



Norman Ross Says:

First of the Pre-Olympics Proves a Success

THE first pre-Olympic swimming meet Saturday was a decided success from a standpoint of competition, and the good done the swimmers was great. The meet was poorly supported, however. Those fans who failed to go missed some of the best races which have been held here in a long while. Sam Kahanamoku's brilliant start in the open hundred, when he gained a lead of two yards in the first 50, and Warren Kealoha's gallant bid which brought him nearly to a dead heat finish in the last few yards, were only two of the bright spots of the show.

Sammy rather featured the evening's entertainment. He hung on to Kirschbaum in the breaststroke in great fashion, trailing him for 200 hundred yards. Coming with a rush in the last length, he just nipped the Hui Makani flash at the tape, winning by the narrowest of margins. This was the most interesting event of the evening to the writer, on account of the Olympic possibilities involved.

Kirschbaum swims excellently when he is not pushed, but in the last length in this race, his tendency to swim a foul stroke became apparent, and his kick in those last 20 yards would have disqualified him in Olympic trials in the states or at the matches in Paris.

This will have to be corrected if he is to figure in national or international circles. Kahanamoku's stroke was not pretty to watch, being too labored, but he showed great fight and, after all, it is the stroke which carries one over the line first which counts. Either of these men might make the Olympic team.

Warren Kealoha put up a good race in the backstroke, covering the 100 yards in time which missed the record by only 3-5 of a second. Had he not been tired from his great effort in the 100 freestyle, he would undoubtedly have returned Weissmuller's compliment by breaking one of the lanky Chicagoans marks.

The freestyle races for men were a decided disappointment from the standpoint of performance. Hawaii is supposed to have great sprinters, yet the last two centuries have gone in time which is being equaled in most of the college and club meets in the middle west and east nowadays. Pua Kealoha is far from the form which made him a joint holder with Duke of the 100 yards open water mark, although he was evidently under the weather Saturday night.

Lillie Bowmer is a versatile lass. Her high diving was excellent, and in the backstroke she showed form which might well place her in the running for the American team in that event. Outside of the great star, Sybil Bauer, there is no one in the states who can swim consistently under 1:20. Miss Bowmer's Hawaiian record is only a fraction of a second over this.

Pung, who was second in the backstroke handicap, really swam faster than his teammate, Warren, according to his coach, Harvey Chilton, who stated that the little flash did 1:04 4-5.