

HARRY HEBNER REVIEWS AQUATIC FEATURES DURING 1917 SEASON

World Champion Swimmer Says Honolulu and Chicago Are Two Big Swimming Centers of the United States—Norman Ross' Rise to Fame Has Been Meteoric—Duke is Most Wonderful Open Water Swimmer in History—Boost for "Stubby"

By HARRY HEBNER
(World Champion Swimmer.)

During the season of 1917 swimmers of the United States took a decided advantage over their fellow swimmers representing the various nations now at war. They have gradually swept the records held by Englishmen and Australians off the boards until they now hold more than three-fourths of all existing swimmers records. The season of 1917 saw a great boom for the sport in this country up and to the time of our entering the world's war, and the prestige our swimmers gained in the early part of the season will always stand in the annals of the history of the sport.

Though fewer records were broken this year, the competition was keener. It is realized by experts that swimming has advanced so rapidly in this country and records have been broken so easily, almost at will, in the last few years, that the future will see more and better competition and less record-breaking performances.

Centers of Interest

Chicago and Honolulu are the recognized swimming centers of the United States. The most important meets in 1917 were held in these two cities. Chicago probably held the largest number of minor meets.

Since war has been declared a great number of clubs have suspended competition and almost every well known swimmer has entered either the army or navy. However, even this step on the part of our patriotic swimmers may not retard competition for 1918, as men enrolled in the service will be allowed to compete, representing their various military companies.

Norman Ross, Perry McGillivray and Duke Kahanamoku are three names that boldly stand out among the thousands of swimmers in the United States when reviewing the performances of the swimmers in the national championships and other big meets.

Ross' Rapid Rise

Norman Ross' rise to fame has almost been meteoric. A year ago he was rated as a comer and now he is hailed as the champion swimmer of America. Early in the season Ross swam in the Pan-Pacific carnival held in Honolulu. In these races Ross finished second to Ludy Langer in distance races and second to Duke Kahanamoku and Perry McGillivray in the shorter races. He came East for the national championships, and after the title events were concluded he was the most feared man in the swimming game.

Swimming in the national championships, Ross won three of the four events in which he entered—the 220

and 500 yards free style and the 150 yards back stroke. From 50 yards to one mile Ross is the most versatile swimmer in America. He is the most remarkably built swimmer in the world. Straight as an Indian chieftain, he is 6 feet 2 inches in height and weighs 210 pounds. He has very broad and powerful shoulders, tapering down in fine symmetrical lines. Ross uses a trudgeon crawl stroke.

Perry McGillivray of the Illinois Athletic Club, veteran of hundreds of races, still remains in the fore of the swimmers' hall of fame. McGillivray set a new outdoor record in the 220 yards, he also won the fifty-yard national title, swam on the championship relay team and played on the championship water polo team.

Duke Kahanamoku retains his title as the most wonderful open water swimmer in the history of the game. His fifty yards in 23 seconds and 100 yards in 53 seconds are marvelous records. They may never be bettered and will surely stand for a number of years, for at present there are very few swimmers who can swim under 54 seconds for 100 yards or do under 24 seconds for fifty yards.

Michael McDermott, by winning the 200-yard breast stroke title in record time, continues to be the perpetual champion at this style of swimming. McDermott also won the long distance swimming championship held in the Detroit river, and he was captain of the championship water polo team.

Albert Downs of the New York A. C. won the indoor fancy diving championship.

Bachrach Miracle Man

The Illinois Athletic Club won the 400-yard relay championship, with Jones, Raithel, McGillivray and Heber swimming on the team, equaling the world's record for the event. The same club won the water polo title. Credit for winning the most points in the championships also goes to the I. A. C. team. William Bachrach, coach of the famous team, is lauded throughout the country as the miracle man of swimming.

The names of Langer, Vollmer, Cann, Pavlicek, Lichter, Jorn, Kelli, Lane and Krueger, who established a new back-stroke record for 100 yards, are not to be forgotten as fine performers during the last season.

Among our local boys W. L. Wallen excelled. Wallen won the Chicago river marathon swim, won the half-mile outdoor national title and won most of the important distance races held in Chicago. The sprint races were won by Jones and Siegel of the I. A. C. Other local boys deserving mention are Pickel, Scherrer, White and Mayer.