



WORKING UP A SPECTACULAR SPRAY, FURUHACHI TOUCHES THE FINISH LINE AFTER WINNING HIS 1,500-METER HEAT IN 15 MINUTES 19 SECONDS—24.2 SECONDS UNDER



IN ANOTHER 1,500-METER HEAT NISHIZUME LEAVES HIS U.S. RIVAL FAR BEHIND



"THE FLYING FISH," Furuhachi's U.S. nickname, is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 162. During war he worked in a machine-parts plant, is now studying political science.

## JAPS ARE ON TOP AGAIN

They break five records to regain swimming supremacy

In Los Angeles last week it was like the '30s again. Six Japanese swimmers, the first to represent their country in any kind of international sports since the end of the war, had been invited to compete in the annual A.A.U. championships. They promptly regained the swimming supremacy their countrymen had once enjoyed. The Japanese team won five out of six free-style races (the U.S. could win only the 100-meter sprint) and shattered five world records. Three of the records were broken by Hisatoshi Furuhachi (left), a 20-year-old Nippon University student who lowered the existing standards for 400, 800 and 1,500 meters, then swam the anchor leg on an 100-meter relay team that set a fourth world record. Furuhachi's teammate, Shiro Hashizume, also 20, was almost as impressive; he was able to set a new 1,000-meter mark while finishing a close second to Furuhachi in the 1,500 meters.

How did they do it? U.S. swimmers studied Furuhachi's unorthodox form with some bewilderment; his arms went round and round like the paddle wheels on a river steamer, seemingly unsynchronized with his leg kick. The Japanese coach said it was a matter of conditioning, and the Japanese had their own ideas about that (right). "Our boys train much harder," he said. "Your boys have too much life besides swimming." In any case the tremendous margins of the Japanese victories destroyed the complacency U.S. swimmers had enjoyed ever since they swept all of the men's events in the 1948 Olympic Games. Said one defeated American swimmer, "This is the best thing that ever happened to us."



"SPORT MASSAGE" is given Furuhachi by trainer, using both hands and feet. This routine started officials.



GROUP CALISTHENICS are done by Japanese before swimming. Many U.S. coaches frown on such exercises.



RELAXING, Furuhachi (foreground) and Hashizume stretch out after one-two finish in the 1,500-meter heat.