

Young swimmer hampered, but continues

TORONTO (CP) — A Sunday morning encounter with some diesel fuel didn't slow down Angela Kondrak of Toronto as she passed the halfway mark this morning in her bid to become the youngest swimmer ever to cross Lake Ontario.

Miss Kondrak was ill briefly early this morning but appeared to have recovered by 6 a.m. She increased the frequency and strength of her strokes when she was sick and was keeping it up after her recovery.

She had swallowed the diesel fuel during a two-mile practice run Sunday morning between Youngstown, N.Y., and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

The 14-year-old dove into the chilly lake at Youngstown at 8:45 Sunday night, 15 minutes ahead of schedule.

The weather was ideal as Miss Kondrak began her swim. Winds were southeast at 10 miles per hour, visibility was nearly 10 miles and lake temperatures were in the high 60s.

At the midway point in her swim, she was encountering three-foot swells.

MISSED START

A United States Coast Guard spokesman said the base staff was upstream checking weather conditions when the swim started. Swimmers are prohibited from using the Youngstown dock.

"All the way Angie," shouted a small group of Toronto supporters as her coach Art Dufresne rubbed a heavy coat of dark grease on her five-foot, two-inch frame before she dove into the water.

The start of her swim was postponed twice before she finally dove into the water just two days after Cindy Nicholas, 16, of

Toronto completed a lake crossing Friday night in a record time of just over 15 hours.

Dufresne said she took the delay in stride. He predicted it would take her 18 to 20 hours to complete the swim, bringing her to the Toronto waterfront sometime late this afternoon.

Dufresne said she was too wound up to start Friday night and the 72-degree water temperature would have been an additional handicap.

"She's more comfortable in water around 65 to 68 degrees," he said.

STOPPED BY WINDS

High winds early Sunday forced a second postponement of the swim.

"Angela was all psyched up for it late Saturday night," Dufresne said. "But we simply couldn't go."

"I don't think Angela will be able to beat Cindy Nicholas, but I'm sure she'll make it," he said.

"Certainly we were upset about Cindy starting when she did. It took the limelight away from Angela. But we're all happy Cindy made it and told her so."

Among the pacers in Dufresne's boat were John Jeremy of Toronto, who crossed the lake in 1956 and Cliff Lumsden, another former long-distance swimmer.

Marilyn Bell, then 16, took 20 hours and 59 minutes when she became the first swimmer to cross the lake in 1954. She is still the youngest to make the swim.

Other successful crossings were by Brenda Fisher of England in 1956 and Bill Sadiow and Jim Woods of the United States in 1957.