

Clair Tait Reviews Tour of Hawaiian Swimmers

By CLAIR TAIT

Trainer for Hawaiian Swimmers Who Made Tour of Mainland in Aid of Red Cross.

Without a doubt the tour of the Hawaiian swimmers—Duke Kahana-moku, Clarence Lane and Stubby Kruger—was the biggest advertising campaign which has ever been launched in the history of Hawaii. We raised quite a sum for the Red Cross; not as much as we wanted to, as there were no limits. We played music, Duke sang; any way to help.

If the chamber of commerce and the promotion committee would realize the amount of boosting that was done for the islands, they would encourage these trips; also back them.

Never before have any bunch of swimmers made a tour of this kind. And never have they swam so well for such a long time. When you consider the records that were broken you know the boys put their best in every race and were faithful to the Red Cross and showed the people of Hawaii had the right stuff. Regardless of the size of the crowd, they always got the best the boys could give them.

We played music—Duke, Lane and myself—all along the trip. In Portland, Phil Danky was there with some fine movies of the islands. They were shown on Hawaiian night at the Multnomah hotel to a crowd of about 500 of Portland's best people. We played music while the films were run. We were then rushed to the Multnomah Athletic Club where we played again.

Wid Over Boys

At Victoria they went wild over the boys and asked more questions than we could ever answer. Here we raised almost \$1,000 for the Red Cross.

At Chicago we had our biggest meets. They were held in Lincoln Park Lagoon, free to all. Saturday there were 40,000 and Sunday 60,000 people crowded around to see the races. It was here Duke lost his only scratch race of the tour, losing to Perry McGillivray at 220 yards. McGillivray was at his best, says William Bachrak (coach Ill. A. C.), and broke the record about three seconds to beat Duke. Now, Duke had been swimming all the way along while these swimmers were just waiting for us. Duke swam the best 220 I ever saw him swim a mile was the first to shake McGillivray's hand after the race. Duke won the 50 and 100 with Lane second in the 100 and third in the 50. I think he got second in the 50 but it was so close that from where I was standing I couldn't be sure. Herbert Topp got the decision of second over Lane but Clarence beat him three times later at different distances. There was some talk about the tide helping them break the records, but Stubby Kruger went out and swam up the lagoon instead of down and broke the world's record—so that put the tide out of the question.

In Chicago much to our surprise, the Red Cross would take no money from athlete meets of any kind. With 100,000 people out there it made us feel pretty bad not to even take a collection.

At Great Lakes

We played music for the sailors at the Great Lakes naval training station near Chicago, and they sure enjoyed it. Duke sang "Wahine Ui" and they went wild over it. It was the largest crowd we had ever played to but the funny part was we played in the amphitheater where they hold their boxing bouts and it was our first appearance in the ring.

The next biggest meet was at Belmar, New Jersey, a huge Red Cross affair where we made our best times. From a low starting board Duke made 53 3-5 for the 100-yard and 23 3-5 for the 50-yard; while Clarence Lane clocked at 23 4-5 for the 50 yards.

I think both Duke and Lane broke records at different distances here. Stubby Kruger made the back-stroke record for 440 yards look sick. These times were made after swimming in competition for almost three months and the boys were never a bit stale on the whole trip. Eastern swimmers have often said, "How do they do it?"

At Long Beach

At Long Beach—Long Island, N. Y.—Duke gave them their first real honest-to-goodness surf riding. There had been a big storm two days before we went down and when we got there it was a dandy surf all 'round. Duke's first wave was a wonder and you should have heard the crowd yell. The surf was so rough the life guards let no one but us go out. While Duke rode the board, Lane, Stubby and myself body-surfed and it was the best fun we had on the trip.

Duke had an awful time getting to the bath house after surfing, as the crowd rushed him with hundreds of cameras. It seemed there were movies or cameras at all the meets.

In Washington the boys wanted to get in the service and Pelham Bay naval station wanted them as swimming instructors, but Duke got the "flu" and was advised to come home where it is warmer.

Clarence Lane had an attack of appendicitis while in Richmond, Va., and was taken to Washington later when Angus Ery, secretary to Prince Kuhio (by the way, one real fellow!) insisted on taking Lane and Stubby to his home where Mrs. Ery took the best of care of Clarence. Their kindness will not be forgotten. I'll tell you, and they said they were only doing what the prince would

have done had he been in Washington.

Will Pay Back

Owen Merrick says he is going to pay back every nickel of the contribution made, though I can't see why he should shoulder it. What benefit does he get out of it? None! Now, ask yourself squarely and fairly what does Hawaii get out of it? There is only one answer.

I left Washington before the other boys as I had to get back to billet in the navy. On the way west I got the "flu" on the train and had my ticket re-routed to Portland—my home—and was put to bed for almost three weeks. Guess I can pat myself on the back, getting over it so well. I lost 18 pounds but the trip on the boat built me up a lot.

Duke was in San Francisco and is coming home on the Shinyo Maru leaving on the 8th.

Now for the beach and the surf. I have to be careful for awhile but guess a little swim won't hurt me.

SMOKER IS POSTPONED.

Jimmie Flynn of the 2nd Hawaiian Infantry announced yesterday that the regimental boxing card scheduled for November 16 has been set down for November 28 (Thanksgiving Day). Jimmie Flynn will tackle Smith instead of Billie Holmes in this big tourney.



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