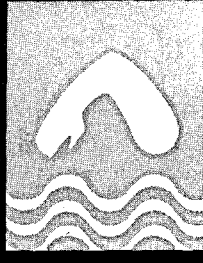


# DISTANCE SWIMMING

By Dennis Matuch



Horatio Iglesias of Argentina has won the World Championship of Marathon Swimming for the third year in a row. Iglesias's total of 1,748 points far outdistanced the second place finisher Ossama Rashad of the United Arab Republic. Rashad had a total of 1,469 points.

Iglesias won the championship with his second place finish in the Capri-Naples 21 mile ocean race, first place tie in the 25 mile Lake St. John marathon, and his fourth place finish in the Chicago 10-mile sprint. Iglesias, otherwise known as the "Little Bull," is the first swimmer in Pro-swimming to win the title three years in a row, even though he won the title in 1967 and 1969. The only other swimmer to win the world title three times was the great Abdel Latif-Abou-Heif, of the UAR, who took the title in '64, '65, and '68. He is now retired from active swimming.

It looks like it will be a long time before anyone comes near Iglesias' fabulous record in Professional Swimming. Iglesias is 31 years old and lives with his wife and son in Buenos Aires. His world championship trophy will be presented to him at the last pro race on the circuit next year.

In the Women's Division, a young petite newcomer from Holland, Corrie Dixon won the title in her first year of marathon swimming. She totaled 1,600 points with a second place finish in the Lатуque 24 hour relay race, a 13th place in the Chicago 10 miler, and an 11th place finish in the Lake St. John championship. Second place in this division also went to a newcomer on the marathon scene, Shadia El Ragib of the UAR. She took this posi-

tion with a total of 1,211 points. Diana Nyad of the United States was third with 939 points, and in fourth place was Sandra Bucha, of the United States, with 750 points.

As in the Chinese calendar, where they have the year of the cat, dog or even a rat, this year's marathon swimming could be called the year of the mammals. Almost all of the races had unusually nice warm weather and water. A few examples: The Lake St. John race usually has a very rough 3 to 4 foot chop with the water temperature being 64 or colder. This year it was flat as any pool with a warm temperature of 75. The Lатуque 24 hour relay race usually has a cool 55 to 60 night of swimming but this year it was warm and windless. Most of the competitors did not use their heaters and tents during the event. These items were supplied to the swimmers by the 24 hour promoters. The 10 mile Chicago event had a water temperature of 75 and a mirror-like surface for the entire race.

Last year the Lake St. John 25 mile race was won by Jon Van Scheyndel of Holland. The water temperature was a cold 58 with six foot waves. This year Van Scheyndel finished in ninth position even though his time was two hours faster than the previous year.

Wind and water conditions make marathon swimming one of the most interesting sports in the world. Unlike pool swimming with its regulated water temperatures and lane markers, open water swimming winners are many times determined by the Great Coach in the Sky. Any amateur swim coach who thinks he saw a rough 1500 meter race in a warm pool should get a big gander at a Lake St. John 44,000 yard sprint in 58 degree water and 6 foot waves with 50,000 spectators waiting at the finish line. A warm water swimmer may train for months and spend a great deal of time and money preparing and traveling to the races only to find the water too cool for him to even start.

Our World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation Bulletin will be coming out in late October. Included in this bulletin will be all of the results of this year's Pro-swim and world championship point standings. There will also be a few features on pro swimming that should be of interest to the novice and to the old pro. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy can write to me in care of the Swimming World Magazine.

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