

WESTERN OARSMEN WIN.

Take Five of Eight Races Rowed in National Regatta.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 7.—Western and Canadian oarsmen won seven of the eight opening day events of the annual regatta of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen today on the Schuylkill River. The Westerners won five events, while the only Eastern crew to win a race was the senior pair of the Vesper Boat Club of this city.

The Dutch Boat Club was conspicuous among the winners, taking three of the four events in which its oarsmen started.

The Grand Rapids Boat and Canoe Club, coached by Jim Wray of Harvard, won the junior eight-oared event.

W. A. Neer of the Detroit Boat Club won the intermediate single sculls and qualified for the senior quarter-mile dash by finishing second to Everard B. Butler of the Toronto Rowing Club in his heat in that event. Robert Dibble of the Don Rowing Club of Toronto won the other heat with R. H. Pearse, New York, second. These four will compete in the final heat tomorrow. The summaries:

Junior Eight-Oared Shells.—Won by Grand Rapids (Mich.) Boat and Canoe Club; Analostan Boat Club, Washington, second; Pennsylvania Barge Club, Philadelphia, third. Time—7:13 3-5.

Intermediate Double Shells.—Won by Duluth R. C., H. E. Osman and A. P. Kent; second, University Barge Club, Philadelphia; third, Pennsylvania Barge Club, Philadelphia. Time—8:18 2-5.

Intermediate Singles.—Won by W. A. Neer, Detroit B. C.; second, Henry Heller, Metropolitan R. C., New York; third, H. E. Osman, Duluth B. C. Time—8:59 1-5.

Senior Quarter-Mile Dash, Single Sculls.—First Heat—Won by Robert Dibble, Don R. C., Toronto; second, R. H. Pearse, Nonpareil R. C., New York; third, Cary Faulkner, Riverside B. C., Cambridge, Mass. Time—1:30.

Senior International Four-Oared Shells.—Won by Duluth B. C.; second, Argonaut R. C. crew No. 2, Toronto; third, University Barge Club, Philadelphia. Time—7:31 1-5.

Intermediate Eight-Oared Shells.—Won by Duluth B. C.; second, Argonaut R. C., Toronto; third, Analostan Boat Club. Time—6:47 3-5.

Senior Quarter-Mile Dash, Singles.—Won by Everard B. Butler, Toronto R. C.; second, W. A. Neer, Detroit B. C.; third, W. H. Bergin, Illinois Valley Y. and C. Club, Peoria. Time—1:28.

Senior Double Sculls.—Won by John B. Kelly and Walter L. Smith, Vesper B. C., Philadelphia; second, William Faulkner and Cary Faulkner, Riverside B. C., Cambridge, Mass.; third, Harlem Rowing Club, New York. Time—7:46.

LONG SWIMMING RACES.

Facts Prove They Are More Beneficial Than Harmful.

The recent barring of a young boy from a long distance swimming race owing to a general rule of the Amateur Athletic Union stating that entries for events longer than five miles shall not be accepted from youths under 18, brings up an interesting point. Is distance swimming harmful to the immature?

Facts do not prove it. On the contrary, there is plenty of evidence to show that only benefit is derived from constant work in the water at the slow pace prescribed for covering marathon courses.

Dr. W. E. Crockett of Boston who has made a special study of the subject, said recently: "I am firmly convinced that long distance swims, particularly of a competitive nature, are far more profitable than short ones, physically and mentally. At low speed the modern strokes require very little effort and the strain on heart and muscles is quite insignificant, while in a sprint, or a middle distance test distress usually follows. Furthermore, long trips in open water make men and women fearless, confident of their own strength, and at home in the water, all-important traits when the occasion arises for them to swim for their lives.

The experience of Sam Richards is a good illustration of the relative value of the two branches of swimming. When he first entered the racing game he made a specialty of the half and one-mile courses, but he found himself so badly done up after each contest, sometimes not recovering from the effects for nearly a week, that he decided to abandon them in favor of out-and-out work of endurance. Since then he has never felt the least discomfort during or following his performances, and he has enjoyed ruddy, buoyant health, although undertaking frequently feats warranted to try thoroughly the strength and staying powers of the hardest swimmer.

"For the rest, the astonishing water trips accomplished in the past few years by boys and girls demonstrate clearly that the demand upon their natural resources is not excessive, for medical examinations made upon the subjects immediately after the finish, and later observations, have brought to light no sign of physical injury or even temporary disturbance. Almost without exception the youngsters following distance swimming have thrived and grown husky on it."

In corroboration of Dr. Crockett's views may be cited a number of instances in which mere children have undertaken supposedly grueling aquatic journeys and, far from suffering in consequence, developed into splendid specimens of the boyhood and girlhood.

Take, for instance, Eddie Snyder of Brooklyn. From the age of seven he has been doing distance work. Last Summer, when twelve, he covered the fifteen miles between Coney Island and the Brooklyn Bridge in 6 hours and 35 minutes; a few days ago, in the Sandy Hook race, he swam continuously for more than seven hours and officially put behind him nineteen miles. He is the picture of health, straight, deep-chested, powerful, and rosy-cheeked.

Then there is Florence McLaughlin of Philadelphia, a tiny mermaid of ten. A year ago, at the age of nine, she got fourth in a field of twelve full-grown rivals in a 5½-mile race for women; this season she has negotiated 9½ miles without much effort. A week ago she gave an exhibition of life saving and carried ashore a man weighing 185 pounds. She tips the scale herself at about 60 pounds.

Another ten-year-old girl nearly in Florence's class is Josephine Hose of St. Louis. She has faced experienced women in two and three mile contests and finished among the leaders; she has often paddled four, five, and six miles just for the fun of it.

The chronicles of swimming are full of like examples. Eddie McCarron of Kansas City, a lad of fourteen, defeated in 1913 100 opponents in the ten-mile marathon of the district and crossed the line a few feet behind the winner, Davy Jones of Memphis, Tenn., also fourteen, placed second in the annual Southern contest at the same distance. Francis Stephens of St. Louis, one year the latter's junior, has figured in several two and five mile trials. Mildred Wyman and Manny Hannaford of Boston, respectively fourteen and ten, have scored in a number of distance races for females. Louise Debus of Philadelphia, sixteen, holds the record of her sex—2 hours 29 minutes—for the nine-mile stretch between Philadelphia and River-ton, and has done fifteen miles in 5 hours 18 minutes. Gilbert Tomlinson, another Philadelphian, won the five-mile Middle Atlantic championship of the Amateur Athletic Union last year when only fifteen.

Superbas Get Pitcher Steele.

The Brooklyn Nationals yesterday purchased the release of Pitcher Bill Steele from the St. Louis Cardinals. The price paid for the player was not announced. President Charles H. Ebbets of the Brooklyn team said that he had been on the lookout for pitchers for some time and was glad of the opportunity to get Steele. At present Steele is not going as well as he was some time ago, but it is believed that a change may do him good. Just now Pfeffer is the only dependable pitcher on the team. Steele has been with the Cardinals three or four years, and will begin to take his regular turn in the box for Brooklyn immediately.