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\$1 million kick

By DAN RALPH

TORONTO (CP) - Brian Diesbourg made the kick that mattered Thursday night.

After missing kicks from 20, 30 and 40 yards, the 25-year-old mechanical engineer from Belle River, Ont., connected from 50 yards out during halftime of the Toronto-Hamilton CFL game to win \$1 million.

Earlier this month, Diesbourg was selected from nearly 200,000 online entries in a contest sponsored by Wendy's to attempt four kicks for a variety of prizes, including \$1 million with a successful 50-yard try.

Diesbourg attempts from 20, 30, 40 all missed wide right. After being forced to wait for about five minutes because of a commercial break, which carried Diesbourg's attempts, he lined up the 50-yard try before a large Rogers Centre gathering on its feet.

Diesbourg hit the ball true and it had just enough leg to get over the crossbar for the big money. He was then mobbed by members of the Argos as they returned to the field.

The 20-yard try was for \$1,000 cash, with the 30-yard attempt for a digital imaging package. A successful boot from 40-yards out would've netted Diesbourg a home theatre package.

Diesbourg was allowed a 30-minute practice session on Wednesday with Argos kicker Noel Prefontaine, which proved beneficial because he had never kicked a football before. Prefontaine skipped out of the locker-room early to watch Diesbourg attempt his kicks.

"For him to miss the first three and to come back and hit the last one is unbelievable." Prefontaine said. "I think he's going to get a trial (with a CFL team)."

Diesbourg showed a strong leg Wednesday, not surprising given he has a strong soccer background. He made five-of-eight tries from 40 yards out in practice and while he was 0-5 from 50 yards out, he missed with plenty of distance.