



Duke shows his form as young Olympic hopeful.

Duke Makes Big Splash

By JOE BRENNAN

Copyright 1967 by Joe Brennan
11th of a series.

While his competitors were gradually getting organized at the end of the Pittsburgh pool preparatory to the jump-off, Duke played things safe by asking the official starter if he could test the temperature of the water. When the man nodded approval, Duke jumped into the pool and paddled a few yards up and down to get adjusted to the chill.

A few hoots rang out from the audience. "Grandstander!" came a shout. "Show-off!" yelled someone else. Still, there were obviously others who had some inkling of the Islander's problem, and they held their tongues.

Duke swept back up to the tank's rim, lifted himself out all in one rhythmic motion, and stood there, tall, wide and metallic in the lights. The sheen of water made his rope-like muscles glisten, and he was something to behold. But on the inside, it was something else; he knew he was still a stranger in a strange city among strange people who doubted him.

When Duke hit the water this time with the others, he put on a demonstration of speed and power such as the locals had never before witnessed.

It was a 100-yard test and he was not used to making turns on the banks, but his speed on the straightaways was

"Duke of Hawaii"

The Biography of Duke Kahanamoku

such that it overcame his one weakness. He won the event with seconds to spare. The fans fractured their hands with applause, and Duke grinned while drinking in the joy of self-vindication.

He did likewise in the 50-yard swim, and again he beat the old world's record time. The place was in a furor, and Pittsburgh swim fans yelled their delight, acknowledging the newcomer as king of all sprint swimmers.

The New Stroke

The newspapers, too, went berserk the next morning and they featured the young Hawaiian in picture and prose. Much was made of his new crawl stroke which they tried hard to identify. The old trudgeon was still being used by most top swimmers, but this Kahanamoku form of free-style had caught up the imagination. Where did it come from? And who was the originator? It started much speculation in sports pages throughout the nation.

Particularly did Duke's powerful flutter kick come in for lengthy discussion and analysis. "Where did he get it?" was the big question. Modestly, Duke disclaimed any credit for having invented it.

One paper pointed out that Charles Dana, adventurer and writer, once watched a Hawaiian messenger swim from his ship to shore, and there had been a distinct wake of foam made by the native's churning flutter kick. He had insisted that no wake such as this could be left by the usual scissors or frog kick as employed by American and European swimmers.

The writer contended that the ancient Hawaiians used the flutter kick and probably developed it by body surfing where a swimmer has to be moving extremely fast in order to catch a breaking wave without a board and borrow on its forward momentum.

It was pointed out, too, that possibly the Hawaiian's habit of surfing with small boards led to their using a flutter kick; the fast up and down thrust of the flutter assisting them in getting started with a breaking wave. In that the flutter kick furnished them speed and buoyancy they needed for surfing, the natives very likely combined it with their overhand swimming stroke. This gave them their crawl.

Hawaiian-Style

However, the one thing that tended to belie all this so-called evidence was the fact that the history books indicate no tradition of competitive swimming among the ancient Hawaiians. It appears they swam only for distance and endurance.

Their swimming was portrayed as a leisurely type of cruising with their heads out of the water and their arms moving in something resembling a combined breast stroke and dog paddle. To the natives, swimming was apparently a form of bathing or fun, and certainly not a competitive contest. Their only competitive water sport was surfing.

One top swimming coach went on record as saying: "There are three styles of the crawl stroke — the Australian, the American and the Hawaiian. Each of these divisions is a distinctive style embodying the main characteristics of the stroke, that is, the double overarm stroke and the dragging leg kick. Yet each is a different stroke and each has its representative champions and proponents."

And so the arguments went, pro and con, with no one really proving much of anything. But Duke had become controversial, and he was bringing swimming to the notice of people who had never bothered to read about swimming, let alone attend a meet. He simply had that colorful quality which made people catch fire with interest and want to see him perform, whether it might be swimming or plucking a duck.

Talk of Olympics

In any event, the result of Duke's performance in Pittsburgh was that he was given his chance to vie for a berth on the American Olympic team at New York City. The little party of four — Miller, Genoves, Henderson and Duke — entrained for the big, big city — the one which Duke had always thought of as a Never Never Land too far away for him to ever visit it.

And there in New York, he duplicated his feats of Pittsburgh, and was officially picked to go to Philadelphia for the final trials. Duke was naturally jubilant. Henderson kept talking Olympics to him: Olympics, Olympics, Olympics! And Duke tried to talk Olympics back to him, but it was the kind of talk that is akin to nervous drumming on the table. Anything could happen — and he was still remembering what had happened to him at the Alakea slip, and the first performance at Pittsburgh.

Interest in the Islander was at white heat by the time the group got to Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the young man of few words was still having difficulty in keeping up with the never-ceasing questioning from curious crowds and eager reporters.

He was about as laconic as cinema star Gary (Yup) Cooper of a later era. Trying to explain his own emotions was always a major problem for him. Alone with a friend, Duke would simply thump his own chest with his thumb and say defensively, "The things inside that are so hard to get at. . . ." And that's as far as he would go.

Next: Duke, the Ambassador.

Council OKs Waiomao Slide Funds

The City Council yesterday agreed to finance a project designed to stop the progress of the Waiomao slide which is threatening about 30 Palo-olo Valley homes.

The Council agreed to place \$150,000 in a supplemental budget which already has passed first reading. The money will pay for initial steps in implementing recommendations of Dr. Ralph B. Peck of the University of Illinois.

Peck, one of the nation's leading soil scientists, studied the slide in 1959 and again last month. He recommended that newly developed equipment could be used to drill a network of vertical drains on Waiomao Road and Kipona Place to carry runoff water out of the slide plain into rock formations below.

William Tokushige of the Department of Public Works said the drains will be drilled to about 70 feet and will cost \$50,000.

In addition, the plan calls for purchase of seven lots on Kipona Place where homes already have been carried into the street by the slide. This will cost about \$100,000.

Acting Mayor Robert F. Ellis wrote the Council the administration plans to include \$350,000 in the next fiscal year's budget to complete the project.

City Engineer Yoshio Kunimoto told the Council the City had spent about \$300,000 in the past in attempts to stop the slide and that Peck's recommendation now appears to offer a permanent solution.

Tokushige said if the slide is not stopped it will soon cross Kipona Place and move down the slope and damage at least 15 more homes.

Governor Fills Posts On Boards

Governor John A. Burns yesterday announced these appointments to boards and commissions:

Kamehameha Day Celebration Commission — Mrs. Victoria Ah Yat, Mrs. Marvita C. Peralta, Abraham K. Piihana, Harry Kuhia, Mrs. Margaret H. S. Cunha, Mrs. Dora K. Bright and Abigail K. Kawanakoa.

Public Employees Compensation Appeals Board — Charles K. Isumoto, State Civil Service Commission, Mark Marmuakami as alternate; William Paty Jr., City and County of Honolulu, Ray Tanaka, alternate; Howard Mimaki, Hawaii County, Mrs. Frances Lee, alternate; Eugene Bal, Maui County, Donald Rickard, alternate; Dr. George Okada, Kauai County, Lawrence Carvalho, alternate.

8 Divorces Are Granted

nia

jet you'll — there's er airline 0' round

and stereo ing with

a library navia to you like. See your

1968 1000