

HOO MALIMALI

Red McQueen

Sports Editor Emeritus



A Sweeter Person Never Lived

The Duke is dead, but like Diamond Head, his memory will live on forever.

A sweeter man never lived. It is difficult to conceive how any athlete could be so revered. To know Duke was to love him.

Our life was greatly enriched for having known him from boyhood.

You might say we were once in business together, in the early stages of his career. This was after he had started the aquatic world by shattering world records for the 100 and 50 freestyle and then going on to win the 100 meters, also in record time, at Stockholm in the 1912 Olympics.

Duke's times in local competition were so sensational that AAU officials couldn't get the National body to accept them. They insisted that something must have been wrong with our watches or the distance of the course.

Anyway, they refused to accept them. Judge W. T. Rawlins, a prominent AAU official, was infuriated and as Duke continued to shatter all existing records for the 50 and 100 dashes, led a movement to raise funds to send Duke and another outstanding local freestyler, Zen Genoves, to the Olympic tryouts in Philadelphia.

Duke immediately proved his prowess with record-breaking performances and was selected for the Olympic team.

The rest is history that a bronze, 21-year-old boy from the Sandwich Islands went on to take the gold medal in the 100 meters and also led the American team to victory in the 800-meter relay, both in record time.

While they had trouble pronouncing it, the name of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku immediately became a household word throughout the aquatic world.

Swim Meets Were Gala Events

Of course there was wild celebrating when word of Duke's great Olympic achievements reached here. Elaborate plans were begun for his homecoming but they hung fire for some months.

AAU officials who first refused to recognize his amazing times, immediately grasped the opportunity to capitalize on his popularity.

They first sent him on a barnstorming tour of Europe, and then on a tour of the Mainland. It was some nine months after his Olympic triumphs that he finally made it home to a hero's welcome, that naturally included a series of swimming meets.

The meets, featuring the Duke, were gala affairs and attracted turnaway crowds.

The meets were held between the Quartermasters and Coast Guard piers at the foot of Richard Street.

Duke didn't know it but here is where we were in business. Duke would appear in two events each night, the 50 and 100-yard dashes. His opponents generally included a big name import from the Mainland or Australia.

Anyway, yours truly got a job selling programs, which was lucrative enough. But the big kill came each time Duke broke a record—which was virtually every time he took his mark.

Yet, as soon as a new record was announced, the gathered throng became so elated many of them threw their hats into the harbor. They were mostly straw affairs or panamas and many an excited fan neglected to remove his feather lei.

With the money we had earned hustling programs, we bought back the hats as fast as we could from the wharfs and sold them back to their owners at never less than four-bits or a buck apiece.

Duke was delighted when we told him about it in later years.

Never Cared for Wealth

Duke didn't try to collect his share even though we made quite a racket of it as he continued breaking records in the intervening years until he went to Antwerp to defend his 100-meter crown in 1920.

Actually, the Duke never cared for great wealth. A delightful, easy-going person, he was content to live a simple life. He loved the water and he tried to spend as much of his time near it as he could.

Thus it was that he spent so much time on the beach, sharing his charm and talent with the tourists.

Even when it became necessary to go to work, he would spend his noon hours at his beloved Outrigger Canoe Club. Right to the very end, he loved his boat and spent hours on it.

Despite the great glory he brought to Hawaii with his Olympic and other aquatic accomplishments, life didn't exactly come easy for Duke.

Except for his beachcombing, he was without work for long intervals. After competing in the '20 Olympics, he remained in Southern California for 10 years, dabbling in movies.

When he came home in 1932, a friend set him up with a service station and he laughed at a song they wrote about "Duke Kahanamoku, Famous Olympic Champion, Now Pumping Gasoline."

Life became a lot easier when he was elected Sheriff in 1935 and he retained the post until it was abolished in 1961. From then on he was made an official greeter or ambassador of good will for the State.

Life Begins Anew

He really started to live like a Duke when Kimo McVay and his mother came into his life a few years ago and incorporated him in a night club under his own name in the heart of Waikiki with Don Ho as the big attraction. It was then that Lincoln Continentals and Rolls Royces and cruisers started popping into his life. We have never seen Duke and his lovely wife Nadine happier.

This prince of a guy, who did so much for Hawaii and who brought so much happiness into the lives of so many, surely long deserved all of the better things in life.

We've never seen a kinder person. We've never heard him say a harsh word about anybody. He never had a fight in his life and closest we ever saw him come to being annoyed was when a group of rowdy guests at his 77th birthday party wouldn't quiet down to allow Kenneth Brown, to

Shipes Scores

KO Victory

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) — Charlie Shipés, one-time California-recognized world welterweight champion, made short work of Pulga Serrano with a knockout at 1:58 of the first round last night at Oakland Auditorium.

