

PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING

BY: JOE GROSSMAN, Secretary, WPMSF
World Professional Marathon
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Outbreaks of cholera in the Middle East have caused postponement, if not cancellation of two marathon swimming events slated for Lebanon and Syria. The 13-mile event planned for Beirut on September 26 was tentatively rescheduled for late October if restrictions on swimming are lifted. An 18-mile race between Jableh and Latakia, Syria, was tentatively moved from October 2 to October 18.

Neither event was held as this was written. The Lebanese race, if held, will be the eighth and last of the international championship marathons sanctioned by the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation for 1970. Due to the restrictive nature of its field, the WPMSF cannot sanction the Syrian event.

After the seven sanctioned races held to date, Johan Schans of Holland holds a slight lead over defending champion Horacio Iglesias of Argentina for the 1970 World Championship title among the male marathoners. Judith DeNijs Van Berkel of Holland holds a commanding lead over her nearest competitor for the women's crown. Announcement of the championship winners and world rankings will be made in December.

The annual end-of-summer activity among organizations which plan or hope to conduct marathon swimming races during the ensuing year is greater than ever in 1970. In the United States, groups are attempting to arrange competitions in Florida, North Carolina and New Jersey, and the committee which conducted the August race in Rhode Island has announced plans for a 1971 event.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Magazine turned its attention to a pro marathon swimming race for the first time since 1964 when writer Dan Levin covered the Portsmouth-to-Newport, R.I., race. His subsequent article, "How to Make a Slow Buck," gave a timely and accurate picture of the state of the sport of professional endurance swimming today.

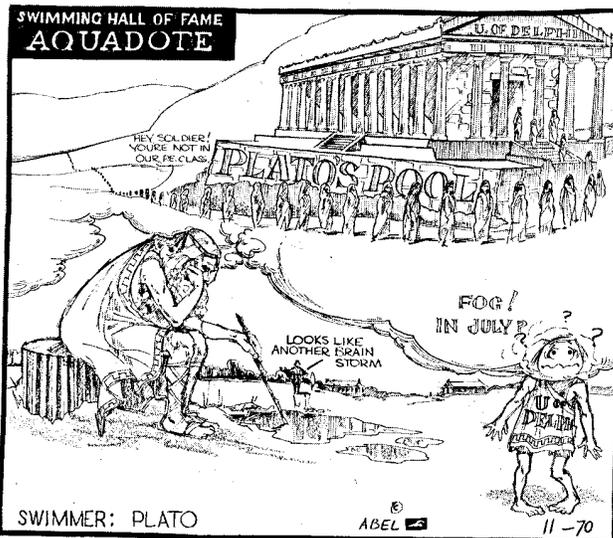
Unintentionally underscoring the paucity of prizes in long-distance swimming was the fact that Levin's SI article was positioned directly behind a story concerning the fantastic proliferation of prizes offered professional golfers in 1970! Some comparisons in the remuneration offered by these two individual-effort sports are most revealing: In 1970, pro golf's prizes totaled \$6,700,000; pro marathon swimming's prizes totaled \$54,128. In 1970, pro golf's winners' prizes averaged \$26,600; pro marathon swimming's winners' prizes averaged \$1,922. In 1970, pro golf's highest-prize tournament, the Dow Jones Open, gave its winner an average of \$833 per hole, pro marathon swimming's highest-prize race, the 25-mile Lac St. Jean, Quebec, event, provided its winner an average of \$140 per mile.

In the two events reported back-to-back in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED's September 7 article: Prizes in the Dow Jones Open totaled \$300,000. Prizes in the Rhode Island marathon swimming race totaled \$5,200. Bobby Nichols' first prize in the Dow Jones Open was \$60,000. Horacio Iglesias' first prize in the 26.5-mile Rhode Island race was \$2,000.

It's a mathematical fact that the \$6,700,000 in golf's 1970 prizes would provide marathon swimming with \$55,000 in prizes for 121 years. In fact, the Dow Jones Open total prizes alone would yield \$55,000 in prizes for over five years!

Finally, in the richest marathon race of 1970, on a dollars-per-mile basis — the 10-mile Hamilton, Ont., swim, winner Schans received \$3,000. Yet, in golf's richest 1970 tournament — the Dow Jones — prizes of \$2,940 were received by FOUR golfers, each of whom finished *behind 20 others!*

All of which is why those connected with marathon swimming have their fingers crossed for those folks in Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey and Rhode Island!



PLATO'S UTOPIA WOULD INCLUDE COMPULSORY SWIMMING-LEARN TO SWIM CLASSES FOR ALL. PLATO, ONE OF THE GREATEST GREEK PHILOSOPHERS, IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "A GREEK WHO CAN NOT SWIM IS NOT PROPERLY EDUCATED."

CNCA NATIONAL CONFERENCE SET

Pelham, N.Y. — The 16th CNCA National Conference is scheduled for November 17-20 at Fort Lauderdale, Florida and will be highlighted by group seminars, general sessions and demonstrations.

There will be five group seminars including Cultural Differences and Aquatics, Age Group Competitive Swimming and National Youth Agencies, Creativity in Composition (Advances Aquatic Skills), Surf Lifeguard Techniques and Portable (Demountable) Swimming Pools as topics.

Delegates are to make their choice of workgroups in advance preferably when remittance is sent in.

All those interested in attending make check payable to "Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics" and mail right away to Dr. H.T. Friermood, Executive Director, CNCA, Oceanside Holiday Inn, 3000 East Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33316.

WOMEN'S NAT'L FORUM SLATED

Madison, Wisc. — The Women's National Aquatic Forum is slated for December 23-30 at the Surf Rider, Pompano Beach, Florida and is sure to offer a diverse listings of programs.

Lew McNeil, coach at Penn State, will cover competitive strokes; Richard Steadman, Monmouth College coach, will speak on techniques and judging in diving; and a competitive workshop will follow.

Jack Nelson, coach, Pine Crest School, will discuss the challenge of teaching a six month old and Ben York will give a view of the international scene with "Challenge and Change in Judging".

Underwater adventure will be expertly covered by three of New York City's specialists: Dr. Charles Smithline's topic is "Skin and Scuba Studies"; John Loret's is "Marine Environment"; and Lou Brown's is "Women's Role in Skin and Scuba".

Teresa Anderson will speak on stunts and judging in synchronized swimming. Also in this area will be Kay Vilen, coach of the Santa Clara Aquamaids, delving into the mechanics of hand and arm action in the execution of advanced stunts. Ann Winter of Wisconsin will present ideas on synchronized routines, and Mary Brennan will explore choreographic similarities between dance and swimming. In addition, the synchronized area will include loop films, a workshop and the annual Forum Water Show.

Norma Stafford of Western Michigan University will discuss the preparation of swimming instructors with "Aquatic Major and Swim Minor". June Krauser, AAU official, will cover the organization and administration of swimming meets. Bill Luick of San Jose will be the resource person for pool equipment. For information contact Muriel Sloan, Dept. of Physical Education, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.