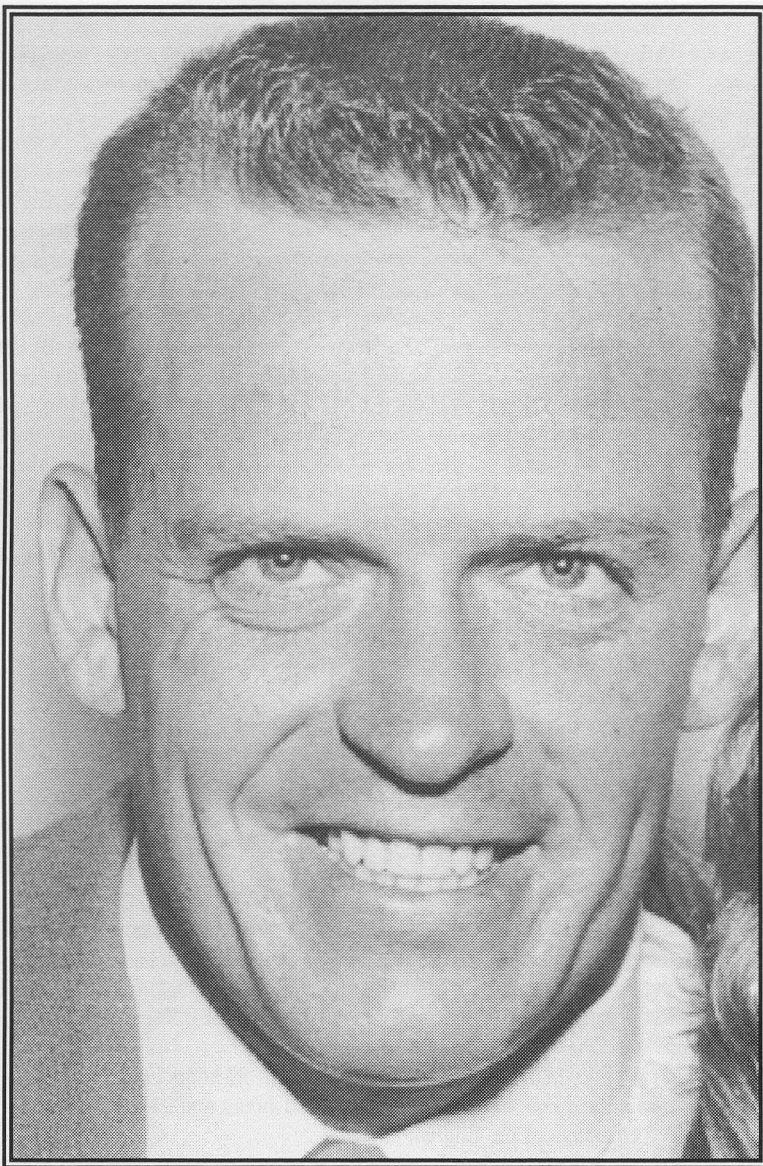


Cliff Lumsdon



Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame

Inducted as Athlete in 1993

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When Cliff Lumsdon's mother took him to Lake Ontario at the bottom of Seventh Street for swimming lessons when he was only six years old, nobody guessed that he would develop into the finest male swimmer Gus Ryder ever coached.

At the age of 12, as a C.A.S.A. registered swimmer, he won the Dominion Championships at Toronto Island for the Junior and Senior 1 mile races on the same day. This accomplishment actually qualified him as a competitor in the 1948 Olympics in London, England, but Cliff turned down the Olympics for the love of distance swimming. However, in later years he would say that his only regret was that he turned pro before the 1948 Olympics.

According to Cliff, his biggest thrill was when at age 16 he won his first professional World Championship Race at the Canadian National Exhibition in front of five thousand cheering spectators. However, he once said that his best and hardest effort "came in 1955 at the CNE when he was the only one out of 30 competitors to complete a 51km stretch in chilly water."

In 1956, Cliff was the first person, and to this date the only one, to cross the Straits of Juan de Fuca from Canada to the U.S.A., which is the most difficult route to swim. It was also his only solo swim during his career. Cliff loved competition and, therefore, found solo swims to be less challenging. Cliff competed all over the world including Lake Ontario, Atlantic City, the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal. Having won eight world swimming championships, he rates with the best swimmers in the world. Cliff received many awards and recognitions during his lifetime, including being inducted into the Order of Canada in 1983. A fitting compliment was paid to Cliff by Tommy Walker, the former distinguished swimmer and famous coach, when he called him "The King of Professional Swimmers." Cliff Lumsdon passed away on August 31, 1991 at the age of 60.

SUMMARY

- 1945 Winner of the Canadian Junior 1 mile Championships at the C.N.E.
Winner of the Canadian Senior 1 mile Championships at the C.N.E.
- 1949 First World Championship victory at the Canadian National Exhibition
- 1950 Second World Championship victory at the Canadian National Exhibition
- 1951 Third World Championship victory at the Canadian National Exhibition
- 1953 Fourth World Championship victory at the Canadian National Exhibition
- 1955 51 km (32 miles) swim at the C.N.E. Water temperature 48F. Only swimmer from 65 starters to complete the course.
- 1956 Winner of the 42 km (26 miles) World Championship race at Atlantic City,
First swimmer to cross the Straits of Juan de Fuca, B.C. Only person ever to swim the straits from Canada to the US.
- 1949 Voted Canada's Outstanding Athlete and awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy.
- 1956 Inducted into the US Swimming Hall of Fame.
- 1957 City of Toronto Award of Merit.
- 1976 Named to the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.
- 1982 Named a Companion of the Order of Canada.
- 1989 Inducted into the Order of Ontario.
- 1976 Coached daughter Kim across Lake Ontario.