



WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION

INC.

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The World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation named John Kinsella of the United States the number one professional marathon swimmer in the world for 1976. Kinsella won the title over Argentinian Claudio Plit who was last year's world champion. In two of the three sanctioned marathon swims held this year Kinsella set new records. In the 16-mile Chibougamau, Quebec marathon Kinsella bested Plit by almost ten minutes. At the 21-mile Lake St. John marathon, also in Quebec, Kinsella set a new record when he crossed the lake in seven hours and 18.6 seconds. Kinsella won over \$10,000 in both swims. Neither swimmer entered the 18.5-mile Capri-Naples marathon.

Kinsella broke the thirty-year domination of the sport by foreign swimmers in 1974 when he won the world's championship in his first year as a professional. However he lost the title to Plit in 1975 when he was forced to withdraw from three races because of cold water. As an amateur Kinsella swam for Indiana University. Under the guidance of the famed "Doc" Counsilman he became the first human to swim the 1500-meter event in under sixteen minutes. In 1968 he won a silver medal in that event at the Olympics. In the 1972 Olympics he won a gold medal as a member of the free-style medley.

The woman's championship was won by 18-year old Cynthia Nicholas of Canada who made her debut as a professional marathon swimmer this year. She competed against the men and was the first woman to finish the Chibougamau and Lake St. John marathons when she placed 6th and 5th respectively. Cynthia as a sixteen year old set the record for a Lake Ontario crossing in 1974 when she covered the 32-mile distance from Niagara on the Lake to Toronto in 15-hours and 10-minutes. In 1975 she made a record crossing of the English Channel(France to England)in 9-hours and 46-minutes.

FINAL 1976 WORLD RANKINGS

MEN:

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|-----|
| 1. John Kinsella(USA) | 1475 | 10. Dennis Matuch(USA) | 397 |
| 2. Claudio Plit(Argentina). | 1004 | Maher Saleh(Syria) | 397 |
| 3. Marawan Saleh(Syria) | 799 | 12. Ahmed Youssef(Egypt) | 384 |
| 4. Marwan Ghazzawi(Egypt) | 690 | 13. Maurizio Castagna(Italy) | 237 |
| 5. Rogosic Veljko(Yugoslavia) | 603 | 14. Ossama Rachad(Egypt) | 210 |
| 6. Richard Campion(Australia) | 535 | 15. Mohammed Okab(Kuwait) | 190 |
| 7. Raul Villagomez(Mexico) | 532 | 16. Maguib Messali(Saudi Arabia) | 185 |
| 8. Jon Erikson(USA) | 449 | 17. Klaus Stutzer(W. Germany) | 180 |
| 9. Mahmud Khamis(Syria) | 410 | 18. Gamal Elhag(Saudi Arabia) | 175 |

WOMEN:

- | | | | |
|--|------|---|-----|
| 1. Cynthia Nicholas(Canada) | 1375 | 4. Kim Lumsdon(Canada) | 403 |
| 2. Loreen Passfield(Canada) | 1211 | Rawia Mansour(Egypt) | 403 |
| 3. Jenny Anderson(Australia) | 869 | 6. Angela Marchetti(Argentina). | 286 |

LA FEDERATION MONDIALE DES MARATHONS DE NAGE PROFESSIONELLE

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