A COVID-19 YEAR IN REVIEW

Featuring
The Diary of a Swimming Pool
Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center Renovation Project

Photos: Sean McGinnis / Hensel Phelps
There are more than 1,200 Masters Swimming programs nationwide with coaching, group swims, socials, and more. We sanction more than 400 events, including pool and open water championships, regional events, clinics, and fitness swims. We’ve certified more than 10,000 coaches and adult learn-to-swim instructors, and our foundation has granted nearly $700K to programs in which thousands of adults have learned to swim.

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CONGRATULATIONS

BRENDAN HANSEN

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE 2020
INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING
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Swimming is unique among all other sports in that it is not just an enjoyable recreational activity, but it is an essential life skill that can save your life or help you save the life of others. The World Health Organization has estimated that as many as 500,000 people drown each year. In many parts of the United States drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death among school age children. In fact, drowning causes so many deaths that it is frequently classified as an epidemic. To save lives and stop the epidemic, join ISHOF in its mission to promote Every Child A Swimmer.

When a parent buys a child a baseball glove, football or basketball, they may be thinking “Hall of Fame” someday. But, when a parent buys their child a swim suit and signs them up for swim lessons their primary concern is water safety. They also know that swimming is a sport that can provide health benefits and be enjoyed for their child’s lifetime. That’s what makes the sport of swimming and the mission of the International Swimming Hall of Fame unique among all other sports Halls of Fame.

Our goal is to promote the benefits and importance of swimming as a key to fitness, good health, quality of life, and the water safety of children. We will accomplish this through operations at the International Swimming Hall of Fame - a dynamic shrine dedicated to the history, memory, and recognition of the famous swimmers, divers, water polo players and synchronized swimmers. These athletes and others involved in life saving activities and education, throughout the world, serve to inspire, educate, and be role models for all those who participate in the Hall of Fame’s experience and programs.
2020 Year in Review

Dear Members, Donors and Supporters,

The year 2020 began with new hopes and promises for the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF). It evolved into challenges and reflections. Twelve months later, we are back to hopes and promises.

This International Swimming Hall of Fame yearbook showcases the ongoing hopes we have for the future of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the promises that a new aquatic center will bring to all of us.

Although 2020 brought many things to a halt, including our induction ceremonies, the City of Fort Lauderdale continued with the construction of its new aquatic center pools, grandstands, and diving tower. The facility is on schedule to open in the third quarter of 2021. New locker rooms and aquatic offices will open in early 2022. We are still in the early approval process of upgrading our museum buildings and have grand visions for the future. Needless to say, we have been working hard during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The year 2020 also brought ISHOF closer to its underlying mission of preventing childhood drownings when we acquired the Every Child A Swimmer trademark. With that acquisition, we renewed our efforts to promote “Learn To Swim” programs and get a bill furthered in the Florida state legislature that requires children to complete a national recognized swimming lesson program prior to being admitted into kindergarten. These efforts take time and money, and we appreciate those who donated to ISHOF to further that mission.

With the hope of a 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and a renewal of our Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies in September (MISHOF in Atlanta) and October (ISHOF in Fort Lauderdale), 2021 will set us on a bigger, stronger and a more defined path.

We have never been more optimistic about the future of ISHOF than we are now!

On behalf of all of us at the International Swimming Hall of Fame, we thank you for your continued support and hope that you enjoy reading our 2020 Yearbook.

Sincerely,

Brent T. Rutemiller
President, CEO of International Swimming Hall of Fame
Publisher of Swimming World Magazine
“If you want to win, first help someone else win!”

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Construction Start April 2019
Opening August 2021

On July 10, 2018 the Fort Lauderdale City Commission authorized staff to negotiate a design-build contract for the renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center with Hensel Phelps Construction Company.

Hensel Phelps was awarded a design-build contract on August 21, 2018 based upon the design criteria package in the City’s Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 12072-483 which provides specifications, requirements and 30% schematic designs.

