

# Old Timer On Duke's Career

(Editor's Note: Lew Henderson went as manager with Duke Kahanamoku to the Mainland in 1911 when he sensationally broke records in the East and made the Olympic games of 1912 in Stockholm.)

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It was back in 1908 that Duke started to make his mark in inter-club athletics. He was a splendid physical specimen of manhood even then and must have weighed about 190. He used to row for the Healanis as a sideline.

Before he joined the Myrtles he swam as anchor man against "Dad" Center and beat him by a touch. The Duke himself has said that this was the first time it really dawned on him that he could swim.

## 1st Great Victory

On August 12, 1911, just 12 days before his 21st birthday Duke swam to world fame down at pier 5 on the Honolulu harbor waterfront. He broke records for 50, 100 and 220 yard races. But why shouldn't he? He and Zen Genoves used to swim every day from the Moana hotel pier to the Elks' Club at Waikiki, just to keep in practice!

Honoluluans were wildly enthusiastic. Mainlanders wouldn't believe anybody could swim so fast. A lot of old timers such as Bill Rawlins (later a federal judge) organized benefits and got funds to send Duke and a team to the Mainland. Dude Miller was trainer-companion, I was manager and Zen Genoves and Duke filled out the party. We left in early 1912.

## Sets New Standards

At Stockholm his Olympic victories made history that will stand wherever international swimming is reviewed. He went back to the Mainland every year after that. He and George Cunha went to Australia and New Zealand in 1915. It was here that these two men from Hawaii swam against four men relay teams for the first time.

He held his place as a swimmer to attend the Olympic games four times representing Hawaii Nei.

In 1918 Duke and a group of local boys made a Mainland tour for the Red Cross. They swam and dived and by their actions eloquently told the world about Hawaii. The tour ended, Duke went to Washington to volunteer for service in the air corps. They were assigning him to training school down in Texas when the influenza epidemic laid him low. He was on his way back, having lived through double pneumonia, on midocean aboard the Shinyo Maru when world war armistice was declared.

At Antwerp, Belgium, in 1920 he maintained his standing and again kept his place as Hawaii's champion. It was not until 1924 that Johnny Weismuller, a new champion, was proclaimed at the Paris games.

Few have done more to put Hawaii on the map as a sports center than has the Duke during his long career. His has been an unselfish public service. And through it all he has been a credit in every way to Hawaii. If ever a man justly deserved a bronze statue, here is that man—Duke P. Kahanamoku, Hawaii's own beloved champion and bearer of good will to all lands.