# ROMPING "TOM-BOY" WINS REAL PLACE IN SUN AS 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL IS CROWNED WATER QUEEN

Mother Ederle Scolded and Lectured Daughter Gertrude in Vain When his eye. She Learned Youngster Could Outpoint Boys at Their Games

BUT WHEN SHE CAPTURED \*

At last a real place in the sun has been accorded the romping hoyden-

ish girl who refuses to be hampered by the conventionality of clinging

Is Good at Housework, Too

AT LAST the "Tomboy" is justified!

And in every part of the United

States where fond but prudent

parents are shaking admonishing

fingers at the too strenuous exub-

crance of girl offspring and saying

"Don't be a tomboy," the retort un-

"What about Gertrude Ederle?

Isn't she a 'tomboy'? And wouldn't

And usually the proud parents

clance at the stories of Gertrude

and are silent for the nonce at least.

swimming champion.

answerable is coming:

you be proud of her?"

est buildings.

skirts even when shortened to "flapper" brevity.

what in the world in which she was

most interested. When she was eight years old her family took a cottage at Highland, N. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP J., a small summer colony some two hours' ride from New York. Gertrude SHE BECAME 'WONDER GIRL merely existed through the cold winter months, dreaming slways of the glorious summer to come,

Highland is on the Shrewsbury Riv-Plays Baseball Like a 'Pro' and Knows er, which meant boating and swimming to Gertrude's heart's desire. Value of a Poker Hand, and Yet She

When she went to Highland she lived in a bathing suit. Prior to the summer outings her acquaintance with water was chiefly through splashing about in a bathtub or shivering under cold showers. But when she saw the river

she wanted to learn to swim.

Gertrude Took to Water Just Like a Duck Does

She began with the well-known doggy paddle to keep her chin above water, and to exercise sufficiently to keep

Baseballs and Not Dolls

When her older sisters were playing "house" Gertrude was away phaying baseball with "the bunch.

Into the whirl of New York one norning a blue-eyed baby was born. To her parents it was an event to be heralded from the tops of the higholder sisters was floundering far in the rear. To others it was a matter of no

importance. Many more blue-eyed babies came into New York the same sit demurely through the parental lecbut New York was not interested. But this particular blue-eyed baby one couldn't hold out against that.

was not to go unnoticed long, for Brighton Beach, where she won the international championship, swimming three and one-half miles in, 1 hour, 1 minute and 342-5 seconds. When Gertrude was a little girl she was not satisfied with sitting about nursing flaxen-haired dolls.

Were Her Choice for Toys WHEN the average six-year-old girl was playing with a doll or jacks Gertrude Ederle chose a baseball. veloped a "wild" overhand stroke of her own. With this she did manage to make more progress, but it was stren-

When the international swimming race was ended at Brighton Beach it was Gertrude who led

far-from-graceful attempts, she turned

Highland soon realized that a "real day and lustily proclaimed the fact, tures and then a suggestion of a dimple feller" was in their midst, and they would appear in her check. Somehow,

It was usually Gertrude's mother who crowd who could not turn handsprings the redoubtable Gertrude.

Before Gertrude was thirteen she joined the Woman's Swimming Association of New York. A large pool made it possible for her to practice during the winter months. Soon she was sufficiently proficient to qualify for the relay team sent by her organization, the W. S. A., to Detroit to compete in the junior national 406-yard rElay championship. This was the first time she had attempted anything of that sort. but she helped to win the event for her team in record time.

little to say on the subject. He would graduated from grammar school. She for Gertrude, but she kept at it until into the Shrewsbury River, swim about usually maintain a neutral silence, prepared to stay at home and help her she had mastered what is known as the a bit and then dash off to get into a though a glance behind his evening mother with the housework. But swim- "six beat double trudgeon crawl." paper would have shown a twinkle in ming had got its hold and trips to the pool were more frequent.

even the "funnies," were passed up ming expert, and he began to correct no special effort and sacrificing none a loud, sharp note which might be heard until Gertrude had turned to the sport- her style of swimming. It was in of her pleasures to get there. ing page to find out just what was reality a case of learning all over again And in the summer she would dip