**Major elements of the design include:**
- Remove existing 50M main competition pool and provide a new expanded fully FINA compliant standard pool with two 82' x 6' bulkheads. Size: 53M x 25M, 10 lanes; Depth: 2M – 3M – 2M
- Remove existing diving pool and provide new fully FINA compliant diving pool and tower including five platform levels (1M, 3M, 5M, 7.5M, 10M), and 1M and 3M springboards; Size: 25M x 25M; Depth: 6M
- Remove existing spa for divers and provide new spa. Size: 14FT x 10FT
- Repair existing 50M Training Pool with new surfacing and gutters. Size: 50M x 25Y; Depth 4FT – 12.6FT
- Relocate and expand the instructional pool to the southwest corner of the peninsula.
- Provide new filtration system, pumps, and chlorination system for all pools.
- Resurface and raise pool deck to allow for increased pool depths for competition-level use.
- Remove existing grandstand building and bleachers on north side of facility and provide new grandstand with spectator restrooms, concessions, ticket office, and metal bleachers for +/- 1,500 spectator capacity.
- Provide site improvements that include parking and drainage improvements, new stadium lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, and new main entry plaza.
- The renovation of the locker rooms will be addressed as a separate project.
- Addition of a high diving tower.
**OCTOBER 13, 2020**

It is another great day in Fort Lauderdale. The sun is shining, walls are going up! Foundation piles are being cut down.

We have a remarkable team of dedicated workers led by Hensel Phelps Construction Company working hard for our City. The concrete fountain slab for the grandstand and pool filtration room was poured last week and this week a team of skilled masons have started on the concrete block work for the pool filtration building walls. There are 35 piles that will support the new dive tower; Over and the last several weeks the foundation team has been laboriously excavating and cutting them down to the correct height. The entrance building piles are be excavated and the elevator foundation is being formed.

**NOVEMBER 25, 2020**

It’s time to place the grade beams and building slab for the restroom building! Today the team started placing concrete for the slab at 5:00 a.m. at the west end of the restroom building. They finished placing the concrete around 10:30 a.m. 18 trucks, or 156 cubic yards of concrete was placed. We can’t wait to see the walls start going up shortly!

**OCTOBER 16, 2020 - GATE**

The time has come for us to dive into the precast concrete fabrication process.

Staff took a field trip to Gate Precast in Kissimmee, Florida. We were there to select the color and textures for the dive tower and review the construction plans.

The Kissimmee plant manager stated that the dive tower is a very complex structure with a high degree of difficulty, we definitely get the gold medal for most challenging design!

Gate’s headquarters is in Jacksonville and they have eight plants across the southeast United States. It was an impressive operation and yard, all carpentry forms and iron work is constructed in house.

Manufacturing of the panels will begin this fall, followed by delivery in January 2021. The dive tower will be erected in February 2021. Pool decks will be poured in March.

As a unique and one of a kind structure, the dive tower construction process will be included as part of a video documentary.

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**Contract 1 - Pools, Bleachers, Dive Tower Entry Building, Dive Tower with Amenity Deck**

- Total estimated project cost with change orders: $46 million.
- There are two executed agreements, each with a separate timeline.
Estimated Completion Date is August 2021.

The first contract contains the base scope items: new competition pool, new diving well, new teaching pool, refurbished training pool, new grandstand and bleachers, new entrance building (guest restrooms/concession/admissions), expanded pool deck, resurfacing the training pool, and parking lot improvements. Change orders that have been added into the contract include a 27-meter dive tower and a rooftop amenity space on top of the entry building. We expect to open the pools August 2021. Total budget for first contract (including change orders) is $38.75 million.

The north support building contains all of the restrooms for the spectator grandstand seating and we will have rinse showers on the pool deck, this is required to operate. So, while the building with the locker rooms is being completed, we are hoping we will be allowed to operate using the guest/spectator restrooms.

**Contract 2 – South Building (Locker Rooms, Staff Offices, Timing & Meetings Rooms, Lifeguards and First Aid)**

Estimated Completion Date is first quarter of 2022.

Hensel Phelps has an interim agreement to begin design and cost estimating for the South Building. The total budget for the project is $7M. Assuming a December award, demolition could begin in January 2021 and the building construction completed the first quarter of 2022. If there are delays in the approval process, permitting, supply chain or weather the completion date will change.

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2020**

The jobsite will be closed for Labor Day holiday, however the Hensel Phelps team has been working hard all summer building new pools for our City.

Next week the concrete will be poured for the dive well walls. This work will take between 8-10 hours and includes an estimated 500 cubic yards of concrete.

A new exfiltration trench is being excavated on the north side of the property down the parking lot, electrical and plumbing work is going in for the pool filtration systems.

Work continues on the north side building foundations and utilities. Design work is ongoing for the 27-meter dive tower and south locker room building. Demolition for the south building is estimated to start the beginning of next year, 2021.

