

PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING

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

Uncertain political conditions in the Middle East have again resulted in shelving of plans for professional long-distance races contemplated for Lebanon and Syria, writing a definite "finis" to the 1972 pro racing season.

Although final figures are not yet tabulated due to technicalities involved in scoring the 24-hour race at La Tuque, Quebec, there seems little question that the men's and women's World Championships in professional marathon swimming will again rest on the brows which held them in 1971: those of Horacio Iglesias of Argentina and Miss Shadia El Rageb of Egypt.

For Iglesias, who received word of the birth of his first child—a son, named Luciano—while he was preparing for one of the two first places he scored in this year's four sanctioned marathons, on the Saguenay River, the 1972 championship will be the fourth he has won since the first crown was bestowed in 1963.

In the 10 years since the WPMSF has been naming champions on the bases of performances in sanctioned international races, the Argentinian engineer and Egyptian Abdel Latif Abou-Heif have won seven of the men's titles between them. The other three were won by Herman Willemse of Holland, Giulio Travaglio of Italy and Johan Schans of Holland. Judith DeNijs Van Berkel of Holland has been six-time women's title winner. In addition to two crowns for Miss El Rageb, other distance champions have been Mary Martha Sinn Catalano of the U.S.A. and Patty Thompson of Canada.

Thirty-one men and two women scored points in the four sanctioned races held this year, while another 25 swimmers who

participated in races did not finish in their events. In all, 13 countries around the world were represented at starting lines in the short summer's work.

Although not strictly falling in the category of professional marathoning, several outstanding solo swims recorded this year are worthy of mention.

Former Michigan tank standout Harry Huffaker, now Harry Huffaker, DDS, of Honolulu, secured his niche in marathoning history when he became the first ever to swim a "reverse Molokai"—a 26-mile grind through shark-infested waters between the islands of Oahu and Molokai. Harry thus became the first and only swimmer ever to swim the Kawai Channel in both directions. The Channel, which most swimmers incorrectly dub "The Molokai," was first conquered by Keo Nakama in 1961, and Huffaker set the existing record for the Molokai-Oahu swim with a 15:37 effort in 1967. His time for the more difficult Oahu-Molokai direction was 16:15.

Speaking of "firsts," England's Michael Read racked up the first Lake Windermere "triple," a 30.75-mile three-length effort on the 10¼-mile English lake, in 20 hours. And on the home front, Scott Hadley of Sacramento, Calif., became first to swim the 15-mile length of California's Lake Beryessa in the time of 7:19.

One of the most unusual swims of the year—and unfortunately, unsuccessful—was the attempt of Daniel Menguy of France to cross the English Channel from France to England beginning at Cherbourg, where the Big Ditch is 94 miles wide! Menguy swam for 36 hours and had to abandon his attempt when only six miles from the English coast.

As previously noted, the Channel England-to-France record was cracked twice this summer, once by 15-year-old Lynne Cox of Los Alamitos, who covered the 21 miles in 9:57; and then by pro R. Davis Hart a month later, in 9:44. Hart, incidentally, is now out of the Army and again enrolled in Springfield College, where he shone as an amateur sprinter, studying organic and inorganic chemistry.

Swim in OKLAHOMA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEET</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Nov. 11	Relay	Bartlesville	Bill Baker, Phillips Petroleum Co., B-66 Adams Bldg., Bartlesville, Okla. 74004 Phone 918-661-5062.
Nov. 18-19	"B"	Warner	Mrs. Delores Dieman, 1215 Crestwood Dr., Muskogee, Okla. 74401, 918-682-1909
Dec. 9-10	"B"	Tulsa	Mrs. Patsy Jo Childers, 1411 So. Knoxville, Tulsa, Okla. 74112, 918-932-3143
Jan. 6-7	"A"	Stillwater	Mrs. Florence M. Jones, 924 Osage Dr., Stillwater, Okla. 74074, 405-372-6508
Jan. 13-14	"B"	Tulsa	Joseph G. Lambert, 4434 Oak Rd., Tulsa, Okla. 74105, 918-742-9718
Jan. 27-28	"A"	Tulsa	Joseph G. Lambert, 4434 Oak Rd., Tulsa, Okla. 74105, 918-742-9718
Feb. 9-10-11	"A"	Bartlesville	Bill Baker, Phillips Petroleum Co., B-66, Adams Bldg., Bartlesville, Okla. 74004, Phone 918-661-5062
March 9-10-11	Special Q.T.	Bartlesville	Bill Baker, Phillips Petroleum Co., B-66, Adams Bldg., Bartlesville, Okla. 74004, Phone 918-661-5062
March 17-18	"B"	Tulsa	Patsy Jo Childers, 1411 So. Knoxville, Tulsa, Okla. 74112, Phone 918-932-3143
March 31- April 1	"A"	Edmond	Sam Ard, 7301 N.W. 19th, Bethany, Okla. 73008, 405-787-4129

Note: General Information on time division between "A" & "B" meets can be obtained from Jim Mickel, 524 Ranch Drive, Stillwater, Okla. 74074, Phone 405-372-3607.