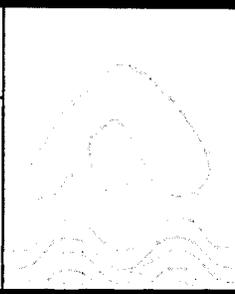


Distance Swimming

By Conrad Wennerberg



The Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame at the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale has announced the 1979 honorees. The names of the honorees along with their accomplishments will be permanently enshrined at the Hall. An international selection committee under the chairmanship of Buck Dawson has selected the following individuals:

Marvin Nelson (USA) — three-time winner of the Canadian National Exhibition pro races (1930, 1933, 1934); twice winner of the Chicago Century of Progress Exhibition pro races (1933, 1934); a dynamic and ever-active solo marathoner during the 1930s who in his career swam 20 or more miles on more than 300 occasions.

Joe Grossman (USA) — contributor; founder and secretary of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation. From 1964 until 1973 when he died, Grossman's organizational abilities and research were major forces in the attainment of national and international recognition for the sport of marathon swimming.

Ersin Aydin (Turkey) — first person to swim from Turkey to the island of Cyprus (60 miles); completed many solo marathons from 20-30 miles in the Marmara Sea, Black Sea, Nile River, Bosphorus and Dardanelles; completed

current-assisted swims of 30-75 miles; English Channel conqueror.

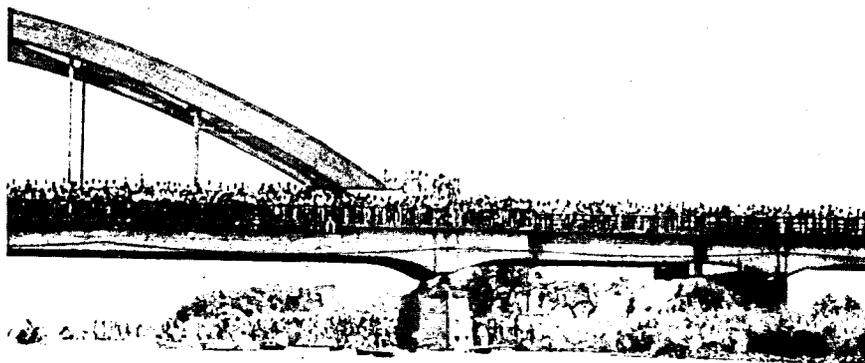
Nasser el Shazly (Egypt) — winner and one-time holder of a world record time set in an English Channel race; winner and top finisher in many pro races held all over the world; youngest marathoner ever to set a world record and win professional races (at ages 16 and 17).

Alawi Makki (Saudi Arabia) — winner of 1978 Arab Nations English Channel race; a top finisher in many international events.

Steve Wozniak (USA) — winner of Canadian National Exhibition and Lake George pro races and always top finisher in many other events in the 1950s. At the age of 64, Wozniak still continues to make many long solo swims which attracts wonder from spectators because of his speed for his age.

The 14th annual Rio Coronda 35-mile marathon took place on Feb. 4 under torrid conditions. While the 80 degree water was having its effect on the swimmers, the air temperature of 104 degrees was causing the 100,000 spectators to be as wet as the swimmers.

The indomitable Argentine fans, however, showed great interest in the event since, from the start of the race at Santa Fe, four-time world champion



El Vado Bridge at the 10-mile mark of Rio Coronda's 35-mile marathon packs thousands of fans watching swimmers pass below them.

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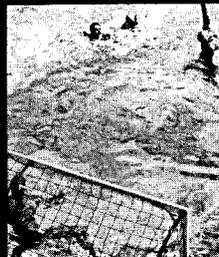
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Distance Swimming

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John Kinsella was not in the lead. Spectators lining the river wall and Colgate Bridge, one-half mile from the start, roared their interest as Bill Heiss of America led the way downstream followed by Kinsella, Jorge Villegas of Mexico and Claudio Plit of Argentina. Twenty other swimmers trailed along behind these leaders.

After about 1½ hours Villegas slipped off the pace and allowed Claudio Plit to pass him. While the heat may have affected Kinsella a little more than the others, it took about five hours to do its energy-sapping work. It was at this point that Plit caught and passed Kinsella. Heiss maintained his 600-yard lead.

Six hours into the swim a thunderstorm arose with high winds. After the storm had passed the relative positions of the swimmers had not changed. The last two hours of the race saw Plit improve his position as he whittled away at Heiss' lead till at the finish he was only about 200 yards from Heiss who won the race.

The first six finishers were Bill Heiss, USA, 8:06:20; Claudio Plit, ARG, 8:09:07; John Kinsella, USA, 8:17:51; Jorge Villegas, MEX, 8:22:28; Raul Villagomez, MEX, 8:26:06; Nasser El Shazly, EGY, 8:31:45.

The first woman to finish the race was the American Tina Marie Bischoff who, entered as an amateur, finished 11th. Tina Marie at one time set an English Channel record.



John Kinsella (3rd), Bill Heiss (1st) and Claudio Plit (2nd) topped the field at Rio Coronda's 35-mile marathon.