

# America is Stronger Than Ever in Sprinters: Gives Duke the Second Place

Ranking Is Made By Famous Swimmer At Request of Frederick Rubien of National Body; To Be Used As Guide By National Swimming Committee Before Trials

The ranking of American swimmers by Norman Ross was a task undertaken at the request of Frederick W. Rubien of the National A. A. U., who will turn over the list to the swimming committee for its use and guidance before the trials at Indianapolis in June.

By **NORMAN ROSS**

Any attempt to rank the swimmers of the country is bound to be more or less a matter of guesswork and personal opinion, nevertheless it is possible to place the leading candidates for the Olympic team according to the performances made in the last few months. A good many changes will take place when the tryouts are held in Indianapolis in June. The present classification is made almost entirely on the basis of recent performances, and serves to give an indication of the chances of stars, both local and otherwise.

The country is stronger than ever in sprint swimmers. A few years ago the men who could go under one minute for 100 yards could be counted on the fingers. Today's list shows that more than a dozen have done 55 seconds or better in the last few months.

#### The Leaders

Only three swimmers have shown ability to consistently swim under 55 seconds. Johnny Weissmuller tops the list of course, on account of his many remarkable century swims. The great Duke Kahanamoku swam 53 seconds once, this was equalled by Pua Kealoha. John has beaten 53 seconds a score of times. Five times since the first of the year, swimming under all conditions, he has beaten the mark indicated. Duke is reported to have beaten 54 seconds several times last summer, and his coach swears on a stack of bibles nine miles high that he is doing around 54 seconds now. All who know Duke believe he can if he will.

Richard Howell of Northwestern University has recently officially lowered the college century mark to 54 3-10, the fastest actual performance under record conditions made by anyone other than Weissmuller recently.

#### The Ten

The next ten swimmers on the list have all done from 55 to 55 2-5 seconds. Several of them, including the local boys, have done better, but not in the last few months. No attempt is made to classify them, other than put them in the 55 second group. The next ten have done around 56 seconds, from 55 4-5 to 56 2-5.

Of the second ten, Pua and Warren Kealoha and Sam Kahanamoku. Davy Jones and Peter Weissmuller should surpass the others by the time of the trials.

In the 400 and 1500 meter swims there has been no such display of class.

John Weissmuller is placed in front of both classes, for there is no question but that he could lead the field in any of the free style events. He has repeatedly swum the quarter under 5 minutes in a pool and around 5:06 outdoors, time which no other swimmer has ever approached. He also is swimming the half mile daily in his own pool, in practice, around 10:30, nearly half a minute faster than any American has ever done, so it appears that he would have no trouble in the longer distance.

#### Howell

Richard Howell again appears near the front. He has swum the quarter in 5:08 in a 60-foot pool this season, and a year ago did 5:03. He has won the Chicago River swim handily against crack fivers, demonstrating his ability at the longer distance, and is placed second in both 400 and 1500 meter swims.

Wallace O'Connor of Stanford is a close third, however, and in the forthcoming national A. A. U. and college championships may defeat Howell. He has swum 440 yards in a 100-foot pool in 5:19, and 1500 meters in 22:23.

Warren Kealoha with his easy 5:13 in a sixty foot pool and his known ability in open water is entitled to place right with the two college stars. Ralph Breyer of Northwestern, a teammate of Howell's, has done 5:15 this season, and Harry Lewis of New York has done 5:24. The others are good but look to be considerably out-classed.

The same thing is true of the remaining swimmers in the 1500 meter class. Keating and Bolden are excellent 10-mile swimmers, but hardly have the speed for the shorter distance.

#### Backstroke

In backstroke Hawaii gets in her best licks. Warren is at the top, considering that the distance is 100 meters. Weissmuller has tied his record once, but has not shown sufficient speed to beat it. Should the lanky Chicagoan train for this event alone, he would doubtless be supreme, but this is not likely to take place. Ollie Horn of Chicago swam 1:05 4-5 last month for 100 yards. Gay Harris in beating Pung and Luning in the last meet has put himself in a position where he must be considered. Morse of Cleveland

swam 1:07 1-5 at the I. A. C. meet in which Horn made his time.

#### Breaststroke

America's chances to win the breaststroke were never brighter. Bob Skelton and W. Faricy, both of the I. A. C., are fighting a great duel for supremacy. They have not raced each other, but seem to be taking turns breaking each other's records. Skelton is at present in possession of the 200 meter mark, having done 2:51 in a standard pool. Fletcher of Stanford, Euddy of New York and Czerwonky of Wisconsin have done around 3:04, while the two local stars, Kahanamoku and Kirschbaum, have been slightly slower.

The U. S. will have a relay team in the field which will be hard to beat. Each man swims 200 meters, and although Australia will have a strong team, they will be hopelessly outclassed.

Local fans will likely object to the fact that no Hawaiians are placed among the first five. All these have done better than 2:20 this season, with the exception of Perry McGillivray, who has not swum in a race of that distance, but can approach that time, and who is especially dependable in a race in open water.

#### Diving

In the diving events the men are placed according to their showings in recent meets, and no attempt is made to classify them in regard to plain or fancy high or springboard diving. Makinney of Outrigger might have a chance to place well up if he could train in California

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## THE NUT CRACKER

By **JOE WILLIAMS**

The moose sheds his horns in January, but unlike a lot of humans we know he doesn't go out and buy a hammer.

Ty Cobb has the greatest lifetime average in baseball, and yet you'd hardly call him an average ball-player.

It is announced that the great Ruth developed the flu riding a horse up Ozark mountain. We haven't heard yet what the poor horse developed.

The sport of boxing is 2500 years old. . . . This doubtless explains how the phrase, "long-suffering public," started.

Boxing has been on its last legs so many times in recent years that we are beginning to believe it must be a centipede.

Wabash collegians have quit wearing garters, but we are too much of a gentleman to ask if they've quit wearing socks.

Walter Johnson may pitch on the Pacific Coast next year. . . . It will be interesting to see how his speed compares with Hollywood's.

Paul Berlenbach's one weakness as an attraction, if any, seems to be that he wasn't born in South America.

The surprising thing about ticket scalping in New York fight circles is that anybody should be surprised at its existence.

Connie Mack thinks the Athletics will finish right back of the Yanks. . . . But why should Connie go out of his way to knock Miller Huggins?

We had no idea there were so many terrible fighters in the world until we read that George Marks had lost but one decision out of 148 bouts.

Somebody has given Firpo a real wild bull. . . . It wasn't those cloak and suit boys, who are simply trying to give him a bum steer.

The news of the day tells of a woman who swallowed a dozen razor blades. . . . Obviously, one of those sharp-faced creatures addicted to cutting remarks.