Most of the sheet piles have been removed around the 50M main competition pool and plumbing work is progressing for the filtration system. The pools have seen a lot of work over the summer, here is a summary:

- **June 10:** Dive Well Tremie Seal – Lower Floor foundation = 1,197 cubic yards, 136 trucks
- **June 18:** 50M Pool Floor = 620 cubic yards, 68 trucks
- **July 2 & 9:** 50M Pool Walls = Combined 165 cubic yards
- **August 4:** Dive Well Floor = 355 cubic yards, 36 trucks
- **September 11:** Dive Well Walls = Estimating 500 cubic yards

**AUGUST 4, 2020**

Hard to believe it is already August. We’ve already had one hurricane, grateful it scooted by Fort Lauderdale as a tropical storm.

Construction is moving along. The first concrete placement for the dive well was today! Work started again at 5:00 a.m. and was completed swiftly at 9:30 a.m. 36 trucks and 355-yards of concrete.

The main competition pool foundation and plumbing have been completed. A tremendous amount of labor goes into forming the pools and preparing the ground. Hats off to the engineers, structural team, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and iron workers.

The next large concrete pour will be the week before the Labor Day holiday - dive well walls. Hensel Phelps is tracking to mobilize the steel sheet pile contractor on August 17 to begin
removing the steel sheet piles from the main competition pool as the concrete is cured and pool plumbing is set.

To all of our swim fans, we miss you and look forward to welcoming you home to new pools next year! In the meantime, just keep swimming, and diving!

**JULY 21, 2020**

The Redland Company is working on the exfiltration drainage system. Pool deck areas are being backfilled around training pool and main competition pool. Weller Pools is focusing on installing the rebar top mat for dive well foundation, the dive well sheet barrier and continuing wall work for the main competition pool.

Two additions were made to the Aquatic Center Renovation Project at the July 7 Commission Meeting.

**$7.8 Million Approved for New Aquatic Center Project Amenities**

The City Commission approved $7,870,261 for the construction of a 27-meter dive tower and a north observation deck as part of the Aquatic Center Improvement Project. The new tower will be the first 27-meter permanent dive tower in the United States. The 27-meter dive tower will be constructed using precast concrete sections and includes architectural glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) cladding and decorative lighting. The $5,101,060 cost will be paid for with CRA funds. The north observation deck adds approximately 2,800 square feet of amenity space and includes new elevator and stair tower access, architectural GFRC cladding on the building, and decorative railings and lighting. The $2,769,201 cost will be paid for with park impact fees.

**$7 Million Approved for New South Building at Aquatic Center**

The City Commission approved a recommendation from the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board to appropriate $7 million of Parks and Recreation General Obligation Bond funds for the design and construction of the new south building at the Aquatic Center Complex. The proposed new south building will be a two-story structure with restroom, locker rooms, weight room, administrative support space and meeting rooms, first aid stations, timing rooms, and other associated amenities.

**JUNE 19, 2020**

Water is out of the Dive Well. Next, the piles will be cut down, followed by the laying of the rebar top mat and plumbing. 72 new auger cast piles support this pool, 35 for the dive tower alone. Sheet piles are a depth of 40-feet and auger cast piles are at 50-feet. The finished pool depth will be 6M = 19.865 feet.

**JUNE 17, 2020**

For the next 2 weeks they will be drilling 5 wells for the Symbiont Geothermal Heating/Cooling systems. Three supply wells on the west end of the property and two injection wells on the north. It will take approximately four days to drill each well at a depth of 80-feet which includes 40-feet of casing and 40-feet of well pipe.

**JUNE 10, 2020**

This week a critical milestone was achieved with pouring the Dive Well waterproof “tremie seal.”

This pour consisted of 136 trucks transporting 1,197 cubic yards of concrete and a SCUBA diver to check the progress. Work started at 5:00 a.m. Concrete trucks arrived at the south service road then stopped at the pump located on the north side of the property at the location of the new dive pool. After each concrete discharge, each truck stopped at a rinse station,
then departed the site from the north gate and proceeded south on Seabreeze Blvd/A1A to Port Everglades for a return trip with more concrete until the work was complete.

The concrete will cure underwater for seven days. With this item complete the water will be able to be pumped out of the Dive Well next week and begin to construct the concrete shell for the pool.

