

Surf Spray

By Ron Haworth



Short Race for Huffaker

Dr. Harry Huffaker will embark on a swim Labor Day he is reasonably sure of finishing—and for Huffaker, this is a feeling with which he is not too familiar.

The Waikiki Rough Water Swim is a short two miles and 300 yards, hardly what Huffaker has been undertaking these past four years.

He is more at home in a Hawaiian channel and likes any distance over 20 miles.

Whether Huffaker can reach back into his collegiate career and find enough of the speed that carried him to All-Collegiate recognition three successive years remains to be seen.

His bag at the University of Michigan was the 100-meter freestyle and 400-meter medley.

Burk Favored to Win

Huffaker sees it this way:

“Ocean swimming is unlike pool swimming in so many respects that this rough water swim can turn out to be anyone’s race.

“Brent Burk, the ex-Punahou sensation who has recently completed an outstanding four years of competition at Stanford, must be rated the pre-race favorite.

“Bill Woolsey, another former name in local swimming circles, will also be tough.”

Huffaker believes that strong winds and chop will give an edge to the stronger swimmers, rather than the fast ones. But he doesn’t think it reasonable to expect a swimmer in his 30s or 40s to match the speed of youth.

Huffaker is 31. So he really doesn’t fall into the strong category, and is just out of the fast set, or so one who doesn’t know his swimming ability may contend. A longer race would favor him. But he should do very well over the two-mile distance. Certainly, he’ll break 60 minutes. Last year Marc Finley completed the course in 55 minutes and 23 seconds.

“It should be stressed that the swim was not conceived merely to determine who the fastest two-miler is,” Huffaker said.

“It is the intention of the organizing committee to primarily encourage swimmers to participate in an event which is fun for all ages. The competitive nature of the swim should be fairly low-key.”

Time Not Important

As for time, Huffaker believes it is unimportant and only relevant for the year it was made.

“Conditions will vary greatly from year to year. As an example, my times from Outrigger Canoe Club to the Ala Wai buoy have varied by as much as 25 minutes, primarily due to the constant flux in the forces of nature.”

The deadline for entering the swim is midnight tonight. Entry forms are available at surf shops and the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Swimmers competing in all but the master (pro) division will be required to affiliate with the AAU on the beach prior to the race. There will be a filing fee of \$1. Those not swimming under AAU sanction will leave the beach 10 minutes after the amateurs.

The swim is co-sponsored by the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, Hawaiian Village Hotel and Outrigger. It is under the direction of the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Isle Crew Loses 2 Races

Paddler Tim Guard came back from competing on the Mainland with a great deal of respect for the California crews.

And well he should. A crew made up of Guard and Healani paddlers were twice beaten by the Newport club, Imua.

“We lost to them by three boat lengths in the Malibu-to-Santa Monica race and then by 500 yards in the Long Beach-Catalina channel race.”

Guard offered no excuses.

“We had good equipment and complete cooperation from the California sponsors. We just got beaten by a superior bunch of paddlers.

“I’d like to see them come over and paddle in the October Molokai-Oahu race,” he said.

If they come to do battle we’d like to see a club like Outrigger donate a koa canoe for their use.

We would hate to see a glass canoe break into the fine and distinguished tradition of koa in the Molokai Channel.