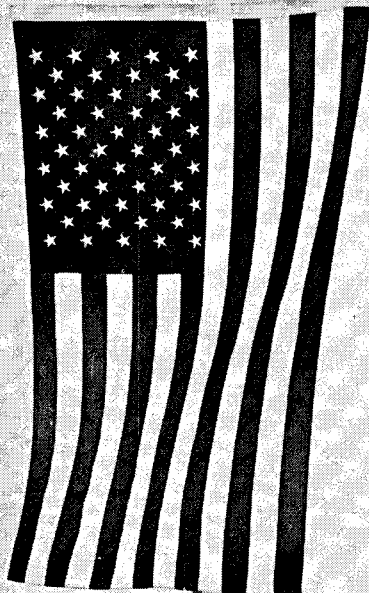


MOSCOW 1980



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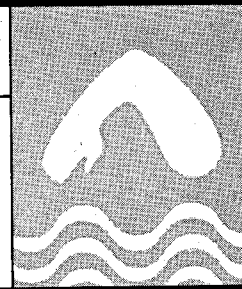
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Distance Swimming

By Dennis Matuch



Americans John Kinsella and Penny Lee Dean topped the 1979 rankings of world professional marathon swimmers.

It was the fifth time that Kinsella has won the world championship, the others coming in 1974, 1976, 1977 and 1978. The former Olympic and Indiana University swimmer now equals the retired Argentine champion, Horatio Iglesias, for the most world titles.

Kinsella amassed 1,782 points in 1979. Runners-up were Claudio Pliit of Argentina (1,683), James Barry of the United States (1,371), Sid Cassidy of the United States (1,079) and Jorge Vellegas of Mexico (946). (Of the eight professional marathon races held in the world in 1979, only the Atlantic City, LaTuque 24-hour relay, Paspebiac and Lake Memphremagog were sanctioned swims and, thus, eligible for the awarding of points to individual marathoners.)

Penny Lee Dean completed her first full year on the professional circuit with a No. 1 world ranking. As an amateur, Dean set world records for the English Channel crossing (England to France), single and double crossings of Catalina Channel and a 36,000 meters (pool) swim.

Dean scored 2,395 points during the year, well ahead of Loreen Passfield of Canada (1,315). Rounding out the top five were Mona Hossin of Egypt (956), Joke Von Staveren of The Netherlands (910) and Christine Cossette of Canada (738).

This year's schedule of professional marathon races was a busy one. Following are the top performers of the eight races:

Rio Coronda River, Argentina—28 miles with current, water 80 degrees, Feb. 4; \$12,000 purse, non-sanctioned. Men—Bill Heiss, USA, 8 hours, 6 minutes, 20 seconds; Claudio Pliit, Argentina, 8:09.07; John Kinsella, USA, 8:17.51. Women—Tina Bischoff, USA, 9:00.40.

Nile River, Egypt—23 miles, current assisted, water 76 degrees, May, non-sanctioned. Men—John Kinsella, USA, 7:07.04; Nasser Shazly, Egypt, 7:10.02; Bill Heiss, USA, 7:30.07. Women—Mona Hossen, Egypt, 7:52.06; Joke Von Staveren, Holland, 7:53.19; Corrie Dixon, England, 8:28.00.

Capri-Naples, Italy—21 miles, water 74 degrees, July 10, non-sanctioned. Men—Claudio Pliit, Argentina 7:40.41; John Kinsella, USA, 7:44.30; Nasser Shazly, Egypt, 7:52.10. Women—Mona Hossen, Egypt, 8:41.06; Joke Von Staveren, Holland, 8:43.01; Zitka Grundova, Czechoslovakia, 9:55.39.

Atlantic City, USA—22½ miles, water 68-72 degrees, July 16, sanctioned. Men—James Barry, USA, 7:18.38 (new record); Sid Cassidy, USA, 7:19.40; John Kinsella, USA, 7:23.37. Women—Penny Lee Dean, USA, 7:49.25; Loreen Passfield, Canada, 8:09.50; Mona Hossin, Egypt, 8:22.32.

LaTuque 24-hour Relay, Canada—One-third mile oval course, water 68-70 degrees, July 21-22, \$21,000 purse, sanctioned. (The 13 teams that swam in this race agreed to share the total purse regardless of their respective finish; each swimmer was awarded 250 points for swimming the race.) Teams—Fausto Ramirez-Rickar Ramirez, Mexico; Juan Tellez (Mexico)-Alberto Santiago (Argentina); John Kinsella-Herb Woodard, USA.

Lake St. John, Canada—21 miles, water 67-70 degrees, calm, July 29, \$35,000 purse, non-sanctioned (due to 5 km qualifying swim and no guarantee of full purse dispersal). Men—John Kinsella, USA, 7:01.15; Claudio Pliit, Argentina, 7:16.21; Bill Heiss, USA, 7:26.15. Women—Penny Lee Dean, USA, 7:34.41 (new record); Christine Cossette, Canada, 8:42.15; Loreen Passfield, Canada, 8:56.59. Departure Sprint, Men—Heiss, 11:52.; Pliit, 12:00. Arrival Sprint, Men—Kinsella, 12:13; Heiss, 12:41. Departure Sprint, Women—Dean, 12:30; Passfield, 13:03. Arrival Sprint, Women—Dean, 13:51; Joke Von Staveren, Holland, 15:20.

Paspebiac, Chaleur Bay, Canada—17.8 miles, water 68-72 degrees, Aug. 5, \$18,700 purse, sanctioned. Men—John Kinsella, USA, 6:25.36 (new record); Claudio Pliit, Argentina, 6:33.34; Bill Heiss, USA, 6:46.30. Women—Penny Lee Dean, USA, 7:34.15 (new record); Joke Von Staveren, Holland, 7:59.22; Christine Cossette, Canada, 8:15.46.

Lake Memphremagog, Canada—28 miles, water 68-72 degrees, Aug. 12, \$15,500 purse, sanctioned. Men—Claudio Pliit, Argentina, 10:38.00 (new record); John Kinsella, USA; Jorge Villegas, Mexico. Women—Penny Lee Dean, USA, 10:39.00 (new record); Loreen Passfield, Canada; Joke Von Staveren, Holland, 12:14. (The Memphremagog Swim was in two parts—prize money was awarded to swimmers according to their position at nine hours if course was not completed. The swimmers without a final time elected to retire from swimming after nine hours and collected their purses at that time. Those who elected to complete the course shared arrival sprint monies. Five swimmers completed the course out of 14.)

The World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation held its annual meeting at Roberval. New officers of the Federation were elected at this time.

The new president for 1980 is Loreen Passfield of Toronto, Canada. Jim Whalen of Atlantic City, N.J., is the new secretary.

Due to the increased activity in paperwork over the years, the Federation members also elected three vice presidents—Raul Villagomez of Mexico, James Barry of the United States and Nabil Shazly of Egypt.

As of Jan. 1, 1980, membership dues will be \$25 per year for both active and non-active members.

As a regular member now and no longer the secretary, your columnist will continue to work with sponsors.

It has been my experience that it is usually the sponsor or director of a swim who makes it great. Lussier of the Memphremagog swim and LeMarquand of Paspebiac, as well as the director of the Atlantic City swim are examples of the superb leadership necessary for a great pro marathon swim. □