

Mainland Scribe Finds Duke Still a Powerful Athlete

By **RUSS NEWLAND**

(Pacific division sports editor of the Associated Press who is in Honolulu covering the San Francisco Seals baseball activities.)

The sheriff is courtly but affable; a big man of interesting appearance with silvery hair crowning a mahogany brown face.

Those under lock and key as his "guests" treasure his autograph—and not necessarily on a writ of release.

His name is Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. Once he was the world's greatest swimmer. This is the big, muscular, full blooded Hawaiian who three decades and more ago churned into lasting aquatic fame.

Approaching 56, he will reach that age come August 24, the oldest of the five Kahanamoku brothers, is still a powerful athlete. He skips the long outrigger canoe with a master's touch; makes surfboard riding appear simple and pounds through long sessions of volleyball on a soft sand court with hardly a puff.



Quite naturally he swims through the water, like the musically storied trapeze performer flew through the air, with the greatest of ease.

It was in August of 1911, just 12 days before he became 21, that "the Duke" splashed into the hall of swimming fame. Here in Honolulu harbor he set a new world's record for 100 yards freestyle, clocked in 55 2/5 seconds and the first time anybody had officially bettered one minute flat.

The old mark of 60 seconds had been held by a fellow townsman, Dan Rainier. Kahanamoku swam on a straightaway course, without benefit of roped lanes and he led his field so far he was high up on the dock and resting before the others finished.

Kahanamoku competed in four Olympic games and over an amazing range of years. He won the 100 meter free style at Stockholm in 1912 and eight years later (World war I caused abandonment of the

1916 games) again set the swiftest pace.

His reign ended in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. He finished second to a tall young fellow, Johnny Weissmuller, who also broke Duke's long held records. Illness kept him out of the 1928 games.

In 1932, a 41 year old man, Kahanamoku tried a comeback. He failed to make the U. S. Olympic swimming team but you saw him there in Los Angeles as a member of his country's water polo squad. Kahanamoku contributed the "flutter kick" to swimming. He packs 220 pounds on his six foot one inch frame now and weighed between 187-190 in his championship days.

His given name Duke comes from his father and traces back to a visit here by one of the dukes of Edinburgh. The royal visitor arrived on the day Duke's father was born and that name was given to the latter.

We asked Duke to name the greatest athlete he ever saw. "Jim Thorpe in the 1912 Olympics," he replied. "The only thing Thorpe couldn't do was swim. If he had gone in for it maybe I would have been second best." That's a real tribute—from one marvelous athlete to another.

Horse Show Slated In Garden Nov. 4-8

NEW YORK, March 4. (AP)—The national horse show will be held at Madison Square Garden next November 4 to 8 for the first time in four years, it was announced today by Lt. Col. Whitney Stone, newly elected president of the National Horse Show association.

New PCL Umpire

COCOA, Fla., March 4. (AP)—Bill McGowan, senior major league umpire, who is concluding a four week's umpires' school here, said Al Summers had signed a contract to umpire during the coming season in the Pacific coast league.

Summers, chief assistant to McGowan during the umpire's school, was with the American association last season.