

Player of Week

'Dad' Center Of Outrigger Wins Award

George (Dad) Center of the Outrigger Canoe club has been voted winner of the Williams Equipment company's "Player of the Week" award for the week ending Friday, Dec. 22, for outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of aquatic sports.

The award was voted to Center at this time as a salute to him on his 74th birthday. He was born on Christmas Day, 1886, at Kipahulu, Maui, during the reign of King Kalakaua.

"Dad" Center will always be remembered as long as there is swimming and surfing in the islands. He was one of Hawaii's first great swimmers and later won international fame as a coach

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One of his greatest achievements in the field of swimming was to coach the United States team in the 1920 Olympics. He led Hawaii's team to the American tryouts at Chicago and seven Hawaiians qualified for the United States team.

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Some of the swimmers he coached or helped to fame were Duke Kahanamoku, Buster Crabbe, Pua and Warren Kealoha, Wild Bill and Gay Harris, Ludy Langer, Helen Moses and Lily Bowmer.

During his heyday as an athlete, "Dad" Center participated in football, basketball, track and field, yacht sailing, canoeing and rowing and soccer. He was captain of the Outriggers from 1910 until about 1938. Today he is still active in golf and is seen daily at the beach helping youngsters to swim.

He will be presented his "Player of the Week" citation by Williams Equipment Co. at the next meeting of the Quarterbacks club. The award is a weekly presentation to a deserving athlete.