



Francis "Frank" Pritchard, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2008



Videos: [Interview 1](#)

Francis "Frank" Pritchard won 1 Major: 1937 Canadian National Exhibition. His time of 4 hours and 19 minutes for the 16.1 km race set the speed record which stood in 2024 (and beyond). He was active in long distance swimming between 1927 through 1938. During his marathon swimming career, beat IMSHOF Honorees Marvin Nelson, William "Bill" Goll, William "Bill" Sadlo Jr., George Young and Ernst Vierkoetter. Between 1933 and 1937, Frank swam in the most prestigious marathon swimming event of the time, the Canadian National Exhibition swims in Toronto, Canada. In 1933, he finished 3rd. In 1935, he finished 2nd. In 1936, he won – on the shortened course of 8.05 km (hence not considered a marathon major). In 1937, he defended his title at 16.1 km. He won the 1934 Hearst 24 km Lake Michigan race and the 1934 and 1935 Blue Water Carnival 19.3 km races from Sarnia, Ontario, Canada to St. Clair, Michigan.

During his early career, Frank finished 4th in the 1928 Olympic Trials in the 1500-meter freestyle.

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

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