

Fans' Corner



William Peet, Advertiser. Dear Sir:

Referring to a question in your column in Sunday's ADVERTISER, "How are you going to encourage and boost swimming when nobody comes out to patronize the events?" and your reference to the small attendance at Friday's swimming meet.

A decade ago swimming was one of the most popular of Hawaiian sports. WHY? because people not only realized this sports value to our community in advertising, as an attraction for tourists and travelers, but at that time the great record of our grand old Champion Duke Kahanamoku was still fresh in the minds of the public, and also the new Hawaiian Champion Buster Crabbe's star was rising as a world contender, not to mention the stellar performances of Miss Moses and later Miss Wesblau.

Our public in common with all sport lovers, wants to see champions in action in any sport; Babe Ruth has been a drawing card for thousands in professional baseball because of his leadership in one division, Jack Dempsey, the greatest attraction of them all, was hardly known until he won the championship. But Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Duke Kahanamoku could not attract a following without the build up given them by sport writers of local and national newspapers.

There, Mr. Peet, I would say is where your department could be a great help to swimming in this community.

There performed at Friday night's swimming meet a little lady who for years has been equalling world's records in many swimming distances. A champion if there ever was one, but blessed or handicapped (which ever way you look at it) by that lady like reserve that forbids her making a bid for the publicity which she deserves.

The reference to her exhibition on Friday night merley said without headlines, "Olga Clark of the Outrigger Canoe Club, peerless local mermaid, captured two women's championships," and later in the column "Olga Clark proved beyond any question of doubt that she is the best women swimmer in the Territory."

What Miss Clark might have done had she been pressed in the 500-meter event was not even suggested. Had Miss Clark lived in Seattle, Los Angeles, or even San Francisco, her picture would have been plastered over the sport pages, and she would have been hailed as their contender for the next Olympic Championship.

That is what excites public interest in any sport. You do it with a vengeance in rassing, boxing and practically every sport except swimming.

The interest in swimming Champions here is best exemplified by the attendance at the Army and Navy Pool, when Mr. Kipputh brought his champions through here and permitted them to perform at this pool. Standing room was at a premium, although the exhibition was at noon on a busy week day with little, if any, advance publicity.

Swimming which has been on the decline here for years made quite a come back in the first of the four meets this month when around a thousand passed the gate. This was worthy of more than just a mere mention in your column, the public is waiting for some one to take the lead in this comeback but they won't know about it unless you sport writers get enthusiastic.

The American Legion and the 40 & 8 of that organization are backing a program to stimulate swimming here, get behind them Mr. Peet. Their first objective is to accumulate some surplus funds with which to finance meets between the kids of the grade schools and playfields and provide inducement for our best swimmers to continue developing until they are of championship caliber.

They are holding at the Civic Auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 10th, an Armistice eve ball and dance, the entire profits of which will go to develop swimming in Hawai. Success of this venture means accomplishment of their first objective and I will wager, Mr. Peet, with that objective successfully achieved, that the next twelve months will mark a decided change in public interest in swimming in Hawaii.

Interested,

W. TIP DAVIS.

October 22, 1934.