

Amateur Athletics

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Kayak Paddling in Hawaii

Only a few weeks ago, this column advocated more organized aquatic sports for Hawaii and, presto, along with other kindred spirits at the Ala Wai boathouse last Sunday, we were allowed to view Hawaii's first-ever demonstration of kayak canoe paddling.

Although the AAU does not control this sport, its public relations committee headed by John W. Bustard, had met U.S. crews Melbourne-bound for the last Olympiad, and was left with the feeling that what Easterners could do under certain handicaps, Hawaii could do better.



Bustard

Friends who had followed this popular sport in Europe imported one each of various type kayaks plus several Canadian canoes soon to arrive.

They have been brought here to help establish the sport and they could be acquired by any individual or club wishing to help the United States increase its overall score at future

Olympics.

Next to walking, canoeing is perhaps civilization's oldest sport, for by this means only could the world's aborigines negotiate their waterways be it by raft, dugout, kayak or canoe.

Who could ever forget the sturdy Eskimo crews that travel annually from Alaska down the coast to compete in the British Columbia Empire Day Regatta.

The Klutchman's race would have crews of eight women each with a papoose strapped to her back. Perfect timing and balance were imperative lest all are spilled into icy cold white water.

With barely a week's training, George Downing handled his single paddle like a veteran and pert little Sally Lacey of the Outrigger C.C. proved that canoeing could be a new exciting sport for our girls too.

The fact that so many fathers brought their juniors to try this new sport, somehow clicked with Doc Withington's belief expressed at a recent Quarterback's Meeting, that youth fitness fundamentally should be a family affair.

In this respect, there is hardly a sport that serves the family so admirably as boating.

★ ★ ★ An Orphan Sport

To impress upon Hawaii's athletes the wonderful chance they have of "arriving" in this branch of Olympic sport, it is necessary to state—unfortunately—that canoeing is one of the "orphan" sports that the U.S. Olympic Committee is particularly anxious to see properly adopted.

Canoe and kayak paddling should not be confused with rowing which became a major United States Olympic number.

In 1920 J. B. Kelly starred in the single and double sculls, and United States crews started their clean sweep in the eight-oared shell down to date. In paddling Canadian canoes and kayaks there were less than one hundred experienced athletes trying out for the last games.

As a result, this wonderful country could find no better places than eighth to twelfth in five events and was eliminated in trials of the other three.

U.S. trials are held over a nominally straight fifteen hundred meter course with 120 degree turns, so both the canal and channel should offer good training space.

This canoe steering committee plans further demonstrations on the canal as well as windward Oahu and as soon as twenty individuals are sufficiently interested to pledge moral, physical and financial support, a Hawaii Division of the American Canoe Association will be formed.

With only six such clubs on the East Coast and one in Ohio, what a sensation the 50th state could create if an exhibition were held at the Pan American games in Chicago next July.