

# Stars of Yesteryear

BY BILL PACHECO

Clifford "Cliff" Melim, popular sportsman and one of the Isle's great track stars, attended Central Grammar and McKinley high schools. He excelled in track, football and basketball. While in grammar school, he won a high point trophy for having cleaned up in the sprints.

In 1913 'til 1917, he attended McKinley high school. Asked about his past in sports, Cliff said:

"I played a lot of football for McKinley in 1913, '14-'15. Fellows like the late Lionel Brash, John Lee Kwai, Henry Thompson, federal court clerk, Key Fong and brother Alwin Melim were some of my teammates. "Some of the fellows I played against were Staff Austin, Bill Inman, Bill Napeha and Tony Carriera, all of Punahou. This fellow Carriera could kick with the greatest of ease with either foot. I don't recall seeing any of his kicks blocked. I mean that he was a long kicker. I would say that he was a better kicker than Johnny Morse ever was. Kamehameha had the Bertleman brothers, Sam Hipa, Buck Arona and others."

"Turning to his favorite sport, Cliff stated: "In 1913, Kam, McKinley and Punahou entered in the running of the first Cornell relays track meet. Those days the trials, semifinals and finals were held on the day of the meet, not like they do it today. Now they have trials on Thursdays and the finals on the Saturday following the trials."

Asked about his record-breaking feat, he said: "In 1918, in the AAU I carried the blue 'n white of the Outtrigger club. I was entered in the 50, 100, and 220-yard dashes, winning all three. In running the 50-yard dash, I broke the record held by Buck Lai Tin, Ensue Pung and McKenzie. The record was 5.2 and I lowered it to 5.1. It was 15 years before I broke it. I have held it for the past 24 years. Joe Stickney and Jinky Crozier were teammates of mine then."

"One of the most thrilling races that I ran happened in 1929 when I ran against Tin Luke Wong Wai of the University of Hawaii. Well, it seemed that this Tin Luke was winning all of his races in the interscholastic track meets and averaging 10 seconds flat in the 100-yard dash. When the school meets were over he entered the AAU meet, which meant that I would meet him then. Speculation rose as to whether I could cope with Tin Luke as he hadn't been beaten in any of his races, and the fact that I was a working man and was also married.

"I could never break 10.4 in the hundred and everybody knew that. I was accused of stealing on the gun, but I was never called back, so I guess that made me a better starter than a stealer. I depended on a good start to win and practiced diligently on my starts.

"Then came the day of the race. We were lined up in our



CLIFF MELIM

respective lanes. The starter readied us and had us all set. At the crack of the gun I got off to a beautiful start, leading the field from our holes never to be headed and I hit the finishing line the winner. There was a lot of rejoicing in the Outtrigger camp over my victory over the college boy for I wasn't even picked to place. My winning time was 10.4."

Clifford for the past 15 years offered medals to the winners in the Melim's Special 50-yard dash. He has given medals to the first three places. Gold, silver and bronze. To the athlete who breaks his record, he will give a large trophy. This event is listed on the AAU track meet annually.

Every year finds Cliff attending the AAU trackfest to cheer on the athletes, to encourage them in every way to break his existing record. He certainly has given them sufficient inducement by offering medals and a large trophy. With fellows like Peters, Hall and Anderson entered and doing 9.8 in the 100-yard dash, with a good start they may send Clifford's record into oblivion in the 50-yard dash.

## Ala Wai Women's Club Play Sunday

The Ala Wai women's golf club which was reactivated recently will hold its first tournament since the war Sunday.

All members and those interested in joining the club are asked to report to the first tee at 11 a.m. to draw for starting positions.

Election of officers will be held following the tournament.