



Sandra Bucha Kerscher, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2014



Videos: [Interview 1 Panel 1 IMSHOF 2023 at 57:42](#) [IMSHOF 2024 at 16:40](#)

Sandra Bucha Kerscher was the 1st woman in all 7 solo professional marathon races she entered between 1973 and 1975. In 6 of the races, she placed 2nd, beating all but one male swimmer (5 times IMSHOF Honoree John Kinsell and one-time IMSHOF Honoree Johan Schans). These races included: 1973, 1974 and 1975 Chicago Lake Front 16.1 km; 1974 and 1975 Laval 16.1 km; and 1975 Lac St-Jean 32 km. She came 3rd in the 1974 Lac St-Jean 32 km behind IMSHOF Honorees John Kinsella and Veljko Rogošić setting the female speed record which held until 1979.

Together with IMSHOF Honorees John Kinsella and Don Watson (coach), Bucha won the 24 Hours 2-person relay race La Tuque in 1974, setting the speed record and appeared on the cover of Swimming World Magazine in the December 1969 issue. They repeated in 1975 as winners.

She was the subject in a successful lawsuit against the Illinois High School Association, this legal action resulted in the initiation of girls' sports programs and state interscholastic championships for girls in the State of Illinois. It also helped influence United States legislation (Title 9) which led to a massive increase in female sports participation at High School and University levels. She was one of the leaders of social revolution.

She is also an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (2014).

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)

