

Field of 40 out for Masters

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The Lake Norrell Masters One Mile Swim brought out a field of nearly 40 swimmers age 20 and up.

For some, like overall winner Gokhan Attaroglu, 24, the race was against the pack. For others, like polio victim Larry Williams, 44, of Little Rock, the race was against himself.

Attaroglu is a native of Turkey who has been swimming for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for the past few years. He did the mile in 21:23 seconds, well ahead of the other swimmers.

He was on the Turkish Olympic Swim Team in 1984 and still holds national records in his homeland for the 200-, 400- and 1500-meter freestyle. He's set seven records at UALR.

"It was fun to do this swim today," he said.

Attaroglu did not go flat out the whole way. On the return leg, he interspersed his freestyle with the backstroke.

Meantime, Williams was slowly working his way around the course. He started ahead of the other swimmers by more than a half hour and finished

behind the Turk in 1:31.

"I really swim against myself to keep in shape," Williams said. "The first year they did the lake swim, I was the only one in the 35 to 39 age division. Since I was the first one I set the record. Of course, it was broken the next year.

"They gave me a patch for setting the record. Now they'd have to kill me to get that patch back."

Out of the water Williams wears a brace on one leg. As if that weren't enough, he was badly injured in an automobile accident three years ago.

"It took him a year to get back from that accident," Masters' swimming organizer Ron Bank said. "But he didn't really feel he was back until he did another mile swim.

"That's one of the reasons we have Masters swimming. It's for guys like Attaroglu who won, but it's also for Larry."

Lori Ann Huff, 24, of Little Rock was the second swimmer to hit the beach and the first woman. Her time was 26:13.

"I'm proud of myself," Huff said. "I beat my old times and I beat Marion (Stabb). We were within eyesight of each other the whole trip. First one would

be out front and then the other.

"It's always nice to beat some of the guys, too."

Huff is a member of the Little Rock Dolphins national swim team. Stabb is the wife of Dolphins assistant coach, Bob Stabb.

Some of the swimmers weren't content with merely swimming a mile. Jere English, who's headed to the Canadian Ironman in two weeks, biked to the Saline County lake from his west Little Rock home.

"I covered about 32 miles," he said. "This is supposed to be my long biking day, so I'll probably go out and ride another 70 or so."

Dr. Bob McGowan ran eight and a half miles before getting in the water and Bob Plunkett put in seven miles pounding the pavement before the swim.

Two of the swimmers are on the Arkansas Pike's Peak Marathon Team. Jan Wylie and George Thatcher will both tackle the 14,000-foot-plus mountain next weekend.

Even the organizers got in on the swim. There was a workers heat before the race itself got underway.

Results Masters swim

Here are the results of the Masters One Mile Swim at Lake Norrell Saturday:

Overall male and 20-24 age division winner:
Gokhan Attaroglu, 21:23.

Overall female and 20-24 age division winner:
Lori Huff 26:13.

Men's age groups

25-29
Scott Robertson 33:08

30-34
Mark Harnett 26:42

John Courtway 27:43

Jere English 28:12

40-44
Doug Rawn 30:10

Paul Zelnick 31:47

Ron Bank 34:20

45-50
Bill Melchoir 38:37

50-54
Don Holean 33:37

Dick Stricklin 34:55

John Barton 35:26

55-59
George Thatcher 38:28

Women's age groups

25-29
Marion Staab 26:46

Carla George 36:02

30-34
Peggy Courtway 32:43

Helen Patrikas 38:20

40-44
Ruby Bland 42:43

50-54
Jan Wylie 36:58

