

MATTHES MAKING U.S. DEBUT

East German Star In S.C. Swim

By BOB MERRILL
Mercury-News Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA—After more than a year of international negotiations, two-time Olympic gold medalist Roland Matthes of East Germany will be making his first-ever appearance in the United States.

The multiple world record holder is joining the star-studded lineup for the third annual Santa Clara International Invitational Swim Classic July 11-12-13.

Matthes and East German

teammate Sabine Steinbach, also a medalist at the Mexico City Games, will be flown to the U.S. expressly for the Classic by the meet's co-sponsors, the San Jose Mercury and News and the Santa Clara Swim Club.

Accompanying Matthes and Miss Steinbach will be coach Rudolph Schramme.

Acceptance of special invitations by the East Germans is added insurance that the International Invitational will be the most important event on the world swimming and diving calendar this year.

Site of the three-day Classic is the City of Santa Clara's International Swim Center, scene of 16 world records during the first two years of the world famed meet.

Ticket information and a complete schedule of events is expected to be released later this week.

Santa Clara officials initially attempted to lure Matthes to last year's Classic, but were turned down. Immediately after the 18-year-old super star reaffirmed his claim as the world's

finest backstroker with his double victories at Mexico City, Classic officials renewed their efforts.

As a result of Matthes' appearance, every other backstroker of world class caliber is anticipated for the Classic.

Matthes and Miss Steinbach are not expected to compete in any other meets in this country.

In addition to convincingly sweeping both backstroke events at the Olympics, Matthes also established a world record during the closing day of

competition at the Games while swimming the lead-off 100-meter back segment of the East German medley relay.

Considered unbeatable for several years, Matthes has repeatedly lowered the world records at both 100 and 200 meters, currently holding the standards of 58.0 and 2:07.5, respectively. His 200-meter record was established last year at Leipzig, East Germany.

His tremendous lead-off leg during the Olympic relay helped East Germany to a silver medal, finishing behind the U.S. and making Matthes one of the few triple medal winners of the Games.

In the 200-meter event in the Classic, Matthes will be rematched with the second and third place finishers at the Games. Mitch Ivey of Santa Clara was the silver medal

runner-up, barely edging Jack Horsley of Washington. Horsley is one of the first Americans to accept a Classic invitation.

Miss Steinbach was the only non-American to win a medal in the pair of women's individual medleys at the Olympics. She narrowly edged Sue Pedersen of Arden Hills for third place in the 400-meter event.

Miss Steinbach is the European record holder in the medley and is a strong contender to replace retired Claudia Kolb of Santa Clara as the premier IMer in the world.

For the first time, the International Invitational will be nationally televised. ABC-TV will originate the entire 90 minutes of its "Wide World of Sports" from Santa Clara Saturday, July 12. In addition to "live" coverage of Saturday's events, ABC also will show taped highlights of Friday's opening program.

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