Her duties at home curtailed her casionally, and to Gertrude he was an practice. She visited the pool only oc- object of envy, because stuffing his The woman's page of a newspaper, There she met Lew Handley, a swim- casionally during the winter, making fingers in his mouth he could whistle for a city block. So cousin became her tutor and she became so adept that

she abandoned the feminine "yoo-hho." Gertrude then began imitating birds, learned a peculiar cat call, and even when whistling a lively popular tune she would put on some pretty and intricate "frills."

ball game. A cousin visited them oc-

Last summer, despite the fact that she had not been practicing regularly. she entered a hundred-yard dash at the People's Palace, Jersey City, and won. That was her first real taste of individual victory, and it was then that she really became interested in mastering the swimming stroke. She began entering contests and traveled to Boston, Buffalo and Canada. With her it was about the same motive which impeiled her at school: she wanted to be out in front. Then began her real and intensive training.

And almost every swimming contest seem to her, rooms would get dusty and mist of the min it was seen that "Tom- she says. clothes must be mended and pressed, boy Gertrude," the unneralded, had Is "Little Wonder Girl" but the very moment the last stitch had slowly forged ahead. been taken and the remaining bit of dust flecked away, she was off for the river. And just as baseball in her

Older Experts of United States and British Marvel Bowed in Defeat to Fifteen-Year-Old Youngster From New York

HURRIED TO GET PLAUDITS OF HER 'BUNCH' BEFORE ACCEPTING FAMED TROPHY

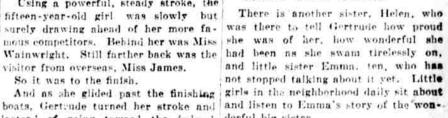
Didn't Take Up Aquatics Seriously Until She Tasted First Sweets of Victory. Now She Is 'Trainer' for Young Brother to Make Him 'All-Round' Champion

she entered she either won or was so and 100 legs and feet. For moments also swam in the race. She has not close to the winner as to spur her on it was impossible to pick out any par- tried for any record, and said had she to more strenuous practice each day. ticular favorite from the bobbing heads known Gertrude was so much in the The summer at Highland last year showing above the occan swells. Then, lead she would have gone ashore to was a busy one. Deplorable as it might through the wind-swept spray and the watch her little "wonder sister," as

to Her Older Sisters

Using a powerful, steady stroke, the surely drawing ahead of her more fa- was there to tell Gertrude how proud mous competitors. Behind her was Miss she was of her, how wonderful she Wainwright. Still farther back was the had been as she swam tirelessly on, visitor from overseas. Miss James.

So it was to the finish. instead of going toward the judges' derful big sister. beat hastened to the shore, ran briskly



After her victory, back to Highlands through the surf, apparently as un- went Gertrude, where four of her "budi fagged as when she started, and dashed dies" waited to greet her, two of them to shake her by the hand and he proud of it. Alfred Rick and Albert Castlebaum, both fourteen years old, and cottagers along the river, are her constant companions and they hung on every word as she recounted the do-

tails of the race. And the other "buddies," two ime

maculate poodles, Queenie and Girlie, wagged and wriggled a cheery welcome. Gertrude is now teaching her two-year-old brother, Henry, to swim. The youngster will not begin with a doggie paddle, for he is getting first-hand in-formation from one who knows, and his little arms spinsh about in orthodox

Henry, as well as all the little brothers and sisters, is an ardent admirer of Gertrude: in fact, he dogs her steps almost worshipfully. If some one in nearby cottage teaches him a new baby trick or word he waddles home to Gertrude with it.

And sister stands by and laughs as atches. Five feet six, and weighing 135 pounds, eyes which are unusu-ally blue against the tan of her skin, and short brown hair Gertrude presents a most healthy specimen of young American womanhood.



A girl of fifteen who can play baseball with the most skillful boys of her own age, who knows the value of a poker hand, who can jump and

wrestle with the largest of "the gang," has been crowned an international warm. Within two weeks she managed to

keep going with this paddle stroke, and the fact that she had accomplished this much encouraged her and made her want to learn a different and better method. She soon realized that the doggy paddle was not the thing to do. So, carefully watching others, she de-

uous and tired her very easily. But it was not all swimming!

