

Player of Week

Kahanamoku Chosen For Sport Award

Duke Kahanamoku, one of the greatest swimmers of all time, has been voted the Williams Equipment company's Player of the Week award for the week ending Friday, August 26.

Duke, who observed his 60th birthday anniversary on Thursday, Aug. 24, is being honored for his outstanding achievements in all water sports and for the contribution in spreading the fame of Hawaii to many distant ports.

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Active in swimming, yachting, surfboarding, canoeing, rowing and water polo, Duke Kahanamoku has carried the success he enjoyed in sports to other activities.

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He startled the swimming world in 1911 when he broke several world's records in Honolulu harbor. His marks were not recognized but in the next 10 years he reigned supreme as a freestyle sprinter.

He won the 100 meter Olympic championship in the 1912 Olympics at Stockholm, Sweden, and repeated as champion in 1920 when the Games were resumed after the first world war. His winning time in 1912 was 1:03.4 and in 1920 he did even better with a 1:01.4 record.

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Duke won National AAU championships in the 100 yard and 100 meter freestyle events several times as a member of the Hui Nalu club. He broke world and American records almost every time he entered a meet.

While he is best known for his swimming prowess, Duke also made the Olympic team, in 1932, as a member of the water polo team. He is the only aquatic star to compete in three Olympics.

Today, at 60, Duke is still active in water sports as a member of the Outrigger Canoe club.

The Williams Equipment Co. award will be presented to Duke Kahanamoku at the Quarterbacks club luncheon Monday noon at Lau Yee Chai.