

DISTANCE SWIMMING

By Dennis Matuch



Results of the first professional marathon swim of 1973, the 18 Mile Capri-Naples open water championship, which was held on July 15th, showed for the third year in a row that Rogosic Veljko of Yugoslavia is almost unbeatable at this medium distance. Rogosic covered the 18 miles in 9:21.12 to edge out second place finisher Horacio Iglesias of Argentina, whose time was 9:44.7. Third place went to Mahmoud Khamis-Syria, followed by Ossama Rashad, Egypt; Marawan Saleh, Syria; Wolfgang Bremer, West Germany; Zoheir Scharafeldin, Lebanon, Seadi Wahab, Iraq; and first pro-woman swimmer Shadia El-Rageb of Egypt in 12:32.20.

There again were no American swimmers entered in this marathon, mainly due to the poor money, as first prize was \$900 and the average expense of an American to travel and enter this swim would be approximately \$1,300. If and when the sponsors of this swim start paying traveling and living expenses, or greatly increase their prize money, then they will get the North American competitors and this will then be a truly international professional swimming race.

For the second pro-swim, LaTuque, Quebec, Canada was again the scene of the 9th Annual Le 24 Heures LaTuque — The 24 Hour Team Race on a closed circuit 600 yd. circular course in Lake St. Louis, near the heart of scenic LaTuque.

This year's competition was the best ever, with competitors from over 8 different nations competing for the first prize of \$3,500, which went to Ghazzawi and Rashdeh of the U.A.R., who completed 180 1/5 laps. Second was Corrie and Raymond Dixon

of Holland (178 laps). The rest of the field included Shedid and Mandour of the U.A.R. (176 laps); Iglesias of Argentina and Villagomez of Mexico (175 laps); Khamis and Saleh of Syria (173 laps); Taby of Egypt and Matuch of the U.S.A. (157 laps); Gamei of Egypt and Lake of England (153 laps); Montpetit and Lavoie of Canada (149 laps); and Ragheh and Mandour, the first women's team from the U.A.R. (133 1/4 laps).

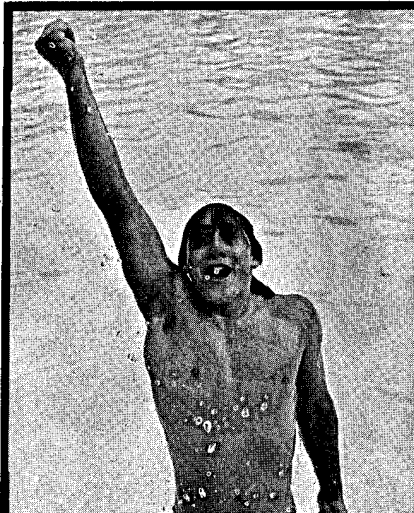
The only complete American team entered was Diana Nyad of Ft. Lauderdale and Jon Erikson of Chicago, who could not continue in the race after 13:56:10 when Nyad hit her head on a diving barge. They were in sixth position when they retired. Another team of Dutch swimmers, Van Scheyndel and Schanz, had to quit after 21:11:20. They were leading up until the 20th hour, when Schanz began feeling faint, and had to actually be pulled from the water by lifeguards when he submerged for the third time. His partner was 20 seconds short of tagging him before guards had to save him, which of course meant disqualification. All in all, this race was one of the most exciting 24 Heures LaTuque's ever in its history.

In my next column, I shall have the results of the St. John 25 Mile Pro-Championship, and the Chicago 10 Mile Sprint.

SPANNUTH APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — John R. Spannuth, one of America's foremost swimming coaches and former National Aquatics Administrator for the AAU, has been appointed Executive Director of the Special Olympics Program, announced Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Executive Vice President of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, creator and sponsor of the Special Olympics.

A nationally known lecturer on sports, physical education and human potential, Spannuth has achieved an international reputation as a spokesman for swimming and amateur athletics. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, former President of the American Swimming Coaches Association, and he directed the first world swimming coaches clinic in Mexico City.



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