In the country she had a chance to turn cartwheels and handsprings. In a nook where no one could see her first the field of fifty and one of the

and turned until she mastered the cartwheel. Finally she came out in the open with it. Boys whose families had cottages at

sought her when a ball game was started. And any boy member of the

now the sporting world is singing pointed out the horror of being a tom- would devote much time and energy toher praises for her recent victory at boy. But, somehow, her father had ward learning in order to compete with

When Gertrude was fourteen she was

Gertrude Ederle likes baseball

neels go round, and she poke her smudge of a nose into the mechanism of any and all of her tovs.

Rather was she interested in seeing

It was nothing less than fatal to leave a clock in reach of her prying, chubby fingers, because she would twist and turn it until she was surrounded by a impenetrable maze of wires and wheels. All the intricacies of the inner workings of a clock would be laid bare before her.

## Was Regular 'Tomboy,' but Liked Frilly Frocks

To be a "lady" was not her idea at all, and simply because she was hampered by skirts she had absolutely no intention of not climbing poles and turning hand springs, if the so desired. She was a regular Tomboy Taylor.

And yet through it all there was an undeniable touch of femininity which made her peep into a mirror to make sure her hat was "on straight," and to coax her mother to buy sheer, frilly things, which were sure to come to grief on the nail of a post which Gertrude happened to be vaulting.

It is inconceivable that the mind of one small child could think up so many mischlevous pranks. But Gertrude always admitted them with such charming frankness, yet the proper amount of regret, that forgiveness was certain. School days were intermittently dark and sunny, for Gertrude had a strenuous and emphatic dislike for most of her studies, though she did like his-

Her baseball

"windup"

But, blessed thought, there were always games to be played after school. and not a game of jacks, which meant sitting quietly on a step and bouncing a ball up and down. Any one could do that!

But throwing a ball, with a good, husky arm back of it ! Well, that was something of which any girl might be proud.

Against any boy in school Gertrude would match her skill in batting a ball, bringing cheers of appreciation from enthusiastic rooters as she slid home in a cloud of dust and a whirl of bothersome skirts and long legs.

Just before dinner when the fading of daylight and an inward emptiness would tell her it whs time to go home, she would tuck books under arms and try to slip in unnoticed.

Disheveled, dirt-streaked, face flushed with the exertion of healthful exercise and her eyes shining with fun and the joy of living, she would listen meekly to the scolding which usually came.

# **Charming Dimple Acted** as Cloture for Lectures

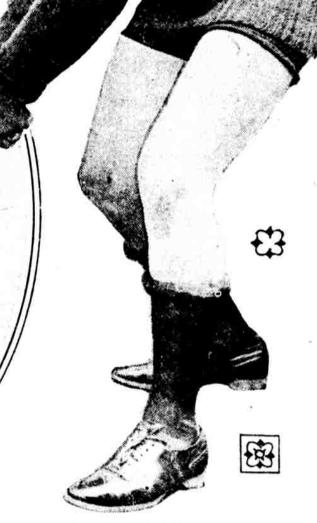
Threats that she would grow up to be a tomboy and not a lady, like her older sister Margaret, seemed to hold be terrors for her, because she would

Is handy with the gl

X

At sotting-up exercises

3



### Just like "Babe" Ruth

younger days had kept her late for din- up to a growd of waiting triands. Later ner, so did her swimming practice. Her would come the formal presentation of an ing and desterity of step. idea now was perfection in endurance. the Day Cup and the individual trophy But with it all, the little streak of

When Gertrude entered the Day  $|\mathbf{Cup}^{\top}|$  she had won. race at Brighton, August 1, she was First must come the congratulations not regarded scribbly as a possible of her intimates of her own age and jazz piece is played she forgets for winner. Her club had her rated fourth spirit.

She couldn't whistle.

bunch" to gather.

