

Hawaii To Be Tested In Tryouts

SOLVE RIVALRY QUESTION

Local Swimmers Have Tough Row

ONE of the interesting things that is going to happen this spring during the national tryouts for the American Olympic team, will be the pitting together, and final settlement of that much discussed question: "Are Hawaiian swimmers superior to those on the mainland, or do they just think they are?"

In comparative times for different distances, it would appear that the entire quota of Hawaiian swimmers averages up just a little under the average of the best swimmers on the mainland. For any one section, Hawaii appears to have the most uniformly developed swimmers, both among men and women, of world championship caliber.

The Illinois Athletic club will, of course, provide the strongest competition for the locals. There are many swimmers throughout the country who will gather at Indianapolis, and if any island men place on the national team, they will have to be in the best form possible.

WARREN BEST

Warren Kealoha is undoubtedly the best man Hawaii has to offer for the American team. The Hui Makani star is capable of finishing in the money in any free style sprint. Weismuller could probably shade him, but there is a possibility of Warren even defeating the Illinois boy. Duke Kahanamoku has not shown enough speed on the coast recently to be in the running, but there is a strong possibility of Duke warming up enough in time for the trials to get back into his old form.

The chance of Duke and Johnny meeting for the first time at Indianapolis will also be interesting. Duke is the most powerful reserve swimmer that has ever been in the game, and when in condition he was always able to overcome long leads after loafing along for half the way, simply by the tremendous sprint power which he possesses.

In backstroke Johnny, Stubby Kruger, and possibly Horn of Illinois will be the chief competitors for Kealoha, Luning and Pung. With Warren far surpassing any of the rest, the other two local boys would probably be able to rank about evenly with the two mainlanders.

In long distances Hawaii will again be reckoned, in the performances of Warren Kealoha. Warren swam the 1500 meters last October without competition in 22:04, less than 10 seconds over the world record for the event. This places Warren in a field that he has never before assailed. He will probably not be able to do much in the distances if he concentrates on short distances and backstroke.

LAST EDGE

In the women's events, Hawaii has undoubtedly lost her supremacy. Lillie Bowmer is the only world champion left among the island

swimmers. She holds a world record for the 50 yards, at :28 flat. The half-century is not a swimming distance any more, however, and her ability to swim faster than any other women swimmers will not stand her in much stead against the endurance of Gertrude Ederle, Peggy Williamson and other women swimmers.

Mariechen Wehselau is still to be heard from in the century, in which she holds the world tank record. Miss Ederle's open water time is slower than the mark of 1:03 set up by Mariechen in March, 1923.

Helen Moses is an unknown figure in the middle distance. She will not only have Gertrude Ederle to battle against, but will also be pitted against Agnes Geraghty, Gotham mermaid whose recent performances have placed her in the limelight. Helen Wainwright will also be strong in the 440-yard swims. Helen will be a strong bet for Hawaii, however; with a little more speed she should have a fair chance of defeating the New York women.

Pau Kealoha and Sam Kahanamoku are able to do well under 55 seconds consistently, which places them among the foremost swimmers of the country. Sam is a boy whose power has never been tapped; he is almost capable of equaling the performances of his famous brother if he puts more power into his arms. He will present a big chunk of opposition to the American entries.

In the breaststroke there are none from the islands who can at the most be better than poor first raters or good second raters. Kirschbaum is a new man at the game, and while he shows promise, he hasn't come yet and although he may make the Hawaiian team, he would stand little chance against Faricy and other national stars.