

MORE RACES NEEDED HERE

Says There Are Not Enough Meets To Encourage the Swimmers To Train

The first of a series of three championship swimming meets will be held at the War Memorial natatorium today starting at 4:30 p. m.

Hawaii's leading swimmers will be seen in the championship events, including Mildred Slight Hooper, holder of several Hawaiian swimming records.

The other two meets will be held early next month.

"Swimming should be Hawaii's outstanding sport," said Mrs. Mildred Slight Hooper, Hawaii's leading woman swimmer when interviewed at her home in Kaimuki a few days ago.

"We have an ideal climate, and many swimming tanks, and it seems that we should have many more great swimmers."

Mrs. Hooper believes that more interest could be aroused in swimming by having more meets and more worthwhile trophies offered.

"If some interested person or organization would put up nice trophies often, I am sure that we would have more contestants. This series of three weekly meets that the Hawaiian A. A. U. is putting on now is the first meet that has been held since April. It is hard to train faithfully when there are such few changes to race."

"Another thing that would improve swimming here would be the cleaning of the Natatorium. Many people don't like to swim there because it is so dirty."

Mrs. Hooper has been swimming since she was about 12 years old. She began training in 1925, and won her first race in 1926, a race for girls under 14. Mrs. Hooper is a middle and long distance swimmer, having several medals for 300 meter and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile events.

She has 39 medals, most of them gold, and six cups. Most of the cups are those which have been put up by The Star-Bulletin, one put up for the series of 20 weeks, and one three week trophy.

Was Big Help

Mrs. Hooper attributes much of her success to her father. She says that he has taken her and her sister, Gladys, to training every Tuesday and Friday for a long time.

"It gets pretty tiresome, just sitting beside a tank and watching others swim, but he seems to enjoy it."

When they go to swim, Mr. Slight usually picks up all the youngsters of the neighborhood, and takes a full carload to the tank.

Mrs. Hooper likes Dad Center, and his way of training. He doesn't sit beside the tank and take the time of every lap, and scare the swimmer.

"He will watch for a long time, without the swimmer noticing it. Then he will correct all the mistakes you have made. He waits for a long time, to see if the swimmer corrects his mistakes himself."

Mrs. Hooper was on the mainland for some time, but did not do much swimming while up there. She entered only one race, mainly because they were living in Vallejo, and she had to go to San Francisco to train.

She holds several Hawaiian records and will be in swimming for some time yet, she thinks.

"After every meet I think that it will be my last one, but I keep on training, and when the next one comes along I enter it," she said.

She gets very nervous before every meet, but says that she thinks if there were more meets this nervousness would disappear. She says that her father gets about as nervous as she does.

Mrs. Hooper says that there is much promising material here, but is afraid that the youngster may get 'burned-out' before they have a chance to show what they can do.

"It is very tiring to train, and train, and then not have a meet."

She remembers when meets were held at the Y. M. C. A. and there were weekly meets. This gave an opportunity to many to show what they had in them.