

# HOOPER WEAK AS CHILD BUT LOOK AT THE BOY NOW

## Carrying Hawaii's Colors In Distance Runs At the A. A. U. National Tourney

By ALKY DAWSON

"The boy will always be anything but strong. Do not let him take any violent exercise. Be careful of his diet and eventually he may grow out of it."

It was the doctor speaking, the family doctor, and he was telling Mrs. B. Hooper of San Francisco some 15 years ago about her young son, Burton Hooper, who today is the Outrigger Canoe Club's big bet to win the modified marathon at the national A. A. U. track and field championships to be held in San Francisco next week.

But Burton Hooper did not know then what the doctor had said. Naturally, his mother did not tell him. So when Burton went to grammar school he played around with the other boys and found that while they could beat him when they all raced a block, he was able to leave them behind when they made it a race of five or six blocks.

### Started

That started him. Later he entered several distance runs and had fair success. His first big triumph was in the Dip Sea race. The slight, nervous-looking youngster led the field, a field of more than a score of starters.

He came to Hawaii several years ago to make enough money to put him through college. He is still working, but in another year or so he hopes to have sufficient capital laid by to work his way through either a local or a coast university.

His first competition here was in the Diamond Head run. Hooper had no trouble in winning, and his time, unofficial, for one of the miles in the race was the best ever made in the islands. In the Rainbow relay games this spring he ran a fast lap for the Outrigger Canoe Club. The following week in the A. A. U. meet he broke the island record for the mile.

### Great Race

In the annual All-around Chinese Club six-mile modified marathon on Kamehameha Day, Hooper, running with a handicap of seven minutes, cleaned up a field of 10 starters, nosing out the second man by a good 200 yards.

That's when they started calling him the "Paavo Nurmi" of Hawaii.

Hooper runs with a long lope like a deer. His blond mop of hair goes bobbing up and down with each stride. There is an ease and grace to his running style. There is never any strain and he usually finishes with plenty of stuff in reserve.

Outside of rowing there is no more strenuous game than distance running. Yet the weakling of 15 years ago is today carrying Hawaii's banner in the coming modified marathon race, evidence of the sheer grit that makes up the greater portion of Hawaii's "Paavo Nurmi," Burton Hooper of the Outrigger Canoe Club.