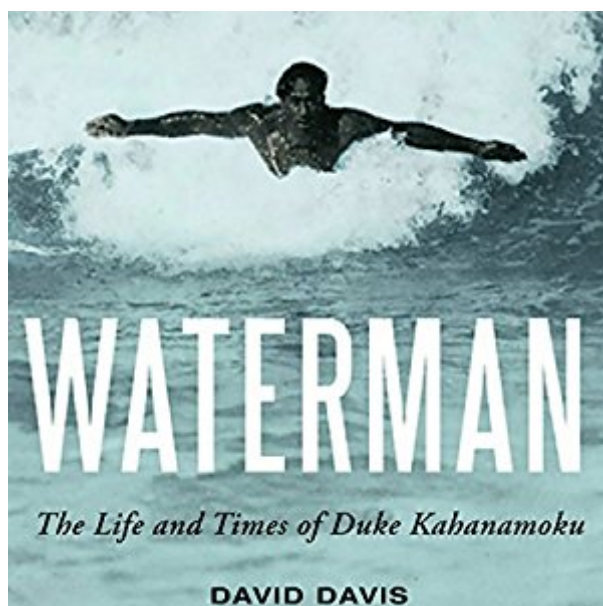


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Waterman: The Life And Times Of Duke Kahanamoku



Synopsis

Waterman is the first comprehensive biography of Duke Kahanamoku (1890-1968): swimmer, surfer, Olympic gold medalist, Hawaiian icon, waterman. Long before Michael Phelps and Mark Spitz made their splashes in the pool, Kahanamoku emerged from the backwaters of Waikiki to become America's first superstar Olympic swimmer. The original "human fish" set dozens of world records and topped the world rankings for more than a decade; his rivalry with Johnny Weissmuller transformed competitive swimming from an insignificant sideshow into a headliner event.

Kahanamoku used his Olympic renown to introduce the sport of "surf-riding", an activity unknown beyond the Hawaiian Islands, to the world. Standing proudly on his traditional wooden longboard, he spread surfing from Australia to the Hollywood crowd in California to New Jersey. No American athlete has influenced two sports as profoundly as Kahanamoku did, and yet he remains an enigmatic and underappreciated figure: a dark-skinned Pacific Islander who encountered and overcame racism and ignorance long before the likes of Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, and Jackie Robinson. Kahanamoku's connection to his homeland was equally important. He was born when Hawaii was an independent kingdom; he served as the sheriff of Honolulu during Pearl Harbor and World War II and as a globetrotting "Ambassador of Aloha" afterward; he died not long after Hawaii attained statehood. As one sportswriter put it, Duke was "Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey combined down here." In Waterman, award-winning journalist David Davis examines the remarkable life of Duke Kahanamoku, in and out of the water. The book is published by University of Nebraska Press.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Davis's Waterman the life story of Duke Kahanamoku is a great read and well written story of the first real surfer as well as a history of early surfing. Besides the historical aspect of the story it is well researched and provides one with a pleasurable experience. I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading about real people. Sam Bloom

I really enjoyed this story. Growing up in Hawaii, I've always heard the name Duke Kahanamoku and knew he was an Olympian and expert waterman. However, I was in awe at how much he accomplished because of his swimming and surfing. I don't want to give away the story. Read it!

Wonderful read. Those with even a mild interest should read...those that are True Duke Fans...this book is a Must!!! Historical Information and References are well worth the price. Will become a reference book to be used frequently.

I enjoyed reading about Duke. I enjoyed all the research aspect of the book. The author seems to be unbiased in his biography and the history all matches up. It keeps true to who Duke was and how he played a vital, if not key, role in how Hawaii and Native Hawaiians were seen back in the early 20th century.

What a story! From a simple rural life, the Duke rose to be an Olympic champion, international name, movie personality, father of modern day surfing, and a Waikiki home town source of Aloha, warm, friendship, and love to everyone. One life that made a difference!

a great read with a trip to Hawaii this week ... a great man ... like the island and its people, mistreated by white america ...

What a great book!

A wonderful recounting of a unique life.

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