

SWANN IS GR

'Skeeter' Trained First Hoop Team To Leave Here For Ramble On The Coast

Has Played Every Kind of Game and Has Been Star At Many; In Islands But Short Time and Has Countless Friends; Rated As One of Best All-Around Athletes

By THEON WRIGHT

An All-Hawaii basketball team left for the mainland this week to play a series of games with the best talent on the Pacific coast. It is the first time a basketball team was sent over from Hawaii; if the team makes a good showing and proves itself to be of the caliber of mainland teams, the success will be due primarily to one man—Claus Swann, better known as "Skeeter".



Swann has done the one thing that makes it possible for a local team to play with teams on the mainland; he has taught them basketball as it is played today. He deserves the appellation of "Big Brother of Basketball in Hawaii."

Swann taught local players how to play modern basketball—not an obsolete scramble, but a well organized, systematic athletic science. And there is nobody in the entire United States who is more qualified than "Skeeter" Swann to impart these things to local players.

Greatest Here

Swann is without doubt the greatest basketball player that ever came to Hawaii. He is more than that; he once enjoyed the prominence of being classed as the greatest basketball player in the west, and the fastest in the entire United States.

During his career at Oregon Agricultural college he was hailed all over the country as one of the greatest players of all time. He was given praise by some eminent sport writers, east and west. And he was the idol of casaba followers on the Pacific coast.

And Hawaii may be justly proud of having added another nationally famous figure to its already swelling athletic quota. Because Swann is here, and here to stay.

All-Around Man

He is not only a basketball player; in fact he may be justly considered one of the greatest all-around athletes that ever came to Hawaii. He has played baseball, football and competed in track and field sports; and he was a star in each sport—not a local star but one known far and wide.

The only thing Swann hasn't starred in is swimming and he jokes that he may take a crack at Duke's record some day if he doesn't get rheumatism.

His Career

In basketball, however, Swann scored his greatest success. He began his career in Corvallis High school, Oregon, although he was born in South Dakota and raised as a middle westerner.

After playing for four years on the Corvallis team, he entered Oregon Agricultural college. This was in 1904, and he played on the team in his first year. From then on it was one triumph after another. When he graduated in 1907 he had gained a reputation as the greatest player ever developed in the west and the fastest forward in the United States.

He also competed in track, taking the intercollegiate pole vault open at the Lewis and Clarke Fair, Portland, in 1905, against the best pole vaulters in the west. He went over the bar close to 12 feet. In the high jump he slipped over the stick at nearly a half a dozen feet, and broad jumped well over 21 feet. He was a star hurdler on the track. He played second base on the diamond and quarterback for the Aggies on the football field.

After graduating from Oregon Agricultural college, he coached the athletic teams of that institution, turning out a track team that won the Pacific coast championship, and a basketball team that won the championship of the northwest.

To Alaska

He left Oregon and went to Alaska after this, where he joined the Arctic Brotherhood team of Nome, Alaska. This team toured the United States, and its meteoric success was due to the performance of "Skeeter" Swann.

He played for one year with the Ashland Athletic club, and then joined the Normal Hill Center club in Los Angeles. He played with various clubs in Los Angeles after that until he came to Hawaii. He went to Orange, Calif., one year and played on the Orange team, and then played first for the Los Angeles Athletic club and later for the Men's club, or the City of Los Angeles Blues. It was with this team that he came to Hawaii in March, 1921.

Clean Player

His stay in Hawaii has been one of continued triumphs. He won the hearts of the local players by his clean, hard work. In fact Swann was always known as an exceptionally clean player, one sport writer having made the statement that he has had less fouls chalked against him than any other player of nation-wide fame.

Swann played for a year on the Outrigger team, and was the biggest asset the team had. He coached the team and directed it as well. He is now with the Honolulu Sporting Goods Co., and is also physical director of the Columbus Welfare club.

Not Tall

Swann is small in stature, wiry and like "chain lightning" on the

court. He plays an untiring game and well deserves the reputation as the fastest forward in the United States. He is only five feet five inches high, but can jump as high as many six-footers.

He is practically infallible in ringing the baskets, and can drop the egg through from pretty nearly any position. He has not missed more than two foul throws in regular games during his entire career here.

Had Swann been able to get away with the All-Hawaii team he would have bolstered the strength of the team 100 per cent. He is almost a team in himself, and with his direction the local boys could have been certain of making a greater showing.

But Swann says his work lies here, developing new players who may represent the territory in the days to come. A great part of what he might have done has gone on with the team, however, for it was he who trained the local players who to represent Hawaii on the mainland in the big tour now on.

CHAMPION AGAIN



JOE MEDEIROS

A few days ago or so Joe Medeiros wrapped up the handball championship trophy of Honolulu and took it home. It's his for keeps, for he has won the title at the "Y" recently for a third time. Since 1917 he has been unbeaten champion of Honolulu. Medeiros now figures that he ought to retire and give some of the aspiring handballers a chance at the title next season.

They're on the Bound

