



HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIFSS)



103rd historical "tidbit."
Dr. John S. Dahlem

"PLUNGE FOR DISTANCE" SWIMMING EVENT IN THE 1923 CIF-SS FINALS

The Plunge for Distance was a popular event in early swimming competitions and was an office event in the 1902 Olympics.

According to the 1920 *Official Swimming Guide* of the American Swimming Association, the plunge for distance "is a dive from a stationary take-off which is free from spring from a height of 18 inches above the water. Upon reaching the water the plunger glides face downward for a period of 60 seconds without imparting any propulsion to the body from the arms and legs." To determine the total distance traveled, the measurement was taken from the farthest part of the body from the start, "opposite a point at right angles to the base line." Generally, being heavy was an advantage in the sport. The sport began to lose popularity by the mid 1920's and was then considered not to be an athletic event at all. Some considered the event to be "mere mountains of fat falling into the water," and "the slowest thing in the way of athletic completion."

SWIMMING RECORDS FALL

Five Southern California Marks Are Smashed at Long Beach; Venice Team Victorious

[EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH]

LONG BEACH, May 26.—Five Southern California swimming records were smashed today at the Southern California interscholastic swimming championship meet at Long Beach High plunge, when the Venice team distanced the strong field of nearly 100 prep swimmers.

Venice won 29 points, Pasadena High second with 21 points, Los Angeles High 16½, Hollywood High 16, San Diego High 13½, Pasadena Military Academy 8, Huntington Beach 3, Long Beach 2, Pomona 2, Redondo 1. The records began to crack early in the meet, when Harrison of Venice won the fifty-yard free-style dash in 24.3-5s. Then Harrison duplicated, taking the 100-yard free-style in 57 1-5s.

Other records which went by the boards were the 100-yard back stroke, which was taken by Bushnell of the Pasadena Military Academy in 1m. 15s., and the plunge for distance, which was won by Butler, Los Angeles High, making the remarkable distance of 68ft. 11½ in.

The detailed results were:

50-yard free style—First heat Krause (S.D.) Hicks (V.) Manger (L.A.) Second heat Harrison (V.) Fletcher (S.D.) Crawford (P.) Third heat Smith (P.) Edinger (Pomona.) Fields

440-yard free style—First heat Bushnell (P.M.A.) D. Novice (P.) Knesel (H.P.) Second heat Nickerson (P.) H. Norris (P.) Baer (H.) Finals: T. Baer (H.) Bushnell (P.M.A.) D. Norris (P.) Nickerson (P.) Time, 6m 3 4-7s
Diving—Tipton (H.) Sanford (P.) Fogel (L.A.) and Moorhardt (P.) tied for third
100-yard free style—First heat Smith (P.) Edinger (Pomona.) Bushnell (Pomona.) Second heat: Harris (S.D.) Harrison (V.) Myers (Pomona.) Finals: Harrison (V.) Harris (S.D.) Smith (L.A.) Myers (Pomona.) Time, 57 1-5s.
100-yard breast stroke—Hollingsworth (L.A.) Bradley (L.B.) Molinas (S.D.) Second heat, Adams (L.B.) Drummond (IL) Bltke (S.H.) Third heat: Thornton (V.) Arms roog (H.) Hetherwell (L.) Finals: Drummond (H.) Thornton (V.) Adams (L.B.) Armstrong (IL.) Time, 1m 23s.
Plunge for distance—Butler (L.A.) Gerstenkorn (L.A.) Ownby (ILP.) Stanley (ILP.) Distance, 68ft. 11½ in.
220 free style—First heat: Smith (L.A.) Harris (S.D.) Graham (P.) Second heat: Myers (Pomona.) Harrison (V.) D. Norris (H.) Finals: Smith (L.A.) Harrison (V.) Harrison (S.D.) Myers (Pomona.) Time, 2m 54m
100-yard back stroke—First heat: Field (R.) Edinger (Pomona.) Thomas (H.) Second heat: Fletcher (D.) Bushnell (Pomona.) Baer (H.) Third heat: Harris (D.) Ward (P.) Hicks (V.) Finals: Bushnell (Pomona.) Fletcher (D.) Ward (P.) tied for second. Field (R.) Time, 1m 15m.
800 foot relay—Venice, Pasadena, San Diego and Los Angeles Time, 2m. 40s
Abbreviations — (V) Venice, (P) Pasadena, (P.M.A.) Pasadena Military Academy, (L.A.) Los Angeles, (S.D.) San Diego, (L.B.) Long Beach, (ILP.) Huntington Park, (S.H.) San

Swimming medal from the 1923 CIF-SS Championship meet held at the Long Beach High School (Poly) Plunge:

Winner of Plunge for Distance...Butler from Los Angeles High School
New Record – 68' 11 ½"