The next concrete pour will be June 17, 2020 which will be floor of the competition pool consisting of roughly 670 cubic yards of concrete and 75 concrete trucks. The construction team will mobilize at 4:00 a.m. with concrete starting to be poured at 5:00 a.m. This placement should take 10 hours to complete.

APRIL 20, 2020

Today the grandstands were demolished. The sound of cheers and vivid memories remain. Built in 1965, it held the hopes and cheers of countless fans, friends and family having witnessed many personal achievements and 10 world records. Below the grandstand deck, were storage rooms, FPL electrical vaults and the pool filtration system for the main competition pool and dive well - a system that operated on gas chlorine, soda ash and diatomaceous earth filtration pits. Fort Lauderdale Ocean Rescue headquarters was located below the grandstands. In the heyday of Spring Break, there was also a police substation under the grandstands that included a booking desk and holding cells. Another bittersweet moment.

- Peace of Mind Environmental / Demolition Contractor

MAY 15, 2020

Foundation work continues in the main competition pool (53M x 25M) with excavation and cutting down the auger cast piles to the correct height. This is very laborious work. Grueling. Once a pile is cut down the excess concrete chips must be hauled or vacuumed out.

Dewatering is a big factor as part of the swimming pool construction process here on the beach barrier island. Water that would normally fill into the excavation area is pumped out by a series of well points around the perimeter of each pool and surge tank pit. Large pumps continuously remove the water which then goes to separation tanks for eventual disposal.
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APRIL 24, 2020

Time for piles to support the new dive pool. When the drill reaches the desired depth, concrete is injected through the hollow stem auger followed by the placement of a rebar cage.

APRIL 15, 2020

Auger cast pile placement work continues. This work is time consuming and involves the strategic placement of every pile. It is fascinating to watch the skill and speed of the ironworkers as they build the reinforced steel “rebar” cages and hoist them into place.

APRIL 4, 2020

FPL switch over date and decommissioning of the electrical vault is scheduled for April 8th. More demolition will follow after this pivotal piece of the project is complete. Power from the mainland comes directly to the aquatic center via an underwater cable from the Idlewyld neighborhood. There are two FPL vaults located on the peninsula that provide power north to Sunrise Boulevard and south to Harbor Beach.

With additional safety measure in place, construction has continued without delay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MARCH 5, 2020

Sheet pile work is scheduled to be completed this week and will be followed by auger cast piles. Roughly 500 new piles are required for the project.

The installation of the dewatering system at the main competition pool is underway to allow demolition to commence for the remaining pool bottom and then new construction. Work this week includes providing power to the dewatering system for the main competition pool.

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Dive pool sheet piles that will form the basis of the 6M pool are being placed this week. 146 sheet piles will be placed at a depth of 24-39 feet. Most will be removed upon completion of the pool foundation, several located on the south and west will need to be abandoned in place as they will not be able to be reached by the crane for removal.

FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Work has commenced for the placement of sheet piles for the main competition pool. 252 sheet piles will be placed at a depth of 24-39 feet. Each sheet pile measures 27.5 inches in width and weighs 65 pounds per foot in length. Many thanks to the patience and understanding of our neighbors as this task involved a considerable amount of noise and vibration over several weeks.
JANUARY 6, 2020

Today the 10-meter dive tower was demolished. Originally built in 1965 it withstood the test of time and witnessed a great deal of history. It is a bittersweet moment.
- Peace of Mind Environmental / Demolition Contractor

JANUARY 3, 2020

Today Stu Marvin stopped by to say hello, it was good to see him again. Since 1965, there have been seven managers of the pool for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

1. Skip Johnston
2. Buster Britton
3. John Morgan
4. Joe Schoren
5. Susan Braman (1984 - 87)
7. Laura Voet (2004 - )

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Primary power electrical installation is complete.

Florida Power and Light (FPL) is working on the process to decommission the existing onsite electrical vaults. Decommissioning the vaults will allow final demolition to be completed (remaining grandstands and dive tower) and open the site up to more construction activities.

After the ground soil is prepared, sheet pile installation will begin around the main competition pool and the new dive well with dewatering activities following behind.

Staff continues work on the additional scope items for the project which include a 27-meter dive tower and locker room renovations. The Hensel Phelps team is working on design concepts for the 27-meter dive tower.

DECEMBER 10, 2019

Design continues to progress with the 27-meter dive tower and the addition of the amenity deck to the entry building north of the dive well. We will reach 30% design for both this month and design is planned to be complete in March of 2020.
- Cartaya and Associates / Architect

Hensel Phelps continues with the process required to abandon the existing dive well.

