

Problems for women entering Texas 150

By CARL KEY
Battalion Staff Writer

Two women are having trouble entering the Texas Twin 150 at the Texas World Speedway on August 1. The women are Janet Guthrie, who was prohibited from entering the Texas 500 on June 6, and Arlene Hiss who is having problems with finding a sponsor.

R. C. Conole, president of the Texas World Speedway, has asked that Guthrie's car be ruled "unsafe and unfit" by the United States Auto Club.

Guthrie's car, owned by Rolla Vollstedt, failed to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 and probably

wouldn't have made the Pocono 500 excepting that a rainout during qualifications resulted in a drawing for starting position. The luck of the draw got the car the 22nd starting place but it subsequently broke down after only 89 laps.

"That car is a junk box. I think Vollstedt has embarrassed Janet, their sponsor and two speedways and proven the car to be unsafe to run here since the speeds here are about 25 per cent faster than at Pocono," said Conole.

"I rooted just as hard as anyone for Janet to make the Indianapolis 500 race."

"The last time the Indy cars ran at

Texas Speedway, they ran at speeds over 200 miles per hour. Her car is not capable of running here safely," said Conole.

Finding a sponsor is the problem of Hiss, the first woman to qualify and compete in an Indy car race.

A schoolteacher from Dana Point, California, Hiss has proved that she has the stamina and competitive driving ability to go 500 miles by placing ninth in the Texas 500 this past June.

Hiss is ready for the race and says she is looking hard for a sponsor for the Indy car. She has talked to a few people who seemed interested, but

none would make a firm commitment.

The Texas Twin 150 mile Indy and stock car events on August 1 will mark the first time the Indy cars have been at the College Station facility since October, 1973 when Mario Andretti set a World's Speed Record qualifying for the race at more than 214 miles per hour.

Gary Bettenhausen won the race

at an average speed of better than 181 miles per hour.

This race is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest race ever run.

Conole said that he expects Hiss and Martha Wideman, another woman speedster, to be running in the Texas Twin 150 as both competed in the Texas 500 and did very well.

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