

Mexican open water swimmer among the top 12 in the world



Photos: courtesy of Jaime Lomelín.

Open water swimmer [Jaime Lomelín](#) hopes to be the **second Mexican** to be given the ***Man of the Year*** award by the [World Open Water Swimming Association](#) (WOWSA).

Lomelín was already among the [top 12 open water swimmers](#) in the world in **2020**.

Jaime was **nominated** by **Antonio Argüelles**, the **only Mexican swimmer** to have won the ***Man of the Year*** award, in order to be able get into the final 12.

*“The nomination was given to me for a **career** spanning more than **40 years** and for my **Mexican records**. I’m competing against 11 other swimmers from around the world,”* Lomelín told CONECTA.

The swimmer began his **sporting career** while studying **Chemical Engineering and Administration** at [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#).



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His beginnings as a professional swimmer

Jaime began his career as a swimmer while studying for a **degree** at the **Monterrey campus**.

*“I was on the **Tec swimming team** for the 4 and a half years of my degree. We had a **coach from Acapulco**, and he took us to the **Guadalupano Swimming Marathon**.*

*“We went every year during my time at the university. That’s where I acquired the taste for swimming. I found my **passion** at **Tec de Monterrey**,”* recalled Lomelín.

After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering and Administration in 1985, Lomelín decided to keep **swimming alongside** his **professional** activities.

Jaime says he participated in some of the **most iconic races** and swam against some of the best competitors in the world for **six years**.

*“The ‘creme de la creme’ of open water swimming were there. In my first race at **Capri-Naples** in **1987**, I came in **fifth place** and broke Guillermo Echeverría’s **Mexican record**,”* he shared.

From there, his passion for open water swimming became greater and greater and led him to further national and **international competitions**.

*“I’ll **continue** doing it as long as my head, my heart, and my body will let me,”* said Lomelín.



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The records he's broken

In 1990, Jaime fulfilled one of his **dreams** by crossing the **English Channel**, a 34-kilometer stretch of sea between England and France.

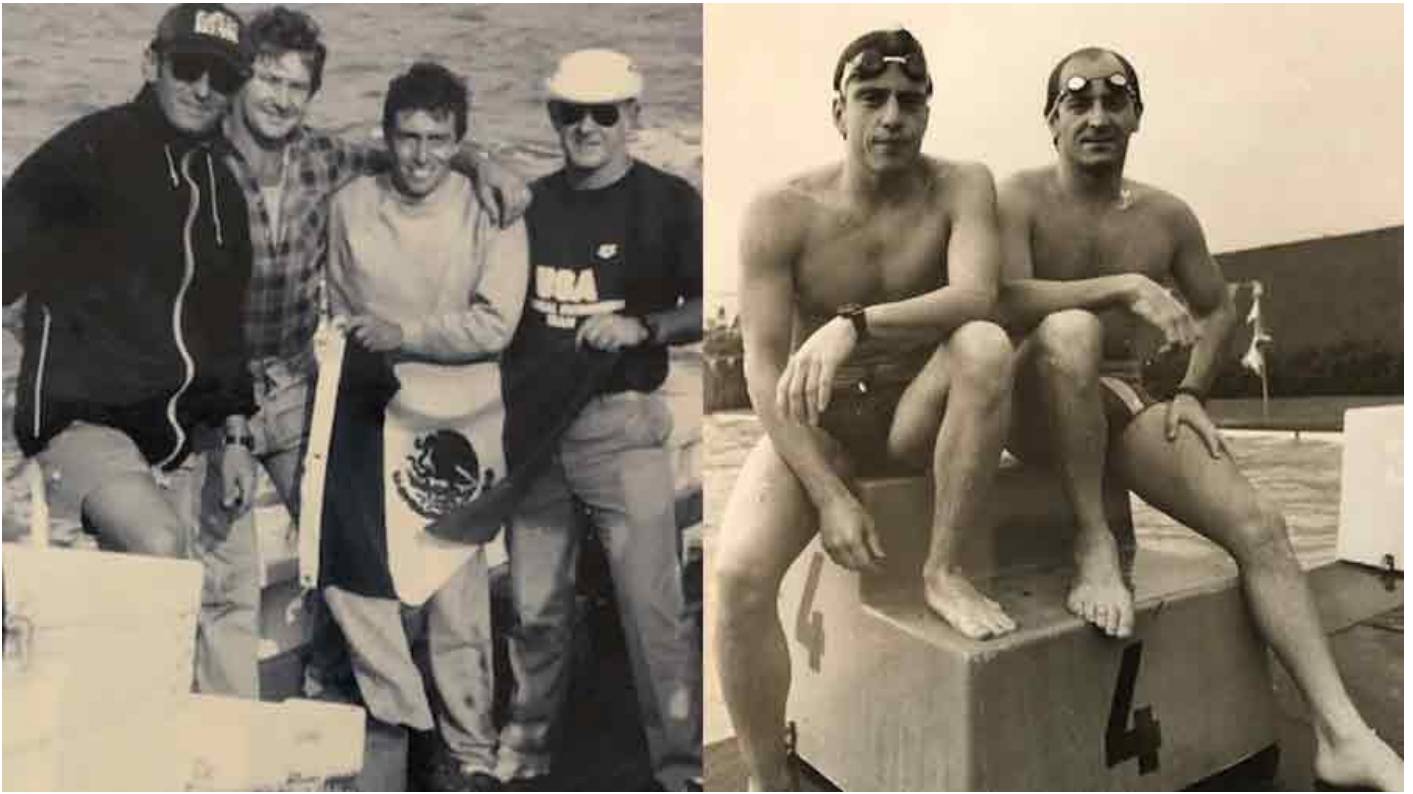
*"It's like **Mount Everest** for **swimmers**. It's the oldest event, it's the most **emblematic** one, and you find yourself in **cold weather**, with **strong currents**, and **jellyfish**,"* he commented.

