

Twenty-Four Nations Will Compete Olympic Swims Commencing Today Favor Americans For First Places

America, Australia, Sweden and Japan Doped to Finish in the Order Named
When 1924 International Swimming Competitions Commence in
Paris; France and Britain May Spring Surprises, Say
the Experts Watching the Workouts

(By The Associated Press)

PARIS, July 12.—Twenty-four nations are entered in the Olympic Games swimming competition which commences Sunday. Americans are commenting favorably on the swimming stadium built by the city.

America is favored to win, with Australia and Sweden doped for second and third. The Japanese and Belgians are the other favorites in the order named, although France, Great Britain and Holland may possibly furnish some surprises.

Sunday's program consists of the 1500 meters freestyle elimination trials for men and the 400 meters freestyle elimination trials for women. The American water polo team meets France.

The Olympic swimming races starting today will probably resolve itself in the major performances to two men—Arne Borg of Sweden and Andrew Charleton of Australia, pitted against the pick of America, leading Johnny Weismuller, Duke Kahanamoku, Warren Kealoha and Bobby Skelton.

The fact that Australia is placed second and Sweden third indicates the enormous prestige that is attached to the reputations of these two mighty aquatic stars. With the exception of Rademacher of Germany in the breaststroke and Blitz, Belgium's great backstroke star, there are few other outstanding figures in the swimming world. Frank Beaurepaire of Australia, for many years the greatest of distance swimmers, may have another kick left, but he is not likely to place better than third to "Boy" Charleton and Borg in the 1500 meters.

GREAT BATTLE IN SPRINTS

In the sprint distances there will be a great battle between Duke Kahanamoku and Johnny Weismuller. The giant Illinoisan will have to battle hard to de-

feat the Duke; within four months Duke has risen from discard and again thrown down the gauntlet for the world's premier swimming honors. Much of Hawaii's interest will be centered in this battle.

Weismuller will probably vanquish Borg and Charleton in that order in the furlong, but in the 400 meters the Norse flash should retaliate, with the American and Australian fighting for second place. Charleton looks like a winner in the 800 meters with Borg as his big opponent. This race should be one of the greatest of the meet—probably the hardest fought.

Warren Kealoha of Hawaii may experience serious opposition from Blitz in the backstroke event, but America will be very strong in this event, with three places probable. Bobby Skelton will hold up America's end in the breaststroke, but will have no easy path if Rademacher swims against him.

WOMEN'S EVENTS

In the women's events Gertrude Ederle of New York will be supported by Mariechen Wehslau of Hawaii and Helen Wainwright, also of New York. These three should capture the freestyle events, and Sybil Bauer and Doris O'Mara should have little trouble with the backstroke. But in the breaststroke Agnes Geraghty, with her teammate, Helen Coleman, will have hard sledding against Doris Hart and Irene Gilbert of England, either of whom may win.

Mariechen Wehslau, Hawaii's greatest woman swimmer, will captain the American relay team and will swim anchor. She will also be the American standard bearer in the 100 meters freestyle swim, the blue ribbon event, as a result of her recent conquest of Miss Ederle. Mariechen has not lost a race since she left Hawaii, and she has met America's greatest freestyle swimmers.