

# MacPhail's Advance United best in S

- Results, 2-C
- 225 division a washout, 10-C

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Until Sunday, Kent MacPhail had driven the new *Advance United* two times. The second time was Friday in practice when the engine blew up. The boat's crew spent the next two days trying to rebuild it.

So when the 31-year-old MacPhail cranked up the boat Sunday for the first heat for the 7 litre, division 1 hydroplanes in the 40th annual Southland Sweepstakes Regatta, he wasn't sure what was in store for him.

But he found out quickly.

MacPhail went out in the first heat and ran away from world record holder Larry Lauterbach in *Edelweiss* and 1977 national champion Terry Turner in *Don Ryan's Lauterbach Special*. MacPhail did it again in the second heat, only more impressively, clocking 102.215 miles per hour (just under the world record) to win the 7 litre, division 1 class and cop top honors in the two days of racing.

"I've been waiting for a ride like this for 10 years," McPhail exulted in the pits after the race.

"After we blew the motor on Friday I was just nursing it along. We had no idea what to expect with this boat but now I'm excited about it. We had no idea how we would fare in the class because there's some great competi-

tion in this class."

*Advance United* looked like a sure bet to win the Southland Sweepstakes Invitational later in the day and was battling Turner for the lead on the second lap when the engine blew again. Turner went on to win easily but MacPhail already had established *Advance United* as the best boat in its class.

Southland officials managed to get most of the races completed despite the weather, which included cold northwest winds with gusts up to 15 miles per hour and a fog that began creeping over the lake late in the afternoon as it had Saturday.

Only the 145 cubic inch, 280 cubic inch and Super Stock classes were limited to one heat. All other classes got in two heats and all four

invitationals were run.

The Little Southland, the final race of the day, was captured by Jim Sellers of St. Petersburg in *Highupkeep*. Sellers set a world record in his 850 cubic centimeter boat Saturday afternoon, one of two set during the two cold days of racing. Doug Shaw of Paterson, N.J. also set a world record Saturday in the 72 c.i. class.

What was expected to be the most competitive class in the Southland, the 225 cubic inch, proved to be a disappointment. National champion and high points winner *Country Boy* was easily the class of the field under the hand of Jim Kropfeld of Cincinnati. Kropfeld left all the other boats far behind in the first heat.

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But *Country Boy* wound up third overall because in the second heat Kropfeld was across the starting line by about three boat lengths before the starting gun fired, disqualifying the boat. Had he not jumped the gun, Kropfeld would have broken the world record by more than three miles per hour.

Only two flips occurred Sunday but there were no injuries involved in either. *Gusto*, driven by Jim Batchelor in the 145 c.i. class, flipped in turn one and sank in one of the heat races. Batchelor was not injured. And in the 225 c.i. class, Bob Dobrowski of Detroit became airborne in *Specialist* going through turn one but he suffered only a bruised leg.