

SPEAKING of SPORTS

By DON WATSON



We could hardly believe our eyes when we read in The Star-Bulletin Saturday that Bill Smith, world champion swimmer, was not permitted to take his friend, Keo Nakama, another world champion swimmer, into the Outrigger Canoe club for lunch the other day. . . .

It hardly seems possible that the Outrigger Canoe club's doors would be closed to a great athlete, regardless of race, color or creed. . . . For years the Outrigger club was one of the leading sports organizations in this city. . . . In fact, Outrigger athletic teams participated in all branches of sports here.

But for a number of years we have heard some of the oldtime members of the club, like George D. (Dad) Center complaining because they felt that the club was "going society" and no longer took part in sports activities. . . . It looks as though these fellows knew what they were talking about. . . .

When a sports organization such as the Outrigger club reaches the point where such an occurrence as the one reported has to be recorded, then it is time to do more than merely raise eyebrows. . . .

It's a shame that such a thing had to happen. . . . And here's another thing—don't think that Bill Smith's life membership in the Outrigger club was given by the club—it was paid for, full price. . . .



It is up to the members of the Outrigger club to straighten out this mess. . . . Just what they can do we can not suggest. . . . That is their own problem and they should start thinking fast. . . . There can be no excuses. . . . It is a case of coming out frankly and handling the situation. . . . Apparently the management can not be blamed . . . it is supposed to be a club policy, and that places the blame right in the laps of the members. . . .

Of course it must be admitted that this is a private club and as such the club members can make any rules and regulations they desire. . . . But it is always a good thing for the public to know just what policies a club of this kind plans to enforce. . . . We might, if we had enough money, try to get a membership in the club and then be embarrassed by being told that guys who are part Scotch can not be admitted to membership. . . . Which is not bothering us in the least because we still have a paid up membership in the Aala Country club. . . . And we have been reinstated as a full fledged member of the Hawaiian Association of the AAU.