

VOX pop*

SIU COMPETES TOO!

Dear *Swimming World*:

Please include us under your "Teams Left Out" column. We, too, compete in the "National" Independents (third in 1974), and Dick Bower forgot. (*Southern Independents College Conference Forecast* by Dick Bower, December 1974 SW)

SIU . . . coached by Bob Steele and assisted by Bruce Steiner in swimming, and Don Cashmore in diving. Four newcomers will add quality and depth where it was needed before. 1972 Olympian and world class butterflyer, Jorge Delgado, transferred from Pasadena City College. Along with High School All-American breaststroker, Steve Jack (Wilson High School, Washington), and backstroker Jamey Szwed (Parkway, Missouri), are Kevin Szarabajka (breast-stroke), and four divers: Brian Kirmse, Stu Volkow, Gus Carbonell, and Jerry Pattenau.

Also rejoining the team will be Pat Miles, 1971 Pan-American 1500 m. champ and former NCAA finalist. Southern figures to be extremely strong with the maturation of the sophs, healthy returnees, and the addition of Delgado, Jack, Powell and Miles.

Returnees include sophomores Mike Salerno, team captain Dave Swenson, Dennis Roberts, Rick Fox, Dave Boyd, Tony Wickham, Steve Odenwald, Ken Merten, Jon Stewart (recovering from mono), Ken Meyer, junior breaststroker Paul Schultz and senior diver Steve Ruddell. Missing with a broken ankle is Sergio Gonzales, NIC 200 breast runnerup to David Wilkie.

Lost through graduation are Pat Sullivan and Randy Giefer.

BOB STEELE
Swim Coach
Southern Illinois University

BUCHA DESERVES JUST REWARD

Dear *Swimming World*:

I am responding to Dennis Matuch's request for a reader of *Swimming World* to come up with a system to resolve the dilemma that he describes in the method of selecting the world champion professional swimmers. (*Distance Swimming, January 1975 SW*)

I think the first error that the Professional Swim Federation made was in attempting to resolve such a simple matter on statistician's slide rules and charts rather than on the field of competition.

The second error they made was in requesting the professional football

statisticians to devise a system of rating for them. Football is a team sport, and if the Swim Federation felt that it was bereft of competent judges from within its own ranks, the least they could have done was approached persons in a sport more closely akin to swimming. For example, world track authorities would have been more appropriate, since track, like swimming, is an individual sport.

The third error that places them in their own self-concocted dilemma is the fact that since professional swimming happens to be the only sport where men and women compete head-on and there are no separate competitions for women as distinguished from men, that they would not logically, therefore, rank their individual performances in the manner in which they finished the competition. Instead, men and women raced against each other, but the rankings were computed as if they swam separate events. Thus, if a man finished a race in third position, with a woman in second position, the man was credited with a second place finish instead of third and likewise, if there was only one woman in a race and she finished 20th, following 19 men, she was given credit for a first place finish.

In Matuch's illustration, he cites the ridiculous conclusion that a woman who had won a 26th, a 10th, a 14th and a 21st position could be considered a world champion over another person who may have won first place, two second places and one third place. What makes this conclusion even more ridiculous was that in the four races in which these two swimmers competed head-on, the results were as follows:

Lake St. John	Time	Finishing Position
Sandra Bucha	8:09.35	3
Diane Nyad	9:27.57	14
Laval		
Sandra Bucha	3:49.04	2
Lorrie Dixon	4:20.55	15
Diane Nyad	4:36.34	21
Chicago		
Sandra Bucha	3:47.52	2
Diane Nyad	4:52.00	13

In La Tuque, Sandra Bucha swam 100 laps at an average time of 7:43 per lap, while Diane Nyad swam only 58 laps at 8:15 per lap.

Furthermore, in the Lake St. John race, Sandra Bucha's time of 8:09.35 broke the previous men's world record of 8:20.43 by 11 minutes. Only the fabled Greta Anderson, who swam this course in 1958 in 8:17, came close to Sandra's time. Diane Nyad's best time for the same race was 9:05.17.

To proceed with the analysis had Sandra Bucha not participated in the Lake St. John race, Diane Nyad, although she finished 14th in that race, would have been the first woman and would have received 150 more position points plus 100 time points and her world ranking would have been 2,873 points. Thus, she would have amassed more points than John Kinsella and you would have had a "Woman's World Champion" who had never won a single race.

My proposal is very simple. Since men and women in professional marathon swimming compete against each other, they should be scored and awarded points on how they finish in that competition, not separately. Thus, if a woman finishes

second, followed by a male who finishes third, the man should be awarded points on the basis of a third place (not second as at present) and the woman considered second (not first woman).

It is still possible under this system to extract the women's scores and rank them separately according to point totals they have earned. When you do have events in which men only are competing against each other and where women compete against women, only then scoring could be on the basis of how the participants swam in the event that was restricted to one sex. However, as long as competition is mixed, and prize money is divided on the basis of overall finish, then scoring should be consistent and done on that basis.

DON WATSON
Coach of John Kinsella and Sandra Bucha
Hinsdale, Illinois

ATHLETE AND IRS

Swimming World:

It is unbelievable but true—the amateur athlete cannot deduct any of his expenses incurred during training or competing from his gross salary on his Income Tax Statement.

The Internal Revenue Service claims that even if an athlete is world class and participating regularly in the Olympic Games and National Championships, he can deduct nothing because it is a "hobby" and as such is no more deductible than the expenses a person would have in say, collecting stamps!

This is especially startling in view of the fact that a lay person working in any capacity for the Amateur Athletic Union, the U.S. Olympic Committee or any education institution can deduct ALL of his/her expenses. Any direct contribution of money or property to the AAU is deductible. Any lay person going to an AAU athletic event as merely a spectator, but who transports participating athletes, other than members of his own family, may deduct a pro-rata part of the actual travel expenses incurred on the basis that he is promoting an active charitable or educational institution.

Moreover, any person going to an AAU athletic event and participating as an official can deduct the ENTIRE actual expenses incurred, including lodging, meals and transportation. Also any employee of a club (coach, assistant coach, trainer, manager) can deduct ALL of his expenses as a business expense.

All expenses incurred as a delegate to the National Convention and local Association AAU meetings are tax deductible. This includes lodging, meals and transportation. The complete cost of securing AAU uniforms, officials cards, stationery, supplies, official handbooks and phone calls may also be deducted.

And now along comes our amateur athlete who goes to work, trains on his off time, travels to meets (usually by car to save money), pays his entry fees, pays for his motel room and all his meals, buys his

*Send letters, commentaries, questions to *Swimming World Publications, Vox Pop, 8622 Bellanca Ave., Los Angeles, California 90045.*