

# DISTANCE SWIMMING

By Dennis Matuch



It appears that this may be the best year ever for Professional American Marathon swimmers. In the past ten years, the United States has been able to produce one good marathon swim per year, but this will change for the 1974 season.

The Chicago Lakefront 10-mile swim committee has already asked to hold another race on August 25, 1974. There will be an increase in the prize money and other added benefits to all who compete.

Tom Hetzel, a prominent professional swimmer and the record holder for the most English Channel crossings, is now working on a 20-mile race to be held in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mr. Hetzel hopes to have over \$15,000 in cash prizes.

Davis Hart, another professional swimmer and living in Kirkland, Missouri, hopes to have a 25-mile cold water race in late June, 1974.

James J. Doty, residing in Boston and a pro-swimmer, promoted an 8-mile race in Glavester this past summer with 12 competitors. He hopes to have an international race this coming summer, but nothing is definite as of this writing.

If all of these swims come off, it may be the biggest professional distance swimming year ever. The 24-hour Latuque relay race of Latuque Quebec, Canada and the Lake St. John 25-mile championship race held in Roberval Quebec, Canada have both announced their dates for the '74 season. A possible race on the Saguenay River, sponsored by the city of Chicoutimi Quebec, Canada has more than a distinct possibility of materializing for this summer. There also is a chance of a 30-miler in Mexico this June and the 18-mile Capri-Naples swim in early July. This means there might be 9 races for '74.

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