

WATER POLO LEAGUE WANTED

The regatta which was held last Saturday and the consequent discussions which have since raged with regard to the victories of the Myrtles and the defeats of the Healanis seem to have directed the attention of sports generally to the necessity of waking up and organizing further aquatic events.

"Why," said a well-known official of one of the Clubs yesterday, "there was not even a swimming race on Saturday." Of course, one does not usually look for swimming races at a rowing regatta, though an event or two of that character might easily have been sandwiched in between the rowing races. The decision of the Healanis Club to hold a swimming carnival as soon as the details can be arranged and the men given sufficient time to train, has set swimmers generally talking about this branch of aquatics, from which to water polo is an imperceptible distance.

With two strong clubs such as the Myrtles and Healanis, most of whose members are swimmers, and with the hundreds of good swimmers in the islands outside of these two organizations, it seems incredible that water polo has been allowed to almost die out. An occasional game is played, but is very occasional indeed; so seldom that comparatively few of the swimmers know the rules of the game. Of course many are posted as to the general regulations, but if asked to decide a knotty point or to act as referee for a match, their knowledge would fail them.

All this is to be changed, however, if the secretary of the Healanis is able to bring the committee of his own and other clubs to his way of thinking. Yesterday afternoon, J. B. Lightfoot waxed enthusiastic in discussing this matter with the writer.

It ought to be an easy matter to get fourteen teams to enter a water polo league, if one were organized. Four teams each could be entered from the Healanis and Myrtle clubs, two from the Outrigger and two each from the Oahu college and the High School. With fourteen teams playing on the league system, each team to play each of the others, would mean ninety-one matches; playing seven matches a week would ensure that the competition would last for three months and interest should be sustained right to the end. If the cup-tie or knockout system were adopted there would be thirteen games and two byes, and the competition could be finished inside of three weeks. Each game takes about thirty minutes to play on an average, though there is only fourteen minutes actual play, but time taken off for breaches of the rules, etc., usually brings the time of the game to half an hour.

The provision of boundary lines for the field of play should be a very easy matter, and if necessary two games could be played at the same time, one at the Myrtle Club and the other at the Healanis Club. These matters and the provision of prizes for the winners, would not cause the promoters any difficulty, if the cooperation of the three clubs and the college and high school is obtained.

It is probable that the matter will be further discussed within the next week or so, though it may be some time yet before the league is formally started. It is better for those favoring the movement to proceed carefully from the start, rather than to rush into the project without consideration. However, the very fact that the subject has been raised indicates that it is the turn of aquatics to loom largely on the public horizon during the next few months.