both Mariechen and Lillie joined together with Helen Moses who won the Swanzy cup, and Ruth Scudder, who showed for the first time in many moons in a swimming meet.

It is odd, but the old record of 2:42 made by the Outrigger club girls at the University of Hawaii tank July 29, 1921, had almost the same team in it. The only change was Lillie Bowmer in place of Estelle Cassidy. The new time is 1:58.2, which is a considerable slice from the old mark.

Island Records

There were three islands records broken also. The most important of these was the 100 yards service, which Carroll Olsen of Schofield won by a squeak from C. Hunt of Pearl Harbor. The time was under a minute by a fifth of a second and broke the old mark by two and four-fifths seconds.

The 50 yards business girls' record was broken by Miss Purdy, who swam against time. She made 32.2, which was three seconds better than the old mark. The other record was also made against time, the McKinley High school team doing the 100 yards relay in 1:04.1, a full second better than the former record.

Rest Is Tame

The other events of the evening were dwarfed by the world record made in the second race. In the century backstroke Charles Pung gave Warren Kealoha a good race up to the 75-yard mark. Then Warren walked in, a yard to the good. His time was slow as compared to the world record, made a year ago, when Warren and Johnny Weissmuller raced it in 1:04.4. It has never been decided which man owns the record. The race has gone down in history as "that backstroke muddle."

Sam Hachamaoku was an easy winner in the 100 breast stroke, and Ah Kong Pang did not give him much of a race. The time was five seconds slower than the tank record.

The 440 yards men's novice was a good race for 350 yards between Carroll Olson and Fred Schmidt, but after that Olson was never questioned. Phillips Brooks is improving rapidly. He finished third and swam an excellent race.

The Swanzy cup was awarded to Helen Moses, who made 17 points. Mariechen Merselau was second with 15 and Dorothy Waters was third. Helen now has made 66 points. Mariechen has won the cup twice and has 57 points. The cup tourney requires a competitor to take part in the 100 open, the diving, the plunge, the 50 back and 50 breast.

The battle for the Theo. H. Davies cup was won by the Schofield swimmers from the Honolulu soccer swimmers.

By a score of 16 to 11 the Doles defeated the Maluhia Midgets Saturday.

COTTRELL HAS 632 PERFECT SWIM STARTS

When the fifth annual Hawaiian swimming meet for women closed Saturday night at Punahou tank, W. A. "Knute" Cottrell marked up 632 perfect swimming race starters without a call-back. He wants to retire now but the Hawaiian A. A. U. hopes to persuade him to continue his efforts and try for the 1000 mark.