

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



JOE GROSSMAN
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Dennis Matuch, swimming coach of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and, since 1968, America's top-ranking marathon swimmer, has been elected President of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation for 1973.

Matuch, 31, succeeds former World Champion marathoner Cliff Lumsdon as Federation President. Lumsdon, now a Toronto swimming instructor, has become a member of the selection board of the Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

The WPMSF, an organization of 135 marathoners in 22 nations around the world, also re-elected Mrs. Judith DeNijs Van Berkel of Utrecht, Holland, and Joe Grossman of Columbia, Maryland, U.S.A., as Vice President and Secretary, respectively.

In his first year as a professional distance swimmer Matuch won the 10-mile Chicago Championship on Lake Michigan in 1960. The following year, when that race became a 12-miler, Matuch again won the title and then took first place in the gruelling 36½-mile Chicago-to-Waukegan race.

Since he became the world's fifth-rated male marathoner in 1968, Matuch has never been ranked lower than ninth in the international standings -- he captured the fifth slot in 1972 -- and has consistently led all U.S. marathoners in the world ratings.

Mrs. Van Berkel, now serving her second term as WPMSF Vice President, has won the women's World Championship six times since turning professional in 1964. She is the first female marathoner ever elected to a Federation office.

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Elected to the International Board of Governors were:

Regent Lacoursiere and Arthur J. Dufresne (Canada); Thomas Hetzel and James J. Doty (U.S.A.); Marwan Shedid and Abdel Latif Abou-Heif (Egypt); Osvaldo Schelleberg (Argentina); Rogosic Veljko (Yugoslavia); Geoffrey Lake (England); Jan Van Scheyndel (Holland); Lucio Mezzadri (Italy); Mrs. Margaret Macrae Howes (New Zealand); Des Renford (Australia); Albert Hreische (Lebanon); Marwan Saleh (Syria); and Fausto Ramirez (Mexico).

Ex Officio members of the Board are International Marathon Swimming Commissioner Johnny Weissmuller (USA) and WPMSF past Presidents Herman Willemse (Holland), George Park (Canada), Giulio Travaglio (Italy), Horacio Iglesias (Argentina) and Lumsdon.

The Federation was formed in 1963 to set standards for marathon swimming racing and it sanctions professional world championship races held all over the world each year. The WPMSF annually crowns a male and female world champion marathon swimmer on the basis of points earned in sanctioned races for finishing positions, comparative finishing times, and distances. The Federation is also active globally seeking to call public attention to the increasing problems of water pollution.