MARIECHEN W

World Record In 100 Gives Her Full Right To the Coveted Title

Swimming Has Made Island Champion; Was a Tiny Youngster Three Years Ago: Full Of Fight and Never Gives Up; Defeat Only Makes Her More Determined

By MIKE JAY

Mariechen Wehselau has arrived! Today she is the world champion mermaid sprinter by virtue of the fact that



she recently swam 100 yards in the fastest time that it has ever been negotiated by a woman anywhere in the world. She made the distance in one minute and three seconds. It happened last week at Punahou tank but not many who saw the performance realized that it was a tremendous achievement. Blase Honolulu swimming fans are always that. They applauded in the usual Oh-I-say-well-done manner. To them it was just another world record and they have become so used to seeing world records broken that, honestly, they vote a swimming meet a poor affair where at least one world record is not smashed for their benefit. But, really, Mariechen's performance was greater than a mere world record. She is the first girl mermaid in the career that promises to be filled with great momcnts.

George "Dad" Center, coach of the Outrigger Canoe club, is the man who discovered Miss Wehselau as a sprinter, made a prediction about three years ago that she was in 1929, just after the Olympic games.

A little bit of a snub-nosed youngster, shy and timid, with the habit of putting the little finger in her mouth and chewing it to the extent where she was learning to swim with the other Outrigger Canoe club girl tots.

History

Center was concentrating his attention on Ruth Scudder, who at that time gave great promise of temporarily, only to suffer illness and accidents later which put her out of the running for the Hawaiian team. Helen Moses was another looming star. She left Honolulu from Hilo and in the trials had gone 54 yards and just missed Little Boyle of New York. Helen had finished third in the 100 trials in the meet and because of her showing, she was sent to Paris. The little freckled youngster, Mariechen was left behind. At that time she weighed less than 100 pounds and though her arm movement was good, she had a poor breath and took her feet out of the water much too much.

"If I can ever get that kid to learn to kick, I can make a champion out of her," remarked Center in 1920 before sailing for the Olympic games. Later that year after the games were over and the team had returned, Center was "squeaky," as he called her, swim in a tank meet at the Y. M. C. A. He had taken much notice of her up to then, but she was reveling herself upon his attention to her work.

Prediction

It was after that meet that he made his prediction, a prediction that sounded ever - enthusiastic then, but which has been proved now, in part at least.

He declared that he had at last found a girl who could make into a world champion sprint swimmer. He added that if he could find another girl of similar ability and then one more and other he would eventually bring the world record for 100 yards for women over the minute.

"Under the minute?"

That's the question that the swimming fans will mouth with exclamation and questioning mark. The swimming fans popped the same question when Center told the men swimmers were hearing the report that Sid Cavill had made to the mainland and that Daniels had lowered it below the minute.

Leads Far Ahead

Today the swimming fans cannot begin to think of Mariechen making the 100 yards under the minute. But just imagine how many fans have wondered when Center speculated about the minute distance ago when Bidlingmaier was doing 1:02.1 to break the record of Fanny Durack. Well, Bidlingmaier is dead and years. Most of the girl swimmers were doing 1:04 and 1:03 in those days and feeling that such times were marvelous.

But now part of Center's prediction has come true. Mariechen made that mark and is a champion sprinter and so that other half of the prediction must come true because in Lillie Bowmer he has what many believe to be material of equal ability—a swimmer who will make the present holder of the century record swim faster and faster to hold that record until the time comes to the 59-second mark.

Surely Can

Somebody was teasing Center the other day about the fact that he had had a hard time to teach Mariechen to kick her legs.

"She can certainly kick now, eh, Dad?" he was asked.

"I'll say she can! You ought to hear her complain if things aren't just so-so-so," he replied, meaning that stars have a habit of getting temperamental.

Continuing, Center declared he would rather have swimmers who are full of complaints, i. e., kicks, than those who are not.

"Usually it means that they possess fight. Now, this youngster is the poorest loser that I know of. She gets sore at herself when she doesn't do her work. She gives everything she has in the way of speed and stamina to win, and if something goes wrong she is not content until she has beaten that particular something or somebody's record.

"Now and then you run across a cool and flighing swimmer who is a good loser, but I'll take Mariechen or Scudder, who has had more tough luck than Mariechen, who hates to lose. That's the exception that proves the rule."

"Lillie Bowman is a fighting swimmer, too, however. She does not show her disappointment if she loses, but she hates to be considered a loser of them all. That's why you will see Lillie in the future, who will ever continue to beat her. They may beat her now and then, but she will never be licked.

"She cries when she loses a race. She's young and doesn't realize she lost the race as because it isn't her day. She will come back and get her vengeance on the victor. You've got to have that spirit in you. That is one of that type, and that is the reason why she will never be the threshold of being the greatest girl swimmer in the world for all distances.

"Any chance of her becoming champion? Mariechen Luck." Center was asked.

"Don't worry on that score. The swell-headed swimmer loses speed. There will be no chance for them around to make things uncertain for Mariechen. One or the other of them will star in the next Olympic games. Perhaps both of them will star. So you may be assured that neither will brim with overconfidence," smiled Center.

Questions

ONE—If a batter is hit by a pitched ball that goes directly over the plate, what is the ruling?

TWO—What was the ruling made by the major leagues relative to a ball hitting a bat?

THREE—Can a batsman be removed at any time, regardless of the balls or strikes that may be called?

FOUR—If, after two strikes have been pitched to a batsman, the batter, team at bat discovers the umpire has called the batsman to be substituted?

FIVE—If, after two out, a base runner is hit by a batted ball which carries him to first, does the batsman receive credit for a hit?

Answers

ONE—If, in the opinion of the umpire, the delivery was up to the specifications of a legal pitch, it would so rule it whether or not it hit the batsman.

TWO—The major leagues ruled that the pitcher who delivered a batted ball in 1920 would be allowed to continue pitching in the game.

THREE—A batsman can be removed at any time. The rule is directed to take his place simply when he refuses to take his turn at the batter at the time of removal.

FOUR—The batsman cannot be substituted when the mistake is discovered, and he simply takes his count that was due him in proper batter.

FIVE—The batter always receives credit for a hit on such a play, no matter what the status of the game may be.

POLO SCHOOL WILL START NEXT WEEK

A polo school is to be started next week at Schofield Barracks, all officers who wish to learn the game. The idea is to develop new players for the coming inter-department meet.

Lieut. Col. P. F. Browne and Maj. Joe Swing of the Schofield Polo Association have returned home tomorrow from the mainland.

SCHEDULED

Polo practice is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Kapiolani polo field.