Even after she could "smash

She simply couldn't pucker her

lips just right for the screeching

Then one day a boy cousin gave

Gertrude had become the per-

substitute for its cup term of three.

# Former Girl Champions Bowed to "Little Tom-Boy"

with half a fundred other girls the pick of the swimming clubs of the country - none was more confident than the "little Tom-boy." The fact that next to her stood Helen Wainwright.

The presence of these victors of many An aquatic battle made little outward impression on little Gertrüde. The only thing that seemingly marred her equanimity was the driving rain that swept across the ocean and whipped about her bare limbs with a stinging snap.

## Has No Regular Routine to Keep Herself Fit

She has no set rules and regulations to follow. It is not a case of-Exercise for fifteen minutes on empty

stomach. Lie still for ten minutes, etc.

Plenty of sleep and healthy exer-cise to here, her in trim are about all she concerns herself with. And to grasp her by the hand and receive a busky clasp, to run an eye over the broad shoulders and muscular arms and well developed body, it is apparent her

The are good ones. In Gertrude, Babe Ruth has a con-stant admirer, and to see Jack Demp-sey box would lift her into the "sev-enth braven of delight." Last Tuesday evening, when Nat Pendleton wrestled at Highlands, she and her two shad-ows, Alfred and Albert, were among the first to arrive and the last to leave. Gertrude likes to wrestle, although she has liftle opportunity for this diversion. She would like to wrestle with the great Nat himself, but he evaded the challenge, compromised and promised to swim with her. And Gertrade can keep pass with him, which is a source of great delight.

In her cotage yard a space has been measured off, and there Gertrude practices the broad jump. This is an every which keeps her in  $\Lambda$ -T condition.

# Music Also Has Charms to Stir Her Nimble Feet

lee skating, too, claims part of her attention in the winter, and she has mascered the figure eight and several

femininity preveils, and on dame nights Gertrude and the two "As" dress in bib and tucker," and when the larest Gertrude's sister Margaret, eighteen, glides off into another land,

And she as easily forgets the piercing whistle she has torstered when the gathers her sheep little brother into her arms, and hunss a fullate until his eves close and he is a victim of the sandmin.

If the night he stear and a moon is shining, she gets into her canoe and travels down the river, proveding the shell with an even, steady stroke, the night is damp or cains, a poker game is started, or verbaps rummy, or she will dit ero-s-leaged on the floor

and play solitaire. Father Ederle, who so discreetly maintained silence behind the evening paper when Gertrude was just a little ton-boy, can now loudly proclaim to a one and/all that this blue-eyed baby girl of his is a wonder. He keeps a g provision store in New York, and any a one who mentions his thertrude startsl. him off on a favorite tonic. With some men "golf" is the magle word, and they will put aside business to With 1

discuss it. discuss it. But with Mr. Ederle the word is "Gertrude." He smiles, tries not to look too proud and then begins telling of that girl of his, and the things she can do.

The mother still shakes her head sometimes over her tom-boy girl, but her scoldings are becoming milder and her criticisms are by no means con-vincing. If the truth were told. Mrs. Ederis is more than proud of this busty youngster, her namesuke.

among its entrants and named her as Inability to W histle

### Was Tomboy Handicap But as she stood at the starting mark **O**<sup>NE</sup> thing nearly spoiled Gertrude Edecle's record on "the perfect tomboy."

the American all-around champion, the American all-around champion, victor of a hundred contexts in the United States, in Hawaii and in Europe, did not even cause a trace of that old apple" with the huskiest nervousness. Nor did the fact that a few feet away was Hilda James, the of her boy chums; when she could topple most of them over in a youthful star from Great Britain, who friendly wrestling match: when had crossed the ocean just for this race, she could jump with the most And right beside her was dainty Alleen Riggin, the "baby" of the last Olympic agile of them\_ games, the little swimmer who carried off trophies in Belgium and received the plaudits of royalty with the aplomb of a veteran. call that was the signal for "the

her the secret. She practiced all night and next day the crowd came running to her call. fect tomboy.

Then came the sharp crack of the starter's gun and soon the water was being churned by 100 feminine arms