Shipes, 145½, of Oakland, exploded a left hook to the chin and a follow up right to the head that deposited Serrano, 146, Tijuana, Mexico, on his face where he was counted out and remained unconscious for two minutes.

It was Shipés' second win since he lost in the world welterweight showdown to Curtis Cokes in October and gives him a 33-2-2 record.

In the second scheduled 10-rounder, Ralph McCoy, 160, Richmond, Calif., remained undefeated after a

15-month layoff as he scored his sixth knockout in as many starts when the referee halted his bout against outclassed Floyd Casey, 162½, Los Angeles, in the sixth round.

Golf Pickups

OCC MEDAL PLAY

Alec Waterhouse won the individual medal tournament at Oahu Country Club with a 75-10-65.

PUBLIC LINKS

The Oahu Public Links Golf Club will hold a tournament at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at Francis Brown course.

OAHU FIRE FIGHTERS

David Hamasaki carded a 96-29-67 to capture the Oahu Fire Fighters Golf Club's tournament at Moanalua.

Francis Yano took low gross honors with a 79.

MID-PACIFIC WOMEN

Keiki McCombs won the "best 8 out of 9" tournament for women at Mid-Pacific Country Club yesterday with a 68 for A flight honors. B flight went to Toki Emura, also with a 68.

HANDICAPPERS

Alvin Ching scored 80-12-68 and Arthur Kusumoto 75-7-68 as they tied for low net in a Handicappers Golf Club tournament at Francis Brown course.

Ernest Kimura and James Uyebara tied for A flight honors with identical 80-10-70. Robert Taga topped B flight, scoring 84-13-71.

OCC BEST 17

John Bersch carded 74-15-59 to win the best 17 holes tournament at Oahu Country Club.

Race Driver Injured

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (UPI) — An Alfa Romeo racing car traveling at about 120 m.p.h. went out of control yesterday and flipped over on its Italian driver, seriously injuring one of his arms.

Ignazio Giunti, 26, of Rome, a member of the Italian factory's racing team prepping for the 24-hours of Daytona next month, was described in good condition after surgery at Halifax Hospital.

It was first believed that the arm was broken but doctors later indicated it might not be. There were severe lacerations which required surgery, track officials said.

The Alfa Romeo T-33, one of four racing models scheduled to be entered in the race by the Italians, apparently snapped the right rear axle, according to officials at Daytona International Speedway.

Barend's Team Wins

Johnny Barend and Ripper Collins defeated the Missing Link and Neff Maiava on a disqualification last night in the main event of the pro wrestling card at the Civic Auditorium.

After each team won a fall, Jim Hady entered the ring in an attempt to aid Maiava and the Link, thereby causing the referee to disqualify them.

Hady defeated Dutch Schultz in their feature match when he took the deciding fall with a leg flip and rollover.

In other matches, Angelo Poffo and Killer Kowalski defeated Dean Higuchi and Jack Carson, while Kenji Shibuya took a one-fall victory over Frank Allman.

Nova Found Innocent

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Former heavyweight boxer Lou Nova, 47, Los Angeles, yesterday was found innocent by municipal judge Leonard Mendelsohn of a charge of driving too slowly.

He was arrested by the California Highway Patrol on the San Bernardino Freeway in West Covina last Dec. 2 for driving 50 miles per hour instead of 65 m.p.h.

Judge Mendelsohn said there was "no clear violation of the law."

Nova acted as his own attorney during the trial.

Kailua Beats Iolani, 1-0

Kailua defeated Iolani, 2-1, in an Interscholastic League soccer game yesterday at Kailua.

David Swan and Chris Thompson each scored once for Kailua, while Chris Speakman got the losers' lone goal.

read a resolution from the governor officially deputizing Duke as an Ambassador of Good Will for the State. "Quiet, you guys!" he barked.

We oftentimes wondered how Duke would have fared in other sports besides surfing and swimming. At that he was a fine oarsman, a stroke on the Myrtle Boat Club senior crew for a number of years. He was also a fine golfer.

For the fun, he took a crack at football and played a season for the Healan eleven of the Hawaii Senior League. He wasn't a bad tackle. You'd better believe he had ingrown muscles.

But no matter what he might have been, we want to remember Duke for what he was, one of the grandest persons who ever lived.

Me Ke Aloha, Sweet Friend!

Basketball

CYO ELEMENTARY

Cathedral 45, St. Anthony's (Kailua) 41, High scores: Guy Aio 23, Brian Brilliant 14, Dennis Soares 12, Leonard Frank 10.

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