

DRAFT: 1926

4th YMCA International Swimming and Diving Championship Meet - April 23 – 24

Hosted by the Central Branch in Brooklyn, New York

This National YMCA Swimming Championship was held at the Brooklyn Central YMCA for the second time in four years. There were 12 Associations that took part in the championship and 120 participants. To date, there is limited material regarding this championship meet. However, I am in the process of exploring various avenues in search of the missing information. The information available is shown below!

1926 Meet Results: (Limited)

50 Yard Free Style

| <u>Place:</u> | <u>Name:</u> | <u>Association:</u> | <u>Time:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st | Walter Laufer | Central Parkway Br Cincinnati, OH | 24.0* |
| 2 nd | No additional information | | |

150 Yard Back Stroke

| <u>Place:</u> | <u>Name:</u> | <u>Association:</u> | <u>Time:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st | Walter Laufer | Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH | NT |

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 | NT |

100 Yard Free Style

| <u>Place:</u> | <u>Name:</u> | <u>Association:</u> | <u>Time:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st | Walter Laufer | Central Parkway Br. Cincinnati, OH | NT |

440 Yard Free Style

| <u>Place:</u> | <u>Name:</u> | <u>Association:</u> | <u>Time:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st | Harry Glancy | Central Parkway Br, Cincinnati, OH | 5:06.4/5* |

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

The team championship went to the Brooklyn Central team, who mounted a well balanced team effort in spite of the absence of Walter Spence, due to an attack of the “Flu.” This is the third time in four years that the Brooklyn team won this team championship.

Biography: **Walter Laufer** was born July 15, 1906 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Walter was discovered by Fred “Tiny” Pfeiffer, the Cincinnati East High coach, and was later coached at the Central Parkway YMCA and the Chicago Lakeshore Athletic Club by Stanley Brauning. Walter participated in our 1925 and 1926 National YMCA Championships and set a new national record in the 50 Yard Freestyle in 1926. Walter and his YMCA team also won the National AAU Indoor Championship in 1926. Walter (including relays points) outscored all of the other teams. According to the experts, neither Johnny Weissmuller, nor Mark Spitz, nor any other swimmer has ever had a better National meet than Laufer did in 1926. In addition, he was also recognized by the Sports Writers as the 1926 “Swimmer of the Year.” In 1928, Walter was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team and won two medals: Silver in the 100 Meter Backstroke and Gold in the 800 Meter Freestyle Relay, which was anchored by Johnny Weissmuller. In 1974, Walter Adam Laufer was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Walter died on July 16, 1984

Editorial Note: Material for the information on Walter Laufer was obtained from a book put together by Susan Laufer Pfau, daughter of Walter Laufer, Ronald R Brill, son-in law, and assisted by Nancy Laufer Brill, also a daughter of Walter Laufer, who live in Cincinnati, Ohio.