Lomelín remembers that he had **3 goals** to achieve during that **competition**: reach France, break the **Mexican record**, and to have one of the best times for Latin America.

In the end, he achieved all 3 objectives and was only the **sixth Mexican** to have **crossed** the Channel.

Throughout his career as a sportsman, he has won **first places** in competitions in Mexico at **Los Cabos**, the **Guadalupano Swimming Marathon** in Acapulco, and at the **Sumidero Canyon**, to name but a few.

He's also achieved **the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming** which consists of **3 races**: the **English Channel**; the **Catalina Channel** in California; and the **Manhattan Island Marathon Swim** in **New York**.



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Among the top 12 open water swimmers in the world

Lomelín recently competed in **Los Cabos**, where he was recognized as the **most competitive open water swimmer** of all time at the ***Open Water Swim 2019***.

As a result of that race, in which he won **first place**, as well as his career of more than 40 years, he was nominated for the **Man of the Year award** by Antonio Argüelles, the first Mexican to swim the **English Channel**.

*“The **conditions** were **against** us. For the first 4 or 5 hours, the sea was calm. With 12 or 13 kilometers to go to Cabo San Lucas, there was a strong current and a lot of wind.*

*“That made the race more complex than it should have been. I did it in **10 hours and 35 minutes**, but if that section hadn’t been so rough, I would have done it in **less than 10 hours**,” Jaime recalled.*

The best swimmers of the year are nominated in the competition, organized by the **World Open Sea Swimming Association**, resulting in **12 finalists**.

Lomelín is the **only Mexican** in the 2020 competition and the winner is decided by an **open vote** on the [website throughout January](#).

“The simple fact that they have nominated me is very pleasing and, as I am a good competitor, I will do everything I can to win,” added Lomelín.

He and **Argüelles**, who has already won first place before, are the **only Mexicans** to have taken part in this competition.



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His dreams and goals for the future

*"I remember my days at the **Tec** when I was younger. I wanted to swim on the circuit and to **compete** against the **best**."*

*"That was my **dream**. To test myself and to see how I did. Swimming and competing against them," he recalls.*

At the age of 57, after decades of competitions and many records, Jaime explains that **he does not plan on stopping** until he can't go on physically and mentally.

*"The brain is a powerful thing: it can play for or against you. You have to train it to have **positive thoughts**. It is as important as, or even more important than, physical training," he says.*

Along with his **passion** for open water swimming, Jaime is **Vice -President of Sales and Marketing** at the Osel paint company.

He also has 3 children, who he occasionally competes against in the pool.

"It's more about playing, but my kids are competitive. They always tell me to give them a few meters of advantage so they can have a 'little race'."

*"Today, my **goals** are to do **the best** I can in competitions and swims. I still want to break some Mexican records," concluded Lomelín.*

Here are some of his records:

The Mexican with the best time at:

- **Capri – Naples** 33 km. Italy 1987
- **Manhattan** 46 Km. United States 2015
- *Double relay across the **English Channel**. Great Britain - France 2006*
- **Swim Across the Sound** 25 km. United States 2018
- *Crossing **the Strait of Gibraltar** 2019*

Best positions in competitions:

- **Capri – Naples**. Italy 1987. 4th place
- **Cancun International Swimming Marathon** 1987. 4th place
- **Santa Fe - Coronda**. Argentina 1987. 3rd place
- **Capri – Naples**. Italy 1988. 8th place
- **Bacoli Bay**. Italy 1988. 2nd place
- **Santa Fe – Coronda** 1988. 5th place
- **US National Championship Swimming Marathon**. United States 1990. 2nd place
- **Salvador Bay, Brazil** 1990 3rd place
- **Lake Memphremagog**. Canada 1990. 8th place
- **Sumidero Canyon Chiapas** 1991. 1st place
- **Sumidero Canyon**. Chiapas 1992. 2nd place

<https://www.facebook.com/100002853043675/videos/pcb.3157674254337645/3157659141005823>

You can vote for Jaime Lomelín here:

<https://openwaterswimming.com/contestants/jaime-lomelin/>

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