

Thirty all ready for Labatt swim

By **ARLIE KELLER**
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Thirty of the best long-distance swimmers in the world have started arriving in Hamilton for the sixth annual Labatt 10-mile invitational swim which will be held on Sunday off Confederation Park.

Four of the five previous winners will be on hand for another crack at the \$10,000 in prize money Abdul Abou Heif of the United Arab Republic won in 1965, Giulio Travaglio of Italy in 1966, Judith van Berkel-de-Nijs, the only woman ever to finish first, in 1967, and Johan Schans of Holland in 1969.

The lone winner not to attend this year is Tom Bucy of the U.S. who won in 1968.

"Without doubt this is the fastest, most competitive field ever gathered for a long-distance race," said Walter Samek chairman of the Confederation Park Aquatic Club, sponsors of the swim which starts at 11 a.m.

"In fact," added Samek. "George Matuch of the U.S., the only swimmer to take part in all the Hamilton races has suggested the prize money be increased because it is tougher to finish in the money now with all the top competitors."

Trying to pick a winner this year is almost impossible. Among the favorites has to be Schans, who is coached by former world champion, Herman Willemse; Travaglio, who recently won the Capri to Naples race; and Horacio Iglesias of Argentina. Iglesias is in tremendous condition after having won a 14-mile race in Holland and the team race in La Tuque, Que., last weekend with Schans as his partner.

Four women are entered this year. Competing against Mrs. van Berkel will be Patty Thompson of Hamilton, last year's best long-distance woman swimmer in the world, Diana Nyad, 20, of Lake Forest, Ill., and Stella Taylor of the U.S.

Willemse, who assisted in promoting the first long-distance swim in Holland earlier this summer, said the event was so successful a second swim may be held.

Nine countries are represented in the swim, two from Argentina, two from Australia, six from Canada, six from the United Arab Republic, one from England, three from Holland, two from Italy, seven from the United States and one from Syria.

Youngest competitor is John Erikson of Chicago. He won't be 16 until September.

Three of the Canadians are from Toronto. They are Ed Forsbrey, Gaston Pare and Henry Martinen. George Park and Miss Thompson are the Hamilton entrants.

Regent LaCoursier of Montreal is the other Canadian.

The second Italian is Lucio Mezzardi, a physical education student at the University of Naples. He is 21 and this is his first season in long distance swimming. He finished third in the Capri-Naples event.