

Miss Universe Runners-Up Make Biggest Dent in Films

By EMILY BELSER

LONG BEACH, July 13. — (INS)—It's not the winners, but the runners-up in the "Miss Universe" contest that make the biggest dents in the Hollywood scene.

Curvy beauties from thirty-six countries and the forty-eight States begin arriving in Long Beach tomorrow, each hoping to be acclaimed the "most beautiful girl in the world."

But only one doll can win and the odds against her becoming a famous movie star—or famous anything—are more than 10,000,000 to one!

Previous winners Armi Kuusela of Finland (Miss Universe, 1952); Christiane Martel of France (1953) and Miriam Stevenson (1954) are not much more than names in a file, but some of the also rans are doing better.

Myrna Hanson, who won the "Miss United States" title two years ago, already has appeared in a number of films and recently grabbed a leading role opposite movie heartthrob Kirk Douglas.

Ruth Hampton, beautiful "Miss New Jersey" of 1952, has copped leading roles in several major films, and Jackie Loughery, "Miss U. S." of that year, is now a prominent TV actress.

Two previous winners—Miss Kuusela and Miss Stevenson — gave up their movie contracts rather than have a fling before the cameras. Armi married a Manila banker and Miriam re-

turned to college to pick up her master's degree.

Third winner, Christiane Martel, a dark haired femme fatale from France, picked up her Universal - International contract, but later waltzed off to wed a department store heir whom she eventually divorced.

Other contestants have returned home from the annual fray to win further honor and success. Martha Roche, "Miss Brazil" of 1954, is now prominent in politics and a top model in her native country and Jacqueline Beer, "Miss France" of that year, is now under contract to Paramount studio.

Predictions are that this year's judges will have a tougher time than ever picking a winner.

On hand to select the most pulchritudinous of the lot will be Milo Anderson, Hollywood studio hairdresser; Alberto Vargas, calendar girl artist; Earl Wilson, columnist; Tom Kelly, fashion photographer, Singer Ginny Simms and others.

The beauties will have ten days of festivities winding up with the final selections on July 22 to be followed by a coronation ball July 23.