SATURDAY FEATURE

Fabulous Kahanamoku Family Still Is 'Tops' in Sports Legendry

By BILL GEE

Kahanamoku is a name to ring a bell in the memory of eldtimers who can recall the glorious days of the early 1900s—one which has left its impact on the international sports scene—a name to conjure with today in Hawaiian politics.

It is the surname of an almost legendary Hawaiian family of six boys and two girls. Two are most famous of them all; David, William, Samuel, Louis and Sargent Kahanamoku—and two girls; Bernice (Mrs. Gilbert Lee of Hilo), and Kapiolani (Mrs. Fred Ornellas).

Another sister, Maria, died March 24, 1932, at the age of 23. There were other children in the family of Julia Paoa and Duke Halapu Kahanamoku, but they never gained prominence.

Duke was also Kahanamoku because his wife Julia Paakonia Lenahakihiki Paoa, parents of the famous brood, were full descendents of Kamehameha the Great.

GENEOLOGY TRACED

Edwin Smith McClellan traced the family tree back to the days of Kamehameha I in the copyrighted story on "The Bronze Duke of Waikiki" which which appeared in the Outrigger Canoe Club magazine, "Forecast" of August, 1950, commemorating Duke Kahanamoku Day.

McClellan wrote that traditions in the Kahanamoku, Piikoi and Paoa families, passed down by word of mouth and voiced by reliable Hawaiians, established that Duke Paoa Kahanamoku's paternal grandfather or great grandfather was the son or grandson of Keeaumoku Pelaki Bishop, the "Last of the Kamehamehas" and through her, to Kamehameha the Great.

The ancestors of the Kahanamokus were of the Big Island of Hawaii, where their paternal grandparents, Kahoeha and Kaholoaa, lived at Honuaula.

Duke's Records---and Today's

Swimming speeds have come a long way since the pace-making days of Duke Kahanamoku:

	Duke's World Records	Today's Records
50 yard freestyle	22.6 seconds	22.1 seconds
100 yard freestyle	53 seconds	49.2 seconds
100 meter freestyle	60 seconds	55.9 seconds

Duke established his records 40 years ago, when swimming was a comparatively new competitive sport. Kahanamoku was a pioneer in the development of the final yards when he stayed his blazing finishes to one out the opponent's head in confident of his ability to do it.

Yesterday, incidentally, as held for another Hawaii developed swimmer—Dick Cleveland, who is captain of the 1953 Punahou Cleveland team. Cleveland broke the new marks last year in short course pools where turns help the swimmer.

Better conditions, improvement in training technics and stroking, stiffer competition, and a rapid progression of breaking records have helped modern swimmers shave the times considerably.

Had Duke ever been pressed . . . well??

and Kahanamoku, were born.

McClellan recalled the first Duke, father of the present one, received his name from a story handed 'down by the old Hawaiians at the time of his birth July 21, 1869, the Duke of Edinburgh, Alfred Ernest Albert, second son of Queen Victoria, visited Honolulu in command of HMS Galatea.

THE FIRST DUKE

It was during this historic visit by British royalty that the son born to Ke-hoe-ha and Kahanamoku was christened. Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop was asked to name the child. She chose Alfred in honor of the prince, the first time that the Duke of Edinburgh came to Honolulu" according to McClellan.

Hawaii's star-spangled athletic history boasts several other families steeped in sports tradition, among them the Blaisdell; Kaulukukui, Wise, Pung, Kneubuhl, Mau, Kua, Lai and Wong clans—but none achieved the stature of the Kahanamokus, or commanded the flood of press copy.

Duke, the eldest, for the last 18 years Sheriff of Honolulu and a good possibility to occupy the office for as long as he cares to run, is the best known of the Kahanamokus.

The Bronze Duke of Waikiki, Olympic swimming champion in 1912 and 1920, and a top contender for the title in 1916, 1917 and '20 times, put Hawaii on the athletic map and also made his name a symbol of Hawaii for all time, as a youngster of 20 in 1911.

BEST NEVER TESTED

A charter member of Hui Nalu, which was organized in 1911, the superbly-built, marvelously coordinated Duke Kahanamoku first startled the world the same year with record smashing performances in the 50 and 100 yard races.

He went on to establish world records in all the short races, revolutionizing sprint swimming by introducing the now famous American crawl stroke.

It has often been said of Duke that he swam only fast enough to win. The records Kahanamoku might have established had he been pressed are something to fire the imagination.

The spectacular nature of his victories gives an insight on Duke's character—the quality of which has endured the test of time and tribulations.

Duke has managed to lead a quiet, dignified, modest, life in a state which has been praised by kings and basked in the adulation of a grateful city and admiring throngs, but never lost the common touch.

FAMOUS RESCUE

The great Hawaiian champion, a sought-after Hollywood actor in 1925-26, added further luster to his name with the heroic rescue of eight persons off Newport Beach, California, when a pleasure-seeking yacht, the Thelma, capsized under the battering of heavy ground swells.

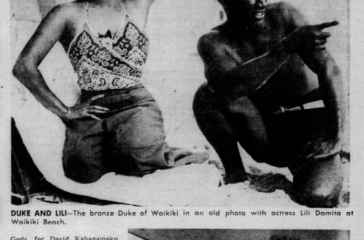
Duke captured the heart of all America by making three trips on his surfboard through treacherous waters a quarter of a mile off shore to bring the eight to safety. There were 17 lives lost that day and 12 rescued.

THE 'BROTHER ACT'—One of the few pictures of all six Kahanamoku brothers together shows, left to right, Bill, Sam, Louis, David, Sargeant and Duke. It was taken in 1931 when all six were training for the 1932 Olympics. Duke, the oldest, was 41. Sargent, the youngest, was 20.

