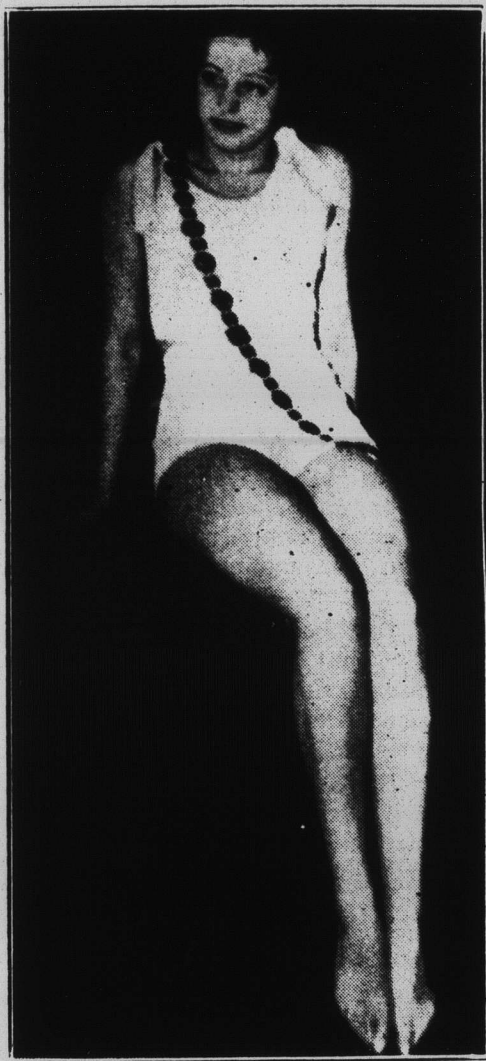


Claudia Eckert Eyes New Diving Honors at National A. A. U. Meet

Friends Pulling Strong for Shawnee Club Star

The eyes of the national swimming fraternity are focused upon the National Amateur Athletic union's women's championships being held at the Lake Shore Athletic club from April 10 to 14, inclusive. The greatest galaxy of swimming stars ever collected will show the people of Chicagoland the world's best and fastest swimming. Many world's records are in jeopardy and some will be broken.

The people of the north shore will be doubly interested in this meet be-



CLAUDIA ECKERT

cause a young north shore girl of 18, Miss Claudia Eckert of the Shawnee Country club, will be competing with the nation's best swimmers and divers. Claudia is well known to the people of this section of the country for her sterling diving performances, as witnessed by her winning of the Central A. A. U. high board championship for the past five years. In addition to her diving titles she now holds the Central A. A. U. 100 yard title for the fifth consecutive year, and the National Collegiate 100 yard free style record. These are only a few of the medals and titles which this little sophomore at Northwestern has won.

Starts As Mere Child

Her father, George Eckert, who coaches swimming at Shawnee Country club, started Claudia out early in life to learn the fundamentals of swimming and diving. They have kept at it year by year, never failing to win at least a half dozen medals or titles a year. Five years ago, at the tender age of 13, her father started her in big time competition, when he entered her in the Central A. A. U. meet. She won handily and annexed her first titles in the diving and swimming meets.

By dint of many long hours of practice in the Shawnee Country club pool under the watchful eyes of her father, Claudia annexed two more diving and swimming championships in the Central A. A. U. Then she entered the

1932 Olympic team tryouts at Jones Beach, New Jersey, where she won a fifth place against the best in the nation. This was her first competition in a national meet where she missed making the Olympic team by two places.

Keeps on Winning

The following winter Miss Eckert went to the National Junior championships held in Washington, D. C. Although a comparative unknown to eastern swimmers, she won the diving with the greatest of ease. In spite of the stiff competition by local girl divers, Claudia has continued to annex the local championships year after year, constantly improving her form and technique.

The competition is doubly important this year as it will indicate who will represent the United States in the Olympic games at Berlin in 1936. This will be the first national championship which will require the regular Olympic dives. Two new dives have been added to the required list, the front somersault layout and the piked back dive. These two innovations are new to the competitors and should make the contest extremely close. Qualifying flights will be held in the afternoon, the first three in each flight to compete for the championship that evening.

Among the spectators will be a number of young friends pulling with all their might for Claudia. The reason—Claudia is never too busy to help them improve their diving and swimming form, and they all appreciate the good sport that she is. She has worked hard for this meet, and, win or lose, will work harder still for the Olympic tryouts next year.

Miss Jane Lundahl, 224 Raleigh road, Kenilworth, a junior at Wellesley, left Sunday to resume her studies after her spring vacation.



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HOME FROM FLORIDA

Mr. and Mrs. David Hall, 809 Central avenue, returned last Friday from a month's motor trip through Florida. On their way home they visited the Charleston gardens.

RETURN FROM EAST

Mrs. John Law Wilds and daughter, Miss Nancy, 244 Oxford road, Kenilworth, returned Tuesday from Rochester, N. Y., where they spent the week-end.

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