

# Kinsella king of marathon

By Ray Sons  
Sports Editor

It has taken Oak Brook's John Kinsella little more than a month of professional swimming to establish himself as the No. 1 marathon swimmer in the world.

He picked up another \$3,000 Sunday in winning the annual Chicago Lakefront Festival 10-mile race, his fourth victory in five marathons in his first pro season.

His time of 3 hours, 41 minutes and 46 seconds was a minute and 47 seconds slower than the world record he had set for the distance in Laval, Quebec, August 11. But it was good enough for an easy triumph.

**SECOND PLACE**, as expected, went to the top woman in marathon swimming, Hinsdale's Sandra Bucha, who finished in 3 hours, 47 minutes and 52 seconds and won \$2,000. She beat Egyptian Ahmed Amin by a minute and 16 seconds.

It was Sandra's second consecutive second place in this event. She started her pro career in the 1973 race.

Kinsella, 21, who had a brilliant collegiate career at the University of Indiana, wasn't even breathing hard when he climbed out of the

water at the foot of Ohio St. after 10 laps around a one-mile course.

He got into marathon swimming on the Canadian circuit on July 20-21, when he teamed with Miss Bucha to win a 24-hour team race. He beat most of the world's best marathon swimmers on his Canadian tour and so discouraged them that several who had been entered in the Chicago race didn't bother to show up here.

**THERE WERE** 19 dropouts, including Holland's Johan Schans, who won last year's lakefront swim. Schans went home after finishing seventh when Kinsella set the new 10-mile record Aug. 11.

Kinsella went into marathon swimming mainly to earn money for his postgraduate work at Harvard business school. "My amateur career was over," he said, "and I wanted the experience of trying this before I got out of competitive swimming."

He has broken the domination of Argentine, Dutch and Egyptian swimmers in his first season. Unfortunately for his competition, Kinsella plans to swim on the same circuit next summer, if he has time to train properly during the winter and spring.