



## Tom Kropfeld's roostertail traces sharp Southland turn.

St. Petersburg Times — JACKIE GREENE

The three flips, all caused by wind as the boats came out of the second turn, left only one driver — Frank Davis — injured. Davis was transported by ambulance to a local hospital but did not appear to be seriously hurt after wind raised his boat out of the water in the first final heat of the 145 division.

This was the second try at running the 145 final. On the first attempt, Willard Wilson of Wilmington, Del., did a similar flip and was thrown from his boat. Wilson received a slightly cut

hand and later complained of a sore neck and was attended to by paramedics and ambulance attendants in the pit area.

The final crash, in the finals of the 850 division, involved boats driven by Tom Kropfeld of Cincinnati and Jim Aid of St. Petersburg. Both Kropfeld, who was involved in a similar flip here last year, and Aid were uninjured.

**THE LATTER WRECK,** though, did turn the 850 finals into a lark for St. Petersburg's Ed Perry, who

won the national points championship last year while driving Jim Appley's *Super J Too*. Perry got off to a poor start in the first heat and finished second, well behind Kropfeld.

Perry was leading the aborted second heat when the wreck occurred, and when Kropfeld was ousted the victory was his almost by default.

"In the first heat," he said, "I was looking to my right to make sure I didn't bump the guy there and I hit the starting line about three seconds late. In the second heat, I got off good."

The quick start enabled him to be ahead of the danger and, on the restart, "I really didn't have to pay much attention because there wasn't much competition left." At the finish, Perry was nearly the full front straightaway ahead of second place Beau Adams of Winter Haven.

Tom D'eath, formerly of St. Petersburg and now a resident of Fairhaven, Mich., finally took the troubled 145, finishing first in the first heat and second to Douglas Brogden of Newport News, Va., in the second, Ray Mil-

ler of Crooked Lake was second overall with second and third place finishes.

In the only other two finals run, Jack Van Deman of Cheraw, S.C., took the 2.5 litre division and Dave Greenlaw of Philadelphia won the Jersey Speed Skiff.

Van Deman was edged by Earle Hall of Portsmouth, Va., running his first professional competition, in the first heat, but stayed slightly ahead of Hall all the way in the second to take the overall title.