

Girls' Swimming Given Big Impetus By Champions' Visit

Interest in That Sport Aroused By Presence of National Champions in Islands—Girls' Meet at Y. M. C. A. Follows Increased Attention to This Exercise—Competition to Be Greater

With the announcement that the girls' swimming meet to be held next month at the Y. M. C. A. tank will be directed according to the rules of the A. A. U., that the prescribed distances will be swum, and that the swimmers must all be certified amateurs, there comes the assurance that this branch of girls' athletics has not only come to stay, but is going to cut a considerably larger figure in the world of sport in the future.

Girls' athletics are a comparatively recent thing, but they are fast coming to the front. And one thing that is probably more responsible for the popularizing of the feminine sport is the attitude of the sporting pages of the country. This is especially true of swimming in which the champions have literally been made the center of sport interest in many cities.

Write Special Articles

In San Francisco papers, the three women swimmers who visited the islands have received no end of notice. Both Frances Cowells and Claire Galligan have been writing special articles for the Bulletin concerning their swimming. They have received striking prominence in the papers, and have undoubtedly been widely read.

Since the arrival of these girls in Honolulu notice how much this sport has advanced. Before the meet on Labor Day Punahou academy would have meets within the walls of its little tank, Palama would have meets, the Y. W. C. A. had swimming classes and the girls of the Outrigger. There were girls' swimming races in the big meets, but no town competitive swimming to amount to anything.

Then the swimmers came here and there was a meet in Palama—it was the original intention to hold it in the Y. M. C. A. tank. Now the efforts of the boosters of girls' swimming in Honolulu have assured us that a meet will be held in the Y. M. C. A.

in which girls' teams from all over the city will compete—and what it more they will compete under the auspices of the A. A. U.

More Girls Interested

This means another big boost for the sport for this reason—it is going to bring into competition a large group of girls who do not care to enter special races in a meet meant primarily for men—a group of girls who can swim and who are going to make records that will count. Furthermore the records in these meets are going to stimulate more competition. There will be more meets held and more girls will practise and more girls will enter them.

The sport will become more firmly established than ever before in this meet that is being planned now. It is going to mean a lot for girls' athletics in Hawaii.

And what is responsible for this advance in sport more than anything else is the appearance of these world champions in our own waters. It is so with any sport.

It has paid to bring these persons here and the little group of workers who agitated to import the swimmers and who are now campaigning for a materialization of the enthusiasm for swimming right now deserve a heap of credit.

