

RAMBLING 'ROUND

WITH ANDREW MITSUKADO

THE MAN WHO twenty-five years ago made the world Hawaii conscious and whose fame has not diminished with time, will be honored tonight.

He is Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.



MITSUKADO

The Kamaaina Beachcombers' Hui, composed of old time swimmers and persons who have been connected with swimming these many years, is sponsoring tonight with the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii, the first annual Duke P. Kahanamoku Indoor swimming meet in the Punahou Academy pool.

The Beachcombers' Hui has devoted months in making preparations for this meet and there is no reason why it should not prove a huge success. In the time trials Tuesday night, creditable times were registered, assuring close races

for first honors in each event in the finals.

It is a fitting way to honor the Duke—this staging of an annual meet bearing his name. The name Kahanamoku is synonymous with swimming to the world and it is a wonder that something like this was not done earlier. But the friends of the Duke are happy that it was his swimming associates who suggested the meet and are putting it over.

It was in 1912 that a young Hawaiian swimmer startled the world with his victories at the Olympic Games in Stockholm. In time he became the possessor of nearly all the world's sprint records and Duke P. Kahanamoku and the Hawaiian Islands were on the lips of everyone.

The Duke represented the United States in the Olympic Games for the last time in 1924 when the international competition was held in Paris. He lost to Johnny Weismuller, but he gave the former Illinois A. C. star a good race, and his efforts were considered remarkable for a man who was far past the normal "athletic age" and who had been in the game for over a decade. It was his wonderful condition and clean habits that had enabled him to last that long as a top-notch competitor. And the world admired him all the more for it.

Kahanamoku swam many a brilliant race during his lengthy and colorful career, but I believe he never swam a greater race than he did during the 200 yards relay in the University tank some years ago when Hawaii's best natators were stacked up against the Yale University mermen. The Duke was the anchor man on the Hawaii team and when he plunged in, the Yale team had a substantial lead. But he cut loose with a burst of speed that not only enabled him to overhaul his rival but also enabled him to swim the 50-yard lap in 22 seconds; or was it a slight fraction of a second over that mark?

I still remember the fans talking about the great lap swum by the Duke for days after the meet and after the Yale team had departed for New Haven, Conn.

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THE PURPOSE of the meet tonight is to help revive the aquatic game in the Islands. The Associated Students of the University of Hawaii by sponsoring various meets during the past several years has reawakened interest in swimming, and tonight with the staging of the Duke P. Kahanamoku meet the game will be boosted a couple of more notches.

It is a crying shame that swimming was allowed to die out in the Islands.

Partially heralding the return of swimming is the entry of the Hui Nalu club in the meet tonight. Time was when Hui Nalu had a powerful aggregation of natators and a group of musicians who filled the atmosphere with soft, melodious Hawaiian tunes and lent color to the meets. A renewal of the old rivalry among Hui Nalu, Outrigger and Hui Makani would complete the picture and bring the game back to its former grandeur.

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