

Masters Swimmer Sylvia Eisele

by Meegan Wilson

It is with much sadness that I inform you of Sylvia Eisele's passing on October 12, 2022 at the age of 93. According to online sources, she was born in Vienna, Austria on September 28, 1929. She later became a swim champion of the Austrian National Team competing during the 2nd World War. She moved to Canada in 1954 and started swimming and competing there. Canadian Masters Swimming started in Canada in 1971 after Hud Stewart and Al Waites came back from competing at the 2nd annual AAU Masters Short Course Yards (SCY) National Championships in Amarillo, TX. Stewart formed the University of Toronto Swim Club, the first official Canadian Masters team.

The Masters Swimming Ontario archives shows Sylvia swimming at the first Masters meet in Canada on April 15, 1973, hosted by the Etobicoke Olympium Masters Aquatic Club (EOMAC). In 1976 she was on the Canadian Masters Swimming Steering Committee. At the age of 47 she attended the 1977 SCY AAU National Championships at Fort Lauderdale, FL on May 13-15 representing Ontario Masters (OM) as a member of EOMAC. She finished first in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke in the 45-49 age group.

In 1978 Canada held the first Senior Age Division International Aquatic Long Course Meters (LCM) Masters competition with ten countries competing, including the United States, at the Etobicoke Olympium in Ontario. Swimming in the 45-49 age division Eisele finished 1st in the 50 breaststroke, 2nd in the 100 breaststroke, 3rd in the 200 IM, and 4th in the 100 butterfly.

In 2006 at the FINA World Championships in Stanford, CA she competed with The Ontario Masters Swimmers (TOMS) Canadian team, swimming the breaststroke in the Women's 280-319, 200 Meter Medley with Michele Oliver, Judie Oliver and Doris McEwan. They broke the World Record time of 3:09.63 that was set by Arizona in 2005 with a time 3:02.07. At that meet, in the 75-79 age group, she placed first in the 50 Breast and 2nd in the 100 and 200 Breast. She was inducted into the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame on June 1, 2006.

Sylvia also swam and competed as a member of United States Masters Swimming (USMS), starting around 1991. She joined Holmes Lumber Jax (HLJ), 1991-1993; Swim Florida Masters (SWIM) 1993-2004; Florida Aquatic Combined Team (FACT) 2004-2009; SWIM - 2010; and FACT - 2011 – 2015. During that time Eisele garnered 274 Top 10 individual swims and 20 Top 10 relays. She achieved All American status ten years for individual and three years for relays.

Eisele held 13 lifetime individual USMS records from 2000 – 2014 and two currently held lifetime relay records, both accomplished in 2009. The first, swimming the breaststroke in the Women's 75+ 200 SCY Medley with FACT teammates [Betty S Lorenzi](#), [Nancy N Durstein](#), and [Mary C Tusa](#) in a time of 3:15.12 at St Pete Masters 39th Annual SCY Championships on March 27-29. And the second, swimming breaststroke again in the Women's 320-359 200 LCM Medley with FACT teammates Betty Lorenzi, [Nancy Durstein](#), and [Joan K Campbell](#) in a time of 3:47.69, breaking the 1998 record of 4:19.11 set by Walnut Creek Masters. She currently holds the record for the 50 Short Course Meter breaststroke in the 85-89 age group which she set in 2014 with a time of 1:00.96. In 2015 at the age of 85 she contributed to a 1st place USMS Top 10 finish in the 85+ 200 SCY Mixed Freestyle Relay with FACT teammates Betty Lorenzi, [Milan Kutanovski](#) and [John Cornell](#) in a time of 3:24.43 at the Florida International Senior Games & State Championships, December 13-14, 2014.

Joan Campbell recalls about Sylvia and her husband Nick, "[Dick Brewer](#) was an ANGEL!! He was the savior of all their belongings when the roof blew off their condo during a hurricane. She was so appreciative of all he did for them. Her poor health over the years was uncomfortable to live with: heart problems and falls. She had Nick and his great sense of humor."

We will all miss Sylvia Eisele.

