



The field blasts off in the LeMans start of the \$30,000 Mike Gordon at Miami Marine Stadium.

DUCT-TAPED DUFF DOES IT AGAIN IN MIAMI

....OVERCOMES CRAZY HORSE AND GROUND GEARS

By John Crouse

By 1979 I was kinda liking the kid.

"Why shouldn't I?" I said to myself as I jogged into Miami's Marine Stadium. I'd foolishly used my advance from PB to buy some mimeo paper so I couldn't afford the bus.

I had big plans. This Daily guy'd won the U.S. Grand National opener race so many times... eight to be almost exact... in the same boat with the same *Oh Mona* handle that I'd figured a scheme to cover the event each year by filling out blanks on mimeographed forms!

The only reason I was coming over at all was to take some neat pics with the pin-hole camera rented to me by PB editor Mark Spencer.

Well, fans, Duff Daily took a 100 mph dive in that one and ocean racer on a busman's holiday, Jack Stuteville, won in a boat called *Fish Peddler*, owned by none other than sponsor Mike Gordon.

Had I not been so distressed by the fact that I was out the cost of a ream of mimeo paper and a future plot for a white Sea Roots TV series, I'd have noticed that there was something fishy about a boat named *Fish Peddler* winning.

Nonetheless, armed with a 1-2/3rd speed bike and a new reflex pin hole camera also leased from PB, I returned in '80 only to see a mammoth Californian named Jerry Gilbreath drive his 20' Rayson Craft *Crazy Horse* to victory. The local hero, Daily, who'd miraculously escaped relatively unscathed from his

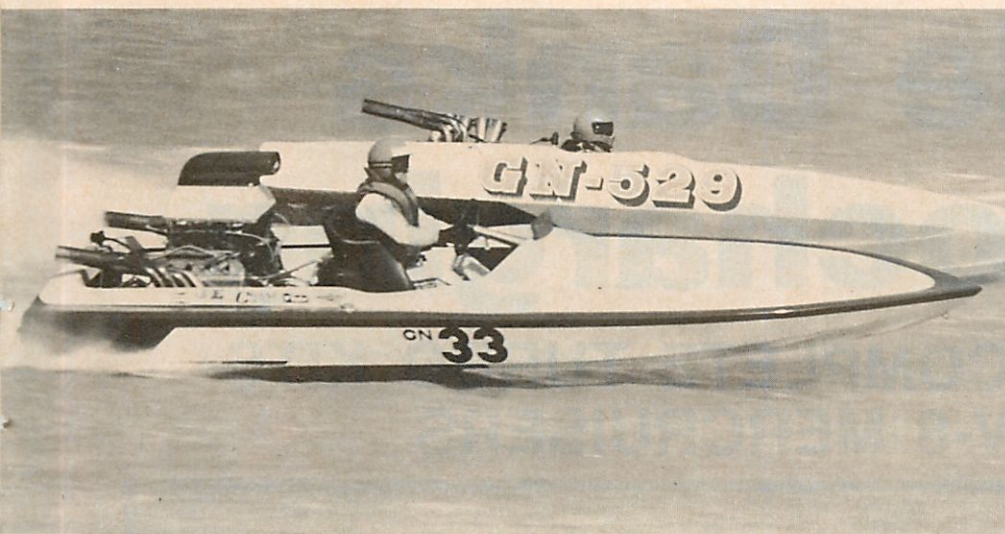
crash of the year before, conked out while running in second place with three minutes left!

Now it was January 18 and time