The Community Outreach Event was held December 5, 2019 at the Courtyard Marriott at 440 Seabreeze Boulevard, across the street. An update on the latest design of the 27-meter dive tower and the north amenity deck was provided as well as a current construction schedule update.

Daily photo updates are available on the Hensel Phelps project website and you can find them at this link:
https://flac.henselphelps.com/project-update-photos/
Hensel Phelps has started the process required to abandon the existing dive well in place, which requires filling the bottom of the pool with three feet of concrete prior to filling it with soil. Holes were cored around the perimeter of the old dive well walls to allow ground water to flow freely in and out of the pool. It will spend the rest of its afterlife under the new pool deck and scoreboard.

### OCTOBER 2019

Demolition is hard work and a long process. It looks like it a lot of fun too! Quite the array of heavy machinery and light equipment is used. Every piece of material is sorted and separated and hauled away for processing. The work site is kept very organized and tidy. Water is used to keep the dust down. While destruction is the goal, the skill and finesse involved wielding the machines is masterful.

### AUGUST 21, 2019

The gutters on the training pool are being removed and the surrounding pool decks demolished. Work is underway for the installation of new underground power lines for electrical equipment – vaults, transformers and switch gear for the aquatic center.

It is no surprise, that during the demolition of the main competition pool, the existing form work was found to be of superior craftsmanship! Many thanks to the planners and workmen from 1965 and...
JULY 18, 2019

The crane is onsite today to move “The Swimmer” statue. This took a considerable amount of careful planning and care. First, they had to excavate and dig out the statue. Once the base was exposed, a plan was set in place. A harness was placed around the statue and a crane cradled the statue as a wire saw truck will cut the foundation bell it rests upon in half. Once the saw cut was completed, the crane hoisted the statue into the air and placed the statue on a flatbed truck. The statue was then moved to a holding area on the west side of the Hall of Fame Museum. The crane offloaded the statue onto a bed of soil to support it from listing to either side. The bell foundation was moved separately.

Video links of the relocation of “The Swimmer” statue
https://www.facebook.com/HenselPhelpsCommunications/posts/2271170989657276
https://twitter.com/HenselPhelps/status/1152280718166429697?s=20

JULY 11, 2019

It is time to test some piles. The test pile rig is delivered in parts then is assembled on site. It is a massive piece of equipment with a tremendous amount of counterweight.

Here is how it works - the drill bit removes the dirt, then before it backs its way out, it starts pumping the earth with 7,500 psi grout. Once the drill bit is out, they pick up the rebar cage and place it into the grout hole.

The piles will cure for just under a month and then they will load them to ensure they perform as designed before proceeding with production piles.

In the next month Hensel Phelps will continue with selective demolition and will begin to demolish portions of the pool deck and a portion of the grandstand to prepare for pile installation in the pool area.

Construction Team Fun Fact: One of the crew members is a free diver in his spare time! - Keller Foundation / Contractor

JUNE 5, 2019

Hensel Phelps, the Design/Build Contractor for the project, hosted a Community Outreach Event on June 5, 2019 at the Courtyard by Marriott, located at 440 Seabreeze Blvd. This was for the construction team to meet our neighbors, present the project scope and timeline and answer any questions.
APRIL 5, 2019

Its Groundbreaking Ceremony day! A very exciting day filled with great anticipation, this is the day we’ve all been waiting for! Mayor Dean Trantalis welcomed guests that included City and County Commissioners, Olympians, World Champions and Hall of Famers that included Dr. Ron O’Brien, Tim O’Brien, Dave Burgering, Jesse Vasallo, David Zubero, Ryan Lochte, and Caeleb Dressel.

Caeleb Dressel drove in from Gainesville and he started off with an interview with Brent Rutemiller for Swimming World Magazine at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. He shared a story about swimming at the pool when he was 11 or 12. Surprisingly, he said he did not do very well at that meet. After the ceremony, Caeleb had a few interviews and took photos with the guests. Local media coverage was by ABC Channel 10, and the Sun Sentinel. His afternoon concluded with swim practice along with our club team Swim Fort Lauderdale and Head Coach Dave Gibson. Much to the swimmer’s delight, there was a “get out swim.” Caeleb declared that if he swam under 18 seconds for 50-yard freestyle with short fins off the wall then the kids could get out of practice, Coach Gibson agreed. Caeleb finished in 16.3 seconds. Practice over! Best get out swim ever!

