

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



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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Dutch swimmers Johan Schans and Judith DeNijs Van Berkel have won the titles of men's and women's World Champion Marathon Swimmers for 1970, Johnny Weissmuller, International Commissioner of Marathon Swimming, has announced.

Schans, 22, was a member of Holland's 1968 Olympic swimming team and turned to professional distance swimming in 1969. Last year, he was barely edged out for the world title by Horacio Iglesias of Argentina. This year, Schans wrested the crown from Iglesias by a similarly small margin.

More than 90 endurance swimmers representing 17 countries participated in seven marathon swimming races sanctioned as international championship events by the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation in 1970. All finishers in each of these races were scored on their finishing positions, finishing times and distances of courses, Weissmuller explained. The 1970 races were held at Utrecht, Holland (12.5 miles); Capri to Naples, Italy (20 miles); La Tuque, Que. (a 24-hour team race); Hamilton, Ont. (10 miles); Lac St. Jean, Roberval, Que. (25 miles); Newport, R.I. (26.5 miles), and Chicoutimi, Que. (28 miles).

In capturing the men's title, Schans set new course records while winning both the Hamilton and Roberval races. He teamed with Iglesias to win the La Tuque event, where another record was set. The Utrecht speedster finished second to the Argentinian in the Holland and Rhode Island competitions.

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Mrs. Van Berkel, who won the distaff world title for the sixth time in seven years, was the first woman finisher in the Utrecht, Capri-Naples and Roberval races. In winning three of the four events she entered in 1970, Mrs. Van Berkel regained the title she'd monopolized since entering professional marathoning in 1964. Last year she entered only one race, having married former Dutch water poloist Rob Van Berkel early in the year. The '69 women's crown was won by Miss Patti Thompson of Canada, who did not complete either of the two races she entered in 1970.

Both Schans and Mrs. Van Berkel were urged to enter marathon swimming by former Dutch swimming ace Herman Willemse, who was the first men's world champion crowned by the World Federation when it began rating swimmers in 1963. Willemse has been Schans' coach throughout his two-year endurance swimming career.

Forty-one men and four women received points for finishing races among the seven sanctioned by the WPMSE this year, Weissmuller said.

The final international ratings for 1970 are:

1. Johan Schans, Holland	2,883.5
2. Horacio Iglesias, Argentina	2,714
3. Mohammed Hussein Gamei, U.A.R.	1,563.5
4. Giulio Travaglio, Italy.....	1,557.5
5. Marwan Shedid, U.A.R.	1,450.5
6. Abdel Latif Abou-Heif, U.A.R.....	1,361
7. Hafez Shedid, U.A.R.	1,300
8. Jan Van Scheyndel, Holland	1,227
9. Dennis Matuch, U.S.A.	1,057
10. Tabii Abou El Enen, U.A.R.	1,016.5
11. Regent Lacoursiere, Canada	946
12. Geoffrey Lake, England	811
13. Marwan Saleh, Syria	680
14. Jon Erikson, U.S.A.	666
15. Michael Paesler, U.S.A.	565
16. Jorge Lopez, Argentina	480.5
17. Salim Rawda, Lebanon	424.5
18. Des Renford, Australia	352.5
19. Bill Barton, U.S.A.	345
20. Yvon Monpetit, Canada	342

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21.	Mahmoud Khamis, Syria	322
22.	Gaston Pare, Canada	306.5
23.	George Park, Canada	276
24.	Carlos Aguirre, Argentina	271
25.	Tom Hetzel, U.S.A.	268
26.	Bill Lafferty, U.S.A.	264.5
27.	John Koorey, Australia.....	258
	Benson Huggard, U.S.A.	258
29.	Angelo Pollonini, Italy	250
30.	Hassan Abdeen, U.A.R.	247
31.	Bob Duenkel, U.S.A.	235
32.	Farouk Suliman, Sudan	198
33.	Michel Poirier, Canada	191
34.	Willem DeVreng, Holland	162.5
35.	Ed Forsbrey, Canada	121
36.	Henry Martinen, Canada	99
37.	Reggie Huffstetler, U.S.A.	80
38.	Rick Hartounian, Canada	79
39.	Wouk Van Asch, Holland	75
40.	Guillermo Venturini, Argentina..	70
41.	Ralph Willard, U.S.A.	65

Women:

1.	Judith DeNijs Van Berkel, Hol...	2,675.5
2.	Stella Taylor, U.S.A.	1,408
3.	Diana Nyad, U.S.A.	750
4.	Hedy Schmidt, Canada	350