

HAWAII SWIMMERS ARE CLEARED OF CHARGES; PRAISED

Did Not Falsify Or Pad Expense
Accounts Is Verdict of In-
vestigating Committee

EXHIBITIONS AROUSE
INTEREST IN SPORT

Faith In Kahanamoku, Lane, Kruger,
Coach and Manager Found
To Be Fully Justified

NEW YORK, August 7—(Associated Press)—Members of the Hawaiian swimming team, now touring the country, are absolved of charges of falsifying and "padding" their expense accounts by the investigating committee of the A. A. U. which further ruled that the trips and the swimming exhibitions given have been the means of arousing great interest in that amateur sport throughout the country.

Not guilty is the verdict and praise instead of censure is the award news of which was flashed by wireless from New York to The Advertiser last night. The ugly aspersions that have been cast upon the reputation of the swimming team, its coach and manager have been cleansed as chalk is sponged from a slate. The doubting ones and those of little faith, those who accepted as true the allegations that the members of the party, or any of them, had profited or sought to profit at the expense of the Red Cross, are silenced. Those who advised to "bide a bit," to hear the defense, have had their trust and confidence in the Honolulu boys warranted by the results.

Duke P. Kahanamoku, Clarence Lane and Harold ("Stubby") Kruger will be found more firmly than ever entrenched in the hearts of the sport loving public, not in Hawaii only, but throughout the United States.

Clair Tait, U. S. N., their coach and Owen Merrick, the manager of the party, are included in the verdict of the investigators. The highest authority on amateur sports of the country, the union of all of the amateur organizations has spoken.

Blot Is Cleansed

Thus has an ugly blot upon the reputation of five true and honest sportsmen and on the fair fame of Hawaii been removed. When the news of the charges reached Honolulu they created far more than a ripple that spread outside of athletic and swimming circles. It was the talk of the streets and in the homes as well as on the beach. A few may have believed the charges but the friends of the individual members of the party had confidence in their integrity as well as in the skill and prowess of the swimmers. Those friends will rejoice at the contents of the Associated Press despatch.

Had the committee of the Amateur Athletic Union found the members of the party innocent of the charges and stopped there, it might have sufficed but the committee has done better than this. It has cleared them of every stigma and given them laurel wreaths of praise for the good work they have done in stimulating interest in one of the cleanest and best branches of sport.

Not First Effort

There have been efforts before to push the "Duke" into professional ranks and they have failed. When an athlete becomes preeminent at his distance such attempts are frequently seen. This time Lane and Kruger suffered with him under the charges and with him they are entitled to share in the praise that has been meted out.