Photos: Laura Voet
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On August 3rd, 2020, Google Doodle launched a Doodle celebrating ISHOF Honor Diver and friend, Filipino American diver and coach Victoria “Vicki” Draves, the first Asian-American woman to win an Olympic medal. On this day in 1948, Draves won the gold medal in the women’s 3-meter springboard event at the London Summer Olympics. Vicki went on to win the gold medal on the 10-meter tower event at the same Games, making her the first woman in Olympic history to win both the springboard and platform diving crowns in the same games.

THE DALE NEUBURGER COLLECTION

Just recently, ISHOF was lucky enough to receive a large donation of memorabilia from longtime ISHOF friend and former Board Member, Mr. Dale Neuburger. Neuburger’s collection, that he generously gave to ISHOF, dates to 1982, when Dale was the first manager of the Natatorium in Indianapolis. Some of the earliest items in Neuburger’s collection are from the 1984 USA Swimming Olympic Trials that were held at the Natatorium in Indianapolis.

In addition to managing the Natatorium, Neuburger was on the USA Swimming Board of Directors for 28 years, from 1990 through 2018. Beginning in 1995, Dale was elected Vice-President of FINA, Federation Internationale De Natation, a position he held for 25 years.

In his capacity as the VP of FINA, Neuburger travelled to many events around the world including the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, World Championships, and Aquatic World Championships.

The collection Neuburger donated to ISHOF consists of items from many of these events such as clothing, plush mascots, credentials, programs, medals, gifts, etc. It is an extremely complete collection from this time period! ISHOF is so grateful to Mr. Neuburger for his generosity.

Even though Neuburger is retired from swimming now after thirty plus years of service, he stills finds a way to keep on giving. We cannot thank you enough Dale!
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The Duke was a great friend to ISHOF in the early days. He helped ISHOF and Buck Dawson whenever and however he could. He flew all the way to Fort Lauderdale for the grand opening of the pool in the mid 1960’s and for his induction. He was part of the first class of the greatest aquatic athletes ever. Along with Johnny Weissmuller and Buster Crabbe, the trio were always the crowd favorites.

Below is the 1965 bio for Duke’s induction. One of the great ones...

**FOR THE RECORD: OLYMPIC GAMES:** 1912 gold (100m freestyle), silver (4x200m freestyle relay); 1920 gold (100m freestyle; 4x200m freestyle relay), 4th (water polo); 1924 silver (100m freestyle); 1932 team member (water polo); WORLD RECORDS: freestyle.

The history of modern swimming started with the English in 1838. It was the breaststroke, and still the breaststroke, when Matthew Webb swam the Channel in 1875; yet, bas-reliefs dating to 880 B.C. taken from the palace of Nimroud (now in the British Nimroud Gallery) show a fugitive escaping from soldiers by swimming a river using a head high overarm crawl. This stroke was evolving painfully in the western world until a bronzed Duke Kahanamoku swam out of the Hawaiian Islands with it in 1911. His world record times no one would believe.

Jam Handy describes The Duke as a superbly conditioned athlete planing and crawling over the top of the water as no one his size and only one smaller man, Perry McGillivry, seemed able to do. Only after ten years in Hollywood did a 42 year old Duke Kahanamoku win the Olympic gold medal and wreath of olive branches in 1912. He still swam well,” says Handy, “but in the water like other mortals, he was no longer in that superb condition needed to get his body planing up on top of the water.” Kahanamoku, the perennial Sheriff of Honolulu, and island king in so many movies, was and is a real Duke by christened surname, as well as in deference to his royal Hawaiian blood. His father, Captain Kahanamoku, born in Princess Ruth’s palace during a visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, named him Duke in honor of that occasion.

In swimming, he rates his dukedom by Olympic titles as well as his ambassadorship in first introducing surfing around the world, including Australia where it has become a national sport. Duke's royal position in swimming took time to be recognized.

He first startled the swimming world by shattering both the 50 and 100 yard world records on the anniversary of Hawaiian annexation day, August 2, 1911, just 12 days before his 21st birthday—doing 24 1/5 in the 40 or 1 3/5 seconds better than the record, and 55 2/5 in the 100, 4 3/5 seconds better than the record. Unfortunately the cast was all Hawaiian and the times were so unbelievable that the Amateur Athletic Union, headquartered in New York, refused to recognize them in spite of the careful reports that were compiled showing that the course in Honolulu Harbor had been measured before the race and 3 times after; had been surveyed by a registered surveyor, that the swimmers were swimming against the tide; and that his nearest competitor, Lawrence Cunha, was 30 feet behind.

