



HOO MALI MALI

(Kid 'em along)

RED MSQUEEN

ANOTHER BLACK EYE FOR HAWAII

The Outrigger Canoe Club is definitely on the spot.

Their refusal to permit Keo Nakama, outstanding island-born swimmer, admission to the club last Sunday because he is of Japanese extraction is the talk of the town.

Nakama, who has brought world-wide fame to the Islands while annexing more than a dozen National championships as a member of the Alexander House Settlement team of Maui and later with the Ohio State University, returned less than two weeks ago after graduating from OSU with honors.

Upon Keo's arrival he was met by his former Maui and Ohio State teammate, Bill Smith, world's middle distance champion now an athletic specialist in the Navy.

Early this year when Smith arrived here for assignment at Pearl Harbor, he was given a testimonial dinner at the Outrigger Canoe Club at which time he was presented with a life membership in the club by the Honolulu Baseball League.

One of Smith's first desires was to take Nakama to the club (Outrigger). He invited him to lunch last Sunday. Imagine the embarrassment of the two National champions when they were told by Gay Harris, acting manager of the club, that the club's policy would not permit Nakama to accept the hospitality of a member.

Crushed, the two friends left and strolled up Kalakaua avenue to the Blue Ocean Inn across from the sea wall where they had their luncheon but hardly enjoyed it.

News of Nakama's treatment spread like wildfire. It was readily recalled that on the occasion of Smith's testimonial dinner, numerous Americans of Japanese extraction were present. For that matter, Mackay Yanagisawa, now of the Honolulu Stadium staff, was instrumental in arranging the party and had charge of the meeting.

Veteran members of the beach club are flabbergasted at the incident. George (Dad) Center, famed Outrigger coach, expressed the opinion that it should never have happened. Dad recalled that as captain of the club years ago, he extended the privileges of the club to all visiting swimmers and trackmen and made no discrimination against colored or oriental athletes in these groups.

Manager Gay Harris, former local swimming star and a member of Hawaii's 1924 Olympic team, has made no attempt to explain his action except to say that he was conforming to policy.

Thinking nothing of it, Harris, after turning away the two stars, invited Smith and Nakama to compete in the club's Thanksgiving Day swims.

Several clubs have already indicated that they will withdraw their swimmers from the events.

The entire matter is a most regrettable incident which the Outrigger got itself into and it is now up to them to get themselves out.

It is unfortunate in view of all the recent goings-on in the territory, that such a story should have to go back to the state of Ohio and throughout the country, for that matter. We mention Ohio, particularly, because Nakama is highly regarded there. At a farewell dinner before leaving for Honolulu he was acclaimed one of the university's greatest and most popular athletes.

His popularity is evidenced by the fact that he was pledged and made a member of Delta Upsilon, one of the highest ranking college fraternities in the nation.

Despite his wide acclaim in aquatic circles, Keo is modest to a fault. He hastened home after graduation to accept a position as swimming instructor at Farrington high school. He hoped to avail his knowledge and vast swimming experience to the entire youth of the territory.