DUKE AND LILI—The bronze Duke of Waikiki in an old photo with actress Lili Damita at Waikiki Beach.

DUKE IN HIS PRIME

DUKE'S HEROISM MEDAL



TODAY'S DUKE—With his wife, Nadine

PROPOSED STATUE—Seen before a mirror, the full statue has never been made.

was clocked at 24.2 in a practice 50-yard stint, but quit training when it became apparent that the form which carried him to Olympic glory in 1924 was gone forever.

DORIS DUKE'S FRIEND

Sam Kahanamoku, new in the real estate business, was a close friend of the James Cromwells (Doris Duke) while they were in Honolulu during the late 1930s. He handled the real estate transactions when Miss Duke bought the Wodehouse place at Waikiki; he transferred into a million-dollar hideaway, now called Shangri-La.

Sam was the man who effected the entry of the Cromwell Hawaiians, coached by Dr. Sam Apuhene, now a City and County supervisor, in the Hawaiian Basketball League circa 1927.

Sam and Doris Duke Cromwell paired to capture a 200-yard tandem (beach boy and mahine) surfboard championship surfboard race in 1939 after winning the 440-yard single surfrace race over a 500-yard course (he assisted Cromwell 'Pump' Searle in coaching the 1939 University of Hawaii swimming team.

FOOTBALL TOO

Louis Kahanamoku, deputy sheriff under his brother, Duke, gained recognition as a star tackle at Kamehameha School for Boys and later as a Kahalum standout in Senior League play under Bill Wise.

Louis was also a highly proficient surfboard paddler, swimmer and surfboard rider. He married Agnes Duncan in 1852, brought the six Kahanamoku brothers together for the first time since 1939. David came in from Maui, while William flew from Kywaihae on the Big Island.

David and Bill Kahanamoku were topflight life savers, swimmers, surfboard paddlers and beach boys like their brothers. David, who played football in 1921 with the Outrigger Canoe Club under Coach Pinky Thomas, was a 250-lb. lineman captain at Schofield Barracks during World War II. He was also good enough to earn a spot on the 1924 U.S. Olympic team along with Duke and Sam Kahanamoku.

David Kahanamoku, a retired gentleman farmer on Maui, was given good reason to believe there is something in "Kahanaism" one day in 1938.

STRANGE ACCIDENTS

Duke, on a visit to Bishop Museum to consult Mrs. Lida Judd, Hawaii's foremost authority on feathers and feather lei, he was drawn irresistibly to one of the cases in which stood his double, a life cast made in 1917, attractively displaying a feather cloak.

As if by some hypnotic power, David's eyes were drawn to the left thumb of the statue, which had been badly cracked and recently visitor a few months previously, when the statue had stood, unprotected, in an alcove of the Museum.

The thought which flashed in David Kahanamoku's mind was the memory of having broken the same thumb in the same place in 1921, when as a member of Dr. Withington's OCC eleven, he had recounted an attempt to "Bash-in" during a smashing University of Hawaii fullback bust through the line.

A moment later, he recalled that only recently, he had cut the same thumb in exactly the same place, when his knife had slipped while cleaning a large tuna.

David immediately sought out the curator of collections and made him promise to have the statue's thumb repaired before anything further happened. That apparently satisfied the gods, for David Kahanamoku has since gotten along without any mishap to the thumb.

YOUNGSTERS ESCAPADE

William Kahanamoku takes care of the George Murphy yacht and keeps it in perfect condition.

His children, Barbara, then 13, and Billy, 12, made news March 17, 1946, when they swam to shore after abandoning a rubber life raft a mile-and-a-half at sea.

Barbara swam a two-mile circular course against stiff currents to the beach for a surfboard with which to pick up her brother, who "wasn't a very good swimmer" when the raft started to drift out to sea.

Their uncle, David, then recreation director for the Outrigger Canoe Club, scolded the youngsters before going out to retrieve the rubber boat.

Sargent Kahanamoku, youngest of the fabulous brothers, went for Standard Oil. He can also take his place among the best sergeant swimmers in Hawaiian sports annals.

LONG SWIM

Sargent made Honolulu Star-Bulletin headlines on July 28, 1933, when he saved his own life and that of Paul Fagan Jr., president of Universal Motors Co.) by battling four hours through shark-infested waters off Diamond Head, towing a disabled speed boat.

The two had gone out for a spin when Fagan's boat ran out of gas about three and a half miles off shore and started to drift. After trying vainly to make headway by paddling with a spare oar, Fagan and Sargent jumped overboard and began to swim to shore, towing the craft.

There was no rope available, and Sargent was forced to hang on to the bow with one hand, and paddle with the other, kicking at the same time. They finally made the long haul home.

FAMOUS WIFE

Sargent now shoots golf in his spare time at Waialae Country Club, where he is a long-driving handicapper. His embarrassing "golf widow" Anna Kahanamoku, is a Red Cross Pacific World Airways sales representative, and a well-known Maui family—the Furtados—which boasts Dick, the greatest all-around track star in local history.

The six Kahanamoku brothers are all big men—throwbacks to the wonderfully-built Hawaiians of old. They are the finest of a dwindling race of full-blooded natives.

Each has lived an eventful life, with the booming surf of Waikiki and the lazy, glamorous existence of the beach boy integral parts of their memories.

Today, the Kahanamoku name is the remaining symbol of a great era in the growth of Honolulu from a Pacific idyll into a metropolis. And there are many Hawaiians who still look back into the good old days, when the Kahanamokus dropped supreme in all water sports, with a sigh.

Jim Martin was a star end on the Notre Dame football team but regular guard on offense.

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