After considerable correspondence back and forth, President Wahle of the AAU wrote:

“According to my mind, this matter should be treated very carefully and with extreme caution before the 100 yard record is to be accepted as an AAU record. If his 55 2/5 seconds were accepted and he should afterwards compete in the U.S. or Europe and be beaten by swimmers, the correctness of his 55 2/5 seconds would be seriously questioned as well as the good faith of the AAU. For this reason, I would like to see Kahanamoku beat the fast men first and have the record accepted afterward.”

In the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, Longworth of Australia was the favorite but Duke won the Olympic championship in 63 2/5 seconds. Eight years later at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, on his 30th birthday, the Duke had to win his gold medal twice. The Australians protested his first win saying their man had been boxed, so the Duke had to win it again. Australia was fourth with Hawaiians first, second and third.

Winning the Olympic gold medal and wreath of olive branches in 1912, the Duke has been an international idol, the first and foremost in a long line of Hawaiian world record holders, national and Olympic champions. These tiny islands dominated world swimming from 1912 until 1956 when the six Hawaiians on the U.S. Olympic team were no match for the Australians. Swimming had gone full cycle for it was the Australians who had been dominant in swimming when Duke swam past them in 1912.
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One Hundred and Fifteen years ago,
Honor Swimmer Gertrude Ederle was born in New York City!

**GERTRUDE EDERLE (USA)**
1965 Honor Swimmer

**FOR THE RECORD: OLYMPIC GAMES:** 1924 gold (4x100m freestyle relay), bronze (100m, 400m freestyle); WORLD and NATIONAL RECORDS: 29 (from 1921 to 1925 - in 1922 she set 7 world records in the course of one 500m swim); First woman to swim the English Channel, 1926 (beating all previous times by men).

Gertrude Ederle’s two greatest days in swimming were at Brighton Beach in 1922 and in the English Channel in 1926, the first as an amateur, the second as a professional.

At Brighton Beach, Miss Ederle broke seven world records at various distances during a single 500-meter swim. In England, she became the first woman to swim the English Channel.

Trudy’s great Channel swim was 51 years after Matthew Webb, the first man to swim the Channel, had achieved the impossible, and it completely captured the public imagination because such swimming immortals as Annette Kellerman had tried and failed, claiming the feat completely beyond the limits of a woman’s strength and endurance. Gertrude Ederle not only swam the Channel but swam it faster than any man before her.

She held 29 U.S. national and world records from 1921 until she turned professional after the 1925 season. Her amateur national championships were won at distances from 50 yards to the half mile and her great professional Channel effort was 20 miles. Olympian Ederle was tough at any distance at the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Gertrude Ederle was the female counterpart of Johnny Weissmuller in that they were discussed in every household as the two greatest swimming figures of the 1920s, idols of the “Golden Age of Sport”.

When “Trudy”, as she was known, returned from Europe after her successful channel swim, the city held a ticker-tape parade in her honor in New York City. It was the largest parade the city had ever seen. People were everywhere, falling off sidewalks and into the streets, all just to get a glance of Trudy.

The parade was held in the Canyon of Heroes, a section in lower Manhattan that starts at about City Hall Park and ends at the Battery. It’s about a mile-long stretch. It is estimated that Ederle’s parade drew more than two-million people, who lined the streets of New York.

Ederle was inducted into ISHOF’s first class of Honorees. Of course, she certainly deserved it. She became fast friends with Buck Dawson and returned several times after her induction in 1965, to help support ISHOF and induct other Honorees. Here she is (at right) in 1978, helping induct Honor Swimmer, Lynn Burke.

Ederle never married, but went on to teach children, particularly deaf children to swim. She lived to be 98 years old and died on November 30, 2003.

Those of you who remember Buck Dawson and Bob Duenkel, may be interested to know that up until the end, Bob and Buck would stop in and visit with Trudy every year on their way to and from Camp in the summers.
Honorees 2020
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MISHOF Honor Swimmer

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Gyorgy Karpati (HUN)
1982
ISHOF Honor Water Polo Player

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ISHOF Honor Swimmer

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Eva Szekely (HUN)
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