



HOO MALI MALI

(Kid 'em along)

RED McQUEEN

PAN-PACIFIC GAMES—HUME FORD'S DREAM MAY COME TRUE

Although twenty years late and staged in Japan instead of Hawaii, it is possible that one of Alexander Hume Ford's dreams may soon come true. And if the idea materializes, it will be a direct result of the European war for that seems to have definitely cancelled the 1940 Olympic Games scheduled for Helsinki, Finland.

To interest the governments of the Pacific in the objects and doings of the Pan-Pacific Union here, in 1919, Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo, then secretary of the Hawaiian association of the AAU and a member of the national board, went on a Pacific tour and was particularly commissioned to sense the possibility of a "Pan-Pacific Olympiad at the Crossroads of the Pacific." At that time Hawaii was tops in swimming and "Pop" Ford was still promoting ancient Hawaiian sports through the Outrigger Canoe Club and had visions that some day people of the Pacific would come here to show off their respective native games and better still, adopt each others good ideas.

A natatorium was not considered necessary. The course in the slip between piers seven and eight, being ideal. If any money was to be spent, all agreed it should go to build a regulation stadium in no less a place than the crate of Punchbowl.

Both the press and athletic bodies of New Zealand, Australia, Java, Malaya, Hong Kong, China and Japan were found keenly interested. In the Orient, the Far-Eastern Games already held sway (a three-cornered affair between Japan, China and the Philippines). It was thought that these games could be made Pan-Pacific but its controlling body frowned on the idea of admitting Hawaii for that would also mean California and perhaps extend to the entire United States which would have been too much for the Far East—just beginning to find itself athletically and not yet ready for international competition.

Around 1930 Joe Farrington headed an AAU committee to again consider the P-P idea but nothing much happened.

Reviewing the situation, we find the Far East has since that time made remarkable strides in athletics, in many instances supplanting the United States in Olympic supremacy. Hawaii's swimmers and boxers are ready for any competition. We have the best swimming pool on the Pacific. The Outrigger Canoe Club is reorganizing. The plantations are seething with potential athletic talent. Australia has already been here to show us their surf-boating and learn our board-paddling.

Time is propitious to revive interest in the Ford brain-child. At least, encouragement should be given the Japan American Athletic Federation to have the Pan-Pacific Games definitely established and held intermittently between Olympic years. Hawaii could profit tremendously by the staging of pre-Game or post-Game competitions featuring athletes passing through here on their way to and from the Games.

If Hawaii sportsmen could only get together and really attempt something big, we could stage the real thing and "Pop" Ford's dream would become a reality. And the super-Punchbowl stadium idea is not too far fetched. Eventually Honolulu will have to have a Municipal stadium. Why not now? And Punchbowl strikes me as being a pretty good location.