

Pomar finds surfing a challenge

By BOBBIE CONLAN

There was a young man from Peru
Who surfed till his nose
it turned blue.
He hated to quit—
By the bug he was bit—
And now he's in
Surfing's Who's Who.

The young man from Peru is 22-year-old Felipe Pomar and if there were a Surfing's

Who's Who, he'd be in it. Holder of the 1965 World Surfing Championship and this year's Peruvian International Surfing Championship winner, as well as third place finisher in the first annual Duke Kahanamoku Invitational Surfing Championships, Pomar has been an avid surfer for about seven years.

He's won or placed in sev-

eral national and international contests in Peru and was awarded the Laureles Deportivos del Orden en Clase de Comendador con Insignia de Oro, the highest honor given by the Peruvian government for athletic achievement.

"I used to do competitive swimming," Pomar related, "and when I turned 15 a friend, Pitty Block, intro-

duced me to surfing. He took me to the Club Waikiki, which was the only surf club in Peru at the time—very exclusive and very expensive."

Felipe wanted to join the club, but "my father was pretty hard to convince. Although he liked all sports very much, my grandfather had drowned and he (my father) had tried surfing once with those 150-pound boards and broke his leg in two parts. So he wasn't too happy about my learning to surf."

But Felipe was a persistent son.

"I just got on his back until he went along with it," he laughed.

Persistence is a marked characteristic of his surfing career: he wanted to surf so he did, he wanted to come to Hawaii so he did that, too.

"I came to the States to go to college, mainly," Pomar said. "I went to a private business and engineering school in San Francisco for one quarter. My grades were good, but the water was too cold for me.

"So I saved my money and when the quarter was over, I sent my grades to my parents and wrote them a long letter explaining why I should go to Hawaii.

"I asked them to please see things my way and when they answered my letter to please send it in care of the Outrigger Canoe Club, Honolulu, Hawaii."

When he's not surfing, Felipe is a student at the Church College of Hawaii in Laie where he will be a junior, majoring in psychology.

He is also under contract with Robert Bruce swimwear and will be going on a European promotional tour with the company this summer.

But surfing takes priority over everything else, and Felipe has given much thought as to why this is so for him.

"At different times you surf for different reasons," he said. "Sometimes when you're angry, instead of punching somebody you go work it out in the water. Sometimes you want to think. And—I don't want to be corny—but there's beauty in it, too. A wave is beautiful.

"And the things you get out of surfing when you're angry and surfing when you want to ride a beautiful wave are different."

He likes the sport, too, because it is so individual.

"In almost any other sport you need at least one other person and most of the time a team even to practice. In surfing, if you want to go out, you just grab your board and go.

"And in most other sports, the practicing is not enjoyable. You're always working toward a rld something—a big game. In surfing you're not working toward anything; it's for right now and you enjoy it right now."

Freedom is another aspect of surfing that Felipe likes.

"There are no rules, nobody saying you have to get the ball over this line or into that basket. Once you're in the water you can do practically anything that you want.

"Of course," he added, "if you run too many people over, eventually it might catch up with you!"

But the biggest thing is the challenge.

"It's one person against the ocean. It's a great challenge to feel like you're capable of going out with the knowledge that there's no help from anybody, and trying to control and master a big wave.

"This playing with danger gives you a feeling of immortality and security."

Security?

"Yes. When you go out and face these waves that are so much more powerful than you, and can come at you from the best, having overcome that—you feel if that can't get you nothing can.

"It gives you a great amount of self-confidence and you feel that you can handle anything."

"There's an emotional attachment involved in big wave riding. Once you've overcome the initial fear, you're hooked. There are guys that live in town and drive back and forth to the North Shore every day just to surf.

"In my opinion, very few people appreciate the 'ultimate' in surfing—which is riding big waves—to prove something to somebody else. And only those who surf to prove something to themselves, and have already done it, begin to enjoy riding big waves.

"From what I've seen, there are probably under 20 people like this in the world. "And you can really tell the difference when you're out there, between a guy who's enjoying it and a guy who's not enjoying it."



BIG RIDE—The ultimate thrill in surfing is catching and riding a big wave. Inset shows Felipe Pomar.

Baseball czar's aide warns colleges against 4-year rule

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Lee MacPhail, assistant to the baseball commissioner, said yesterday pro baseball is sympathetic with problems of college coaches but a four-year rule against signing college players could lead to signing players right out of high school.

The American Association of College Baseball Coaches, in a resolution passed here Monday, asked Congress to make the pro baseball draft similar to the pro football and basketball drafts, which protect the college player until his class graduates, four years after he enters school.

Pro baseball protects college players only for the first two years. The coaches contend the free-agent draft

started in 1965 is wrecking the college game by taking players just before the season starts, before they can be replaced by recruiting new men.

"The college baseball program is good," MacPhail said. "We are sympathetic with their problem. Paramount to professional baseball however, is insuring the source of talent.

"Congress is giving baseball hell for not expanding the major leagues fast enough, and there is need right now for more good players in the majors."

John H. Simmons of Missouri, president of the coaches association, said baseball is taking a shortsighted view by crippling the college programs with the free agent draft.

"Some of these draft players play football," Simmons said. "Others are on football scholarships but go out for baseball. Now the football coaches and athletic directors are keeping the boys from going out for baseball,

for fear of losing them to the baseball draft and hurting their football programs.

"The pros drafted '83 last year and '94 this year and signed only about half," Simmons said. "Legislation is the only answer."

McGowen wins flyweight crown

LONDON (UPI)—Walter McGowen of Scotland claimed sole rights today to the world flyweight title on the basis of a clear-cut 15-round decision over Italy's Salvatore Burrini.

The wee Scot refused to acknowledge the claims of Horacio Accavello of Argentina, who was installed as champion by the World Boxing Association (W.B.A.) and the World Boxing Council (W.B.C.) when Burrini failed to defend his title.

"Accavello, who is he?" quipped McGowen after his exhibition of speed and punching at Empire Pool last night to the delight of 6,000 fans.

"I'll take a short holiday and then start training for the fight against Alan Rudkin for the British bantamweight title in September."

Tag team bout tops mat card

A six-man tag team match headlines tonight's pro wrestling card tonight at the Civic Auditorium. The program gets under way at 8.

Nick Bockwinkel teams up with Chief Billy Wolf and Red Eagle against

said McGowen, who added he had no plans for a bout with Accavello.

"This fellow can come to us if he is interested in a fight."

Burrini, a 33-year-old bartender from Sardinia, sweated off two pounds and five ounces in less than an hour to enter the ring at 110. McGowen scaled 111½.

A deep cut over his right eye bothered the Scotsman during the last four rounds, but he managed to last the distance through some clever defensive boxing.



Leo, the Little Leaguer

