

**1st YMCA International/National Swimming & Diving
Championship
May 19, 1923
Hosted by the Brooklyn Central Branch YMCA, NY**

Nine Young Men's Christian Associations from five states took part in the First YMCA National Swimming Championship that was held at the Brooklyn Central YMCA on May 19, 1923. Teams came from as far west as Cincinnati, Ohio (Central Parkway Branch), and as far north as Toronto Ontario, Canada (West End Branch). Other participating teams represented YMCAs from Auburn, ME, Worcester, MA, Summit, Passaic, and Bayonne, in NJ, and finally teams from New York (Buffalo, West Side Branch and Brooklyn Central Branch).

Note: Historical material received by Historian Paul Atkinson did not include information regarding officials, a Championship Committee, a Meet Director, a Meet Referee, etc. There was also no listing of an "Order of Events" or indication as to the number of participants.

Meet Highlights: The feature race of the evening was the neck and neck battle between Harry Lewis (Brooklyn Central) and Louis Rutledge (Cincinnati Central Parkway). Both men raced on even terms throughout the 100 yards, with Lewis winning by a margin of inches at the finish. There were 5 National Records established during the meet as indicated above (*). While this was the 1st National Championship, data indicates that YMCA competitive swimming records existed prior to this event. It is believed that the National YMCA Physical Education Department established a competitive swimming records system prior to 1923.

1923 Event Results

50 Yard Freestyle (1 turn)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 st	Louis Rutledge	Central Pkwy Br. Cincinnati, OH	26.3/5
2 nd	Alfred Brown Jr.	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	Louis Helwig	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT

100 Yard Freestyle (3 turns)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 st	Harry Louis	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	56.3/5*
2 nd	Louis Rutledge	Central Pkwy Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	Chauncy Croll	Buffalo, NY	NT

220 Yard Freestyle (8 turns)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 st	Arthur Hastings	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	2:38.4/5*
2 nd	Ed. Vogeles	Central Pkwy Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	Cornell Braisted	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT

440 Yard Freestyle (17 turns)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 st	Harry Lewis	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	5:59.3/5*
2 nd	Louis Rutledge	Central Pkwy Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	Edmund Gillis	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT

200 Yard Breaststroke (7 turns)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
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1 st	H. Altheimer	Central Pkwy Br. Cincinnati, OH	2:54.4/5*
2 nd	Victor Kiffe	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	Hugh Robinson	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT

150 Yard Backstroke (5 turns)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 st	Victor Kiffe	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	1:53.2/5*
2 nd	James Hill Jr.	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	Thomas Walker	West End Br, Toronto, Ont. Canada	NT

Fancy Diving

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 st	Joseph Kreuttner	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	???
2 nd	Thomas Gonsalves	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	???
3 rd	Theodore Smith	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	???

400 Yard Freestyle Relay (5 turns):

<u>Place</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 st	Louis Helwig, James Hall Jr., Alfred Brown, Harry Lewis	Central Br Brooklyn, NY	4:06.4/5
2 nd	Ed Vogeles, Russ Webb, H. Altheimer, Louis Rutledge	Central Pkwy Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	McColgan, Schuchert, Mason, Chauncy Croll	Buffalo, NY	NT

(*) *New YMCA National Record time.*

Scoring

<u>Place:</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Individual Events:	5	3	1
Relay Events:	10	6	2

Final Team Standings:

1st Place:	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	52 Points
2nd Place:	Central Parkway Br Cincinnati, OH	25 Points
3rd Place	Buffalo, NY	3 Points
4th Place	West End Br. Toronto, Ontario	1 Point

Editorial Notes (Paul Atkinson)

There is limited material and information, particularly for the early years. For the years from the 1st men's championship in 1923 through about 1936, only first place times were reported and in some cases there were no first names (sometimes initials) used. However, the task of putting this YMCA Historical Information together has been a very interesting challenge but beyond a doubt well worth the time and effort.

Information researched and compiled by Paul Atkinson. Edited by Meredith Griffin.