

PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING

BY: JOE GROSSMAN, Secretary, WPMSF
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Records were broken on three marathon swimming courses in races held on three successive weekends this summer, as warm water favored speedsters in swims held in Canada and the United States.

In the sixth annual 24-hour team race at La Tuque, Que., the record established in the first event, held in 1965, was broken by the team of Horacio Iglesias of Argentina and Johan Schans of Holland. The pair covered 58.3 miles — 2.2 miles further than Herman Willemse of Holland and Regent Lacoursiere of Canada managed in the inaugural La Tuque event.

Lacoursiere teamed with Jan Van Scheyndel of Holland to take second place, and the U.A.R. team of Taby Abou El Enen and Hafez Shedid were third. Dennis Matuch of the U.S. and Mohamed Hussein Gamei of the U.A.R. finished fourth; Americans Jon Erikson and Michael Paesler, both of Chicago, were fifth; England's Geoffrey Lake and Canada's Yvon Monpetit sixth. Bill Barton and Bob Duenkel, both of the U.S., were seventh.

In finishing in eighth position Abdel Latif Abou-Heif of the U.A.R. established an "iron man" mark when his partner Carlos Aguirre of Argentina was able to complete only 11.5 miles, leaving the former World Champion to swim 33 miles by himself during 24 hours.

Bill Lafferty of the U.S. and Des Renford of Australia teamed for ninth position; Farouk Soliman of Sudan and Hassan Abdeen of the U.A.R. were 10th.

Schans clipped nine minutes off the record he set in 1969 as he won the sixth annual 10-mile Labatts Championship swim on Lake Ontario at Hamilton, Ont. His time was 4:01:42. **Diana Nyad of Florida, swimming in her first professional distance race, was the first women finisher, setting a record of 4:23:00 as she finished 10th overall.**

Giulio Travaglio of Italy was third; Van Scheyndel fourth; John Koorey of Australia fifth, and Abou-Heif and Marwan Shedid of the U.A.R. tied for sixth place in the race which found 28 of the 30 starters completing the course.

Jon Erikson was sixth; Gamei seventh; Dennis Matuch of the U.S. and Marwan Saleh of Syria tied for 11th; and **Judith DeNijs of Holland was 13th and second woman finisher.**

The Flying Dutchman set his second course mark in as many weeks as he completed the 25-mile crossing of Lake St. John at Robhrval, Que., in 8:27.50, knocking five minutes off the record set up by Nabil El Shazly of the U.A.R. in 1967. Iglesias was second, Van Scheyndel third, Abou-Heif fourth, Matuch fifth, Marwan Shedid sixth, and **Judith DeNijs seventh and first woman finisher.**

Sixteen of the 23 starters finished the gruelling course, and those who dropped out were forced to quit by a sudden storm in mid-race which brought hailstones and huge waves and drove many swimmers far off-course.

Johnny Weissmuller, International Commissioner of Marathon Swimming, was honorary president of the race, which was the 16th annual on the big lake.

Iglesias was winner of the 26.5-mile race from Portsmouth to Newport, R.I. — the third annual race in that state and the first over that course. His time was 10:21.20. Schans was second, Marwan Shedid third, Abou-Heif fourth, Matuch fifth, Gamei sixth, Jorge Lopez of Argentina seventh and El Enen eighth — the only finishers among 24 starters.

Thus, in six races held so far this year, records have been set in four, with the other two being either new races or races held on new courses. One more sanctioned international championship event remains to be contested in 1970 — the annual 28-mile competition on the Saguenay River at Chicoutimi, Que.

In the chase for the men's World Championship title, Schans leads Iglesias by a small margin going into the last event. **Miss DeNijs is far in the lead for the women's crown.**

At the annual meeting of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation held in Hamilton, Ont., Iglesias was elected president for 1971. Lacoursiere and Hetzel were named vice presidents and Joe Grossman of Columbia, Md., was re-elected secretary.



John Kinsella

KINSELLA, TASNADY WIN SENIOR NAT'L AAU LONG DISTANCE TITLES

Huntington, Ind. — The Senior National Long Distance Swimming Championships for both Men and Women held at Lake Clare, Huntington, Indiana August 9, was an outstanding event and records were smashed by 11 swimmers, with John Kinsella, Hinsdale, and Ann Tasnady, Santa Clara, winning the events.

This was far and away the greatest collection of world class distance swimmers ever assembled. There seems to be no question about a sudden surge of distance swimming in the country as evidenced by the record entry of men and women at Huntington. The record entry for men up to this championship was 57, and 31 for women. At Huntington this year there were 101 men and 45 women entered.

No less than seven women, Ann Tasnady, Barbara Belogorsky, Tracy Finneran, all of Santa Clara Swim Club; Kris Odenwald, Vickie Mauer, and Laury Adsit from Ferguson-Ritenour YMCA, St. Louis; and Donna Baer swimming unattached from Huntington, Ind., were all under the American Record. The old record was set at Columbia, Mo., 1968, by Kendall Kessinger, Greater Lexington Swim Association, 1 Hour 7 minutes, 21.2 sec. Miss Tasnady finishing at the top of the seven swam the distance in 1 hour, 3 minutes, 11.9 seconds.

The men's record 1 hour 24:27.3 set at Jamestown, North Dakota in 1965 by Steve Folk, Huntington YMCA, Huntington, Ind., was broken by the first four men to finish. The new champion, John Kinsella, Hinsdale Swim Club, literally smashed Folk's record when he completed the four miles in the unbelievable time of 1 hour, 19:55.7. Other finishers breaking the record were Mark Lambert, teammate of Kinsella; Victor Phillips, defending champion and Jay Buckley both of the Air Force Academy Falfins.

Adding to the color of an already star-studded roster of entrants was the return to Huntington, Indiana, of George Haines, formerly a citizen of the midwestern city, and former student of Glen Hummer, coach of the Huntington YMCA swim team, and now National AAU Long Distance Swimming Chairman. Mr. Hummer went to the L.C. Nationals where he will continue on to the Far East as co-coach to the "All Star" team to be picked at the Nationals.

SENIOR NATIONAL LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING CHAMPS

- | MEN'S | WOMEN'S |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. John Kinsella, HSC, 79:55.8 | Ann Tasnady, SCSC, 63:11.9 |
| 2. Mark Lambert, HSC, 83:07.0 | Barb Belogorsky, SCSC, 63:18.4 |
| 3. Vic Phillips, AFAF, 83:20.5 | Tracy Finneran, SCSC, 63:19.8 |
| 4. Jay Buckley, AFAF, 84:10.8 | Kris Odenwald, FRY, 66:24.2 |
| 5. Tom Crema, HSC, 84:38.1 | Vickie Mauer, FRY, 66:25.6 |
| 6. Paul Lauritzen, HSC, 85:25.6 | Laury Adsit, FRY, 66:33.8 |
| 7. Steve Odenwald, FRY, 86:00.0 | Donna Baer, unat., 67:19.8 |