

NEWS *from* WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION, INC.



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SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Horacio Iglesias of Argentina and Miss Shadia El Rageb of Egypt have been crowned male and female World Champion Marathon Swimmers for 1972, Johnny Weissmuller, International Commissioner of Marathon Swimming has announced on behalf of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation.

In winning his fourth world title, Iglesias -- a Buenos Aires electrical engineer -- amassed 2,153 points competing in three of four races sanctioned by the Federation this year. He is the first man to win the crown four times since the WPMSF began selecting champions in 1963.

Miss El Rageb was one of only three female swimmers to finish in sanctioned races in 1972, but her victory in the women's division of the Capri-to-Naples race in Italy provided sufficient points -- 890 -- to retain her title.

Champions are named on the basis of points scored in sanctioned races for finishing positions, comparative finishing times and distances. Races held during 1972 which figured in the international rankings were the 18-mile Italian event, the 25-mile crossing of Lac St. Jean (Roberval, Que.) the 28-mile race on the Saguenay River (Que.) and the 24-hour race at La Tuque, Que. The latter two were team races this year.

Among the 29 men who scored points in 1972, Holland's Jan Van Scheyndel was runner-up to Iglesias, while Raul Villagomez of Argentina was third, Johan Schans of Holland fourth and Marwan Shedid of Egypt fifth. Miss Diana Nyad of the U.S.A. was second among the women, while Samia Mandour of Egypt was third.

Iglesias was first in the La Tuque and Chicoutimi events and third in Italy, while Van Scheyndel won the Lac St. Jean marathon. Miss Nyad was first woman at La Tuque.

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The final international rankings for 1972 were:

Men: Champion -- Iglesias, 2,153 points; 2nd, Van Scheyndel, 1,833; 3rd, Villagomez, 1,619; 4th, Schans, 1,430; 5th, Shedid, 1,383; 6th, Dennis Matuch, U.S.A., 1,266; 7th, Marwan Saleh, Syria, 1,139; 8th, Jon Erikson, U.S.A., 918; 9th, Rogosic Veljko, Yugoslavia, 890; 10th, Mohammed Khamis, Syria, 854.

Eleventh, Yvon Monpetit, Canada, 593; 12th, Carlos Aguirre, Argentina, 582; 13th, Marcello Guiscardo, Argentina, 577; 14th, Mohammed Gamie, Egypt, 569; 15th, Tabii Abou El Enen, Egypt, 564; 16th, Edward Bennett, Canada, 513; 17th, Hassan Abdeen, Canada, 488; 18th, Phillip Gollop, England, 484; 19th, Mervyn Sharp, England, 445; 20th, Thomas Hetzel, U.S.A., 434.

Twenty-first, Geoffrey Lake, England, 313; 22nd, Oscar Bernatene, Argentina, 270; 23rd, Said Masri, Syria, 265; 24th, Sultan Kigab, Sudan, 260; 25th, Naste Joneski, Yugoslavia, 250; 26th, Fausto Ramirez, Mexico, 235; 27th, Michel Poirier, Canada, 230; 28th, Daniel Boyle, Canada, 215, and 29th, Jacques Bernier, Canada, 205.

Women: Champion -- El Rageb, 890 points; 2nd, Nyad, 695, and 3rd, Samia Mandour, Egypt, 525.

The annual Wheeler-Davids Trophy, awarded annually for outstanding contributions to the sport of long-distance swimming, was awarded for 1972 to Buck Dawson, Executive Director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in recognition of his support for marathon swimming through his work at the ISHOF and for his skill as the trainer and coach of long-distance swimming champions.