

THE WILLIAMS

SPORTLIGHT



WILLIAM INMAN Manager, Wanderers Ball Club

THIRTY THREE years in baseball is a lifetime career for most baseball men. But after 33 years as a baseball player, coach and manager, William (Big Bill) Inman is still looking ahead to the years to come.

At 51, Bill Inman is still athletically inclined and actively manages his Wanderers baseball team in the Hawaii league.

One of Hawaii's Best

One of the greatest all-around athletes developed in Hawaii, Bill Inman was born in Honolulu on Feb. 19, 1893, and was educated at St. Louis College and Punahou Academy.

His athletic career began at Punahou, where he won 14 letters in football, baseball, track, swimming and soccer. He pitched the Punahou varsity to the baseball championship in 1912, 1913 and 1914, and was a guard and tackle on the championship 1910-11-12-13 football teams. He was a member of the championship track teams in 1912-13-14 and held the prep shot put record for seven years. He was a member of the championship swimming team in 1913.

While attending Punahou, Bill Inman did not confine his athletics to prep competition. He played with the Hawaiis and JAC's in the old Athletic park senior baseball league, and was noted for his heavy hitting.

After receiving his diploma from Punahou school, he continued baseball and football with local club teams and starred with Town Team for several seasons in the senior grid league. He is generally rated as one of the greatest guards to play in the senior circuit. He continued baseball with the Punahou and St. Louis alumni teams in the Athletic park league.

His prowess as a pitcher won him a tryout with the San Francisco Seals in the Pacific Coast league in 1915.

He was the third Hawaii-developed player to be offered a tryout by a mainland professional league. Farmed out to Sioux City of the Western league for more seasoning, Bill Inman injured his pitching arm to ruin his chances for a pro baseball career.

But he continued baseball as a catcher, and in 1916 toured the mainland for a 140-game series with the Hawaii Chinese Travelers.

Returning to Honolulu, he played with and managed the Waikiki team in the old Honolulu league at the old Moliiliili park. He is one of the few players to hit two home runs in one game in the history of Hawaii baseball.

Was Punahou Baseball Coach

In 1919-20-21 he coached the Punahou baseball team, and developed a championship team in 1921. He was also assistant track coach in those three years. He was recalled as baseball coach in 1931 and produced another championship team. He was head coach of the track team in 1930.

Bill Inman made his Hawaii league debut in 1931 as coach and catcher of the Elks. When the team was disbanded in 1932 and the Wanderers organized, he was retained as coach, a position he held until he secured the Wanderers franchise in 1938. He gave up active managing of the team in 1939, but this year is back at the helm as manager. He gave up active playing in 1931, but as late as 1935 took his turn at the plate as pinch-hitter. In his last appearance he singled in the 15th inning to break up a 6-6 deadlock in a game with the Chinese team.

Bill Inman was also active in organizing teams. He formed and coached the Outrigger Canoe club track team in 1920, winning the AAU championship in 1921, and organized and coached the Outrigger football team in 1919.