Diana Nyad, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1978

Diana Nyad was the female World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation champion in 1974 earned in the 57 km swim from Santa Fe to Corona in Argentina and races in Canada and USA. In the 36 km Capri to Naples race that year her 8 hours and 11 minutes swim broke the female speed record of 8 hours and 54 minutes set by Honoree Judith de Nijs in 1970. Diana held that record until 1987. Diana’s swim around Manhattan Island in 1975 in 7 hours and 57 minutes received considerable media attention as it was the first such swim for nearly 20 years and broke the and broke the overall speed record by 42 minutes set in 1930 by Honoree William “Bill” Goll. She was the first person to cross Lake Ontario from north to south in 18 hours and 20 minutes and in 1979 swam 145 km from Bimini to Juno Beach Florida in 27 hours and 41 minutes.

Nyad received the Buck Dawson Authors Award - Honorable Mention in 1978 and Al Schoenfield Media Award 2002 from the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)