

Hawaii's Swimming Supremacy Is Coming Back

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For several years it has been apparent that if swimming were ever to be important as a sport in the Territory again it would need the active support of a number of leading organizations. We who have been interested in swimming in the past, felt that the most logical organization to do this would be one which included many of the old timers who have participated in this sport for many years. These men know the difficulties connected with putting on a swimming meet. They know what is necessary in order to have a first class meet run according to A.A.U. regulations, and they have competed in many meets, both here and on the mainland.

The Kamaaina Beachcombers Hui, which has been in existence since 1920, having some 225 members who have been active as swimmers, surfers, and canoe-men of Waikiki for many years and most of whom have been members of Hui Nalu or the Outrigger Club at one time or another, seems to us to be such an organization.

Although interest in swimming as an organized sport has languished in this organization as in others in the past three years, we feel that these men, if they could

become interested, would be able to give a careful study to all aspects of the situation and so could organize a swimming meet that would have a very good chance of being successful and which could be repeated as a permanent thing this year.

It is extremely fortunate that at this time the members of the Honolulu Junior Chamber of Commerce became interested in the possibility of reviving this sport in the islands, because if there is one thing that is needed more than anything else it is an organization of business men who can be of help from year to year in sustaining the interest which has been aroused.

Furthermore, this organization has the connection with business houses and the prestige which is so necessary in order to obtain the backing which goes to make a successful swimming meet. This organization composed of 150 young business men of this community has taken the lead in planning and directing this annual A.A.U. swimming meet and it is planned to have the Junior Chamber run this meet every year in the future.

In the Duke P. Kahanamoku meet recently, our first attempt, each trophy was donated by an individual. In the A.A.U. meet, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the trophies were donated by business firms. This is indicative of the interest of both the community in the revival of individuals and organizations of this great sport and last week's meet proved beyond a doubt that the support is here as is the swimming ability.

However, the sponsoring of a swimming meet alone is not enough and continued activity throughout the year is most necessary. After each meeting there must be a complete check on every detail of organization, including not only pools, program, officials and coaches, but spectators and participants as well. This work is going to take a number of years and mistakes have been and will continue to be made, but now that a start has been made and two organizations are sponsoring this sport, one in an official way and one in an unofficial manner, there is no reason why Hawaii's former eminence cannot be regained.

Many of you saw the recent meets. We are sure that you feel the handling of this sport is in good hands. We believe that these two meets will convince you that the sport is well on the way to being revived. We count on your hearty support.

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