

DRAFT: 1925

3rd National Y.M.C.A. Swimming & Diving Championship

April 3 – 4

Hosted by the Central Parkway Cincinnati, Ohio

The 3rd International/National YMCA Swimming and Diving Championship Meet was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ten Associations and nearly 100 participants took part. Material for this meet was found in the “Physical Training” publication prepared by the National YMCA Physical Education Committee. During the meet four National Records were broken and were equaled in two other events. The new records are indicated with an (*) in the results. Louis Rutledge tied the record of Harry Lewis in the 50 Yard Dash (24.2/5) and Fayette Smith tied the record of Adam Smith in the 100 Yard Back Stroke with the time of (1:08.2/5) set in last year’s meet in Detroit, Michigan. Perhaps the most prominent individual participating for the first time in this YMCA Championship was Walter Spence of the Brooklyn Central Branch. He established two New National YMCA Records in the 440 yard free style and the 200 yard breast stroke.

Biography: Walter Spence was born and raised in the jungle near Christianburg, British Guyana. The incentive to swim fast came natural to Walter due to the number of piranha bites he acquired when swimming in the rivers and streams near his home. It’s not certain as to when he began swimming competitively, but after having beaten all comers in British Guiana, somewhere during his late teens, Walter went to Trinidad where he experienced his first-ever defeat in freestyle (to a West Indian from Chicago). That experience convinced him that he needed to train in the United States. At the age of 22, he came to America to continue his swimming career at the Brooklyn Central YMCA. Over the next decade, he was a prominent figure in the world of competitive swimming. He was the National YMCA Champion in numerous events over many years. While at Rutgers University, at the age of 34, he was the NCAA high point man and the oldest intercollegiate swimming champion ever. At the Olympic Games, he represented Canada in 1928 and 1932 respectively since British Guiana had no team. Walter was joined in the United States by his brothers Wallace in 1926 (6 years his junior) and in 1928 by Leonard (2 years younger than Wallace). **More about the Spence Brothers is included in the 1933 Championship Meet document.**

Results obtained from the YMCA’s Physical Training Publication:

50 Yard Free Style

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 st	Louis Rutledge	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	24.2/5*
2 nd	Harry Lewis	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	Russ Webb	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
4 th	Alfred Brown	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT

100 Yard Free Style:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1st	Harry Lewis	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	55.1/5*
2nd	Louis Rutledge	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	Russ Webb	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
4 th	Ray Voge	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT

(*) Indicates those individuals who have broken the existing National YMCA Record time.

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220 Yard Free Style:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 st	Harry Glancy	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	2:30.0*
2 nd	D. Green	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	?. Englebert	Richmond, IN	NT
4 th	?. Cartwright	Richmond, IN	NT

440 Yard Free Style:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 st	Walter Spence	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	5:21.0*
2 nd	Harry Glancy	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	Walter Laufer	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
4 th	Cornell Braisted	Central Br, Detroit, MI	NT

100 Yard Back Stroke:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 st	Fayette Smith	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	1:08.2/5*
2 nd	Walter Laufer	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	NT
3 rd	Robert Hoise	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
4 th	L. Hubbard	Central Br. Toledo, OH	NT

200 Yard Breast Stroke:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 st	Walter Spence	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	2:48.1/5*
2 nd	Alfred Brown	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	F. Barnatz	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
4 th	J. Slatter	Central Br, Detroit, MI	NT

200 Yard Free Style Relay:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 st	No Team Names	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	1:40.0*
2 nd	No Team Names	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	NT
3 rd	No Team Names	Richmond, IN	NT

Fancy Diving:

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Association:</u>	<u>Points:</u>
1 st	C. O'Connor	? Chicago, IL	No Info
2 nd	E. Stocks	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	No Info
3 rd	C. Ginty	? St. Louis, MO	No Info
4 th	C. Rahmsdorf	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	No Info

(*) Indicates those individuals who have broken the existing National YMCA Record time.

	<u>Meet Scoring:</u>			
<u>Place:</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
Individual Events:	5	3	2	1
Relay Events:	8	6	4	2

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Team Standings:

1 st Place	Central Br. Brooklyn, NY	41
2 nd Place	Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH	37
3 rd Place	Richmond, IN	7
4 th Place	Chicago, IL	5
5 th Place	Central Br. Detroit, MI	2
5 th Place	St Louis, MO	2
7 th Place	Central Br. Toledo, OH	1

Other Non Scoring teams that participated were:

Cleveland, Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, and Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Editorial Note: On occasion, it is my hope throughout this project to recognize or highlight individuals (Bio's of past participants, coaches, officials, etc.) and, in some cases, events that I feel have contributed to the growth and development of our National YMCA Swimming and Diving Championship Meets Program. Hopefully, I will make good choices!