

PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING

BY: JOE GROSSMAN, Secretary, WPMSF
World Professional Marathon
Swimming Federation

Egyptian swimmers registered a "clean sweep" in the 28-mile Saguenay River race from Bagotville to Chicoutimi, Quebec, in the last North American race of the 1970 international marathon racing circuit.

Hafez Shedid won the event in 11:49.12, followed by Mohammed Hussein Gamei in 11:54.48 and Marwan Shedid, brother of the winner, in 11:59.45. The U.A.R. trio were the only official finishers, having completed the course before the 12-hour time limit set by the race organizers.

Abdel Latif Abou-Heif and Taby Abour El Enen, both of Egypt; Jorge Lopez of Argentina and Regent Lacoursiere of Canada finished after the deadline, the only swimmers among the 21 who started the gruelling race to reach the finish line.

Horacio Iglesias of Argentina, defending men's World Champion marathoner, led throughout the race, but collapsed in the water a mile from the finish, after 10 hours of swimming, and was treated for exhaustion at the Chicoutimi hospital. Diana Nyad of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., the last woman in the race, was taken from the water after having swum 20 miles when the tide coming up the Saguenay from the St. Lawrence River made it impossible for her to make headway after swimming in one spot for over an hour.

The final race of 1970, a 13-mile event at Beirut, Lebanon, was scheduled for September 26, but as of this writing threats of a cholera outbreak in Lebanon were seen

as a possible cause for postponement until later this autumn.

A race is also slated for Syria in early October, but this 18-mile event is not sanctioned by the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation.

Holland's Johan Schans and his countrywoman Judy DeNijs Van Berkel appear to have insurmountable leads in the competitions for the World Championship crowns for 1970. Schans was runner-up to Iglesias in 1969 and Mrs. Van Berkel won the women's title for five consecutive years before Patti Thompson of Canada interrupted her string last year. Iglesias is presently in second position among the men, and Stella Taylor of Ft. Lauderdale is the women's runner-up.

An event worthy of notice in the world of marathon swimming occurred on September 11 when Kevin Murphy, 21, of London, became only the second swimmer in history to cross the North Channel — popularly called the Irish Sea — between Ireland and Scotland.

Murphy, who earlier in 1970 crossed the English Channel in both directions, swam from Bangor, Northern Ireland, to Portpatrick, Scotland, in 11 hours — some 3½ hours faster than England's Tom Blower made the first-ever crossing in 1947. This cold, turbulent 22-mile stretch had frustrated the efforts of such the efforts of such noted marathoners as Florence Chadwick, Helge Jenson, Jack McClellan and the late Jason Zirganos.

WATER POLO SHOTS (Continued From Page 13)

of playing together.

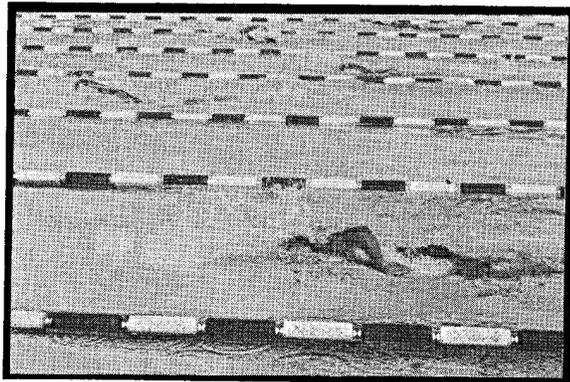
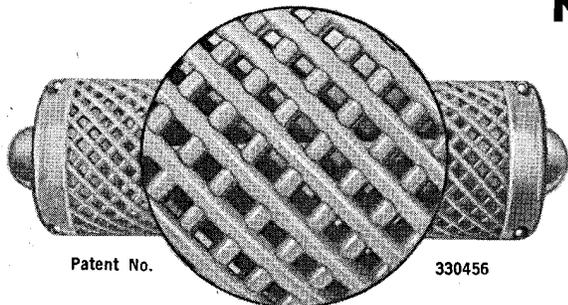
There is also talk of an international tournament in Florida in December. If this materializes it will provide another opportunity for our national team to play as a unit preceding the Olympic year.

The United States clearly has the opportunity to field the best water polo team in its history in 1972.

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