

SCYA and the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games ... Continued

By: F. Daniel Somrack

SCYA Provides

Over the week long competition, 57 athletes from 11 countries competed in four classes, Snowbird, Star, Six-Meters and Eight-Meters. The United States was joined by Austria, Canada, Spain, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, South Africa and Sweden. Boats in all classes were provided by SCYA for those nations unable to transport their yachts.

After his captainship of the '36 team, Owen Churchill became the first American to compete in three Olympic regattas, and went to Tahiti for two years to invent his now-famous swim fins.

The Legacy Lives on

SCYA Bankrolls '32 Olympic U.S. Sailing Team

The following Commodores and officers acted as guarantors for the expenses of Olympic racers.
Where would U.S. Olympic sailing be today without them?

- Dr. Al Soiland ('21)
- Owen Churchill ('26, '33)
- Douglas Radford('30)
 - Al Rogers ('30)
 - Al Christie ('31)
- Morgan Adams ('32)
 - A. N. Kemp ('32)
- Donald W. Douglas, Sr.
('34, '35, '36; Secretary of the Olympic Yachting Committee)
- Max Fleischman
- Slysby M. Spaulding

Through the efforts and vision of SCYA Commodore Albert Soiland and members of the SCYA, the 1932 Olympic Games succeeded in establishing Southern California as the epicenter of competitive yachting. Southern California yachtsmen would continue to win medals in later Olympic events and dominate competitive regattas throughout the world.

Did You Know?

Donald W. Douglas, Jr. also a competitor in the 1928 Olympics, would later compete in the Transpacific Yacht Race from Los Angeles to Honolulu. Part of the 1953 winning crew on the 161-foot schooner, "Goodwill," Douglas would win the Transpac again in '59 as the Sailing Master. His father, industrialist Donald W. Douglas, Sr. (of Douglas Aircraft fame), was Vice- Commodore of SCYA in '34 and Commodore in '35 and '36.