

# Aloha to Our Heroes

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It was an enthusiastic welcome Honolulu extended her returning aquatic heroes this morning. It was no more than was deserved. By their prowess at Antwerp they have brought fame and glory to themselves and by reflection to Hawaii.

We want you to know, Duke, Pua and Warren and "Dad" Center that Honolulu followed your victorious career with absorbing interest; that your hopes were their hopes, that we all joined in wishing you full success. When day by day news came that you had vanquished the stars of other nations we were indeed proud of you. Our hearts were thrilled, our enthusiasm ran riot.

Hawaii's swimmers, know then that Honolulu appreciates more than words can tell your Olympic records. Your sturdiness and manliness asserted itself against handicaps, in the face of the petty jealousy of certain mainlanders who sought to deprive you of your fairly-earned rights and your conduct was that of true sports men. Your bigness stood out by contrast with the selfishness of others.

Your deeds have shed luster on these islands. You return to us as conquering heroes and we are glad to have you back. Aloha nui!

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Now that Hawaii has captured the aquatic championship of the world in the sprints, it is opportune to ask what we at home intend to do to maintain interest in the swimming game and develop new marvels. Are we to be content and rest on our laurels or shall we stimulate public interest to the end that in the years to come Hawaii will continue to furnish champions?

With our unexcelled advantages of climate and aquatic conditions, it were a shame not to take advantage of them. We have everything here that is conducive to uncovering new stars. But like many other communities we have been indifferent to the prodigality of nature. It is time now to display a community interest in the swimming game.

"Dad" Center has demonstrated that he is a splendid coach. But with only limited time to give to the work, he is handicapped in getting the best results.

The idea of a permanent coach who can devote full time to bringing out the best in the youngsters of the city suggests itself. It would require money. The Outrigger club alone cannot finance it.

Perhaps the various swimming clubs of the city might get together and work out the scheme. If the matter were presented to the business men, the chamber of commerce and the tourist bureau, in the light of a project that would bring adequate return from an investment standpoint in the way of added publicity and prestige, no doubt it would receive indorsement and financial assistance.

Why not put swimming on a stable basis?

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