

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



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Florida Race Falls Through:

Despite tremendous efforts by Bill Barton over a three-month period, it was not possible to complete arrangements necessary to hold a marathon race in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (USA) this year, as was initially planned. Several prospective sponsors evinced interest in the race and the city of Ft. Lauderdale and the Florida State Development Commission had both pledged material and moral support, but there were too many details to be ironed out before a race could be held, and the December 28 date -- selected because of the Hall of Fame dedication ceremonies that day -- did not allow sufficient time to complete them. However, with the groundwork laid and contacts made, and with interest still high in Florida, it is now expected that a Ft. Lauderdale race will be scheduled sometime in 1969.

Championships:

Since there will be no other races during 1968, the championship standings after eight summer races are the final standings, as listed in Bulletin No. 10. Thus, the men's World Champion for 1968 is Abdel Latif Abou-Heif of the U.A.R., and the women's World Champion is Judith DeNijs of Holland. Abou-Heif defeated runner-up and defending champion Horacio Iglesias of Argentina by only 116 points in regaining the title he had previously won in 1964 and 1965. Judy won the women's title for the fifth consecutive year. Both will have their names inscribed on the permanent Labatts Trophy and, next July, will each receive personal replicas of the Championship trophy in Hamilton.

1969 Schedule Nearly Filled:

The Federation is pleased to announce that all seven North American races which were held in 1968 have already notified us of their 1969 dates. The summer schedule for 1969, as it now stands, is: Chicoutimi (28 miles), Saturday, July 12. La Tuque (24-hour team race), Saturday-Sunday, July 19-20. Hamilton (10 miles), Sunday, July 27. Lake St. John, Roberval (25 miles), Saturday, August 2. Lac Simon (15 miles), Sunday, August 10. Narragansett, Rhode Island (15 miles), Saturday, August 23. Montreal (12.5 miles), Sunday, August 31. The weekend of August 16-17 is still open. No word has yet been received from the Capri-Naples organizers nor is there anything to report on prospective January-February races in Argentina or U.A.R. races in April.

News Notes:

On January 1, George Park succeeds Herman Willemse as Federation president and Giulio Travaglio becomes Vice President for 1969. Elections for 1970 officers will be held during the Federation's annual meeting scheduled for July 26 at Hamilton, Ont. The Federation owes a great vote of thanks to Willemse, first swimmer president of our organization, for his leadership during the past year, in which much was accomplished through his untiring efforts, despite his own retirement from swimming....Our thanks to Labatts Ontario Breweries, Ltd., of Toronto, for (1) preparing the Federation Bulletins for mailing, and (2) for loaning their color film of the 1967 Hamilton race for showing to prospective sponsors in Florida....Congratulations to Klime Savin, who was married recently in Yugoslavia (no further details yet available), and to Judy DeNijs, who will marry Rob Van Berkel shortly in Holland. Judy writes she will probably be swimming again next year....Seasons Greetings and best wishes for 1969 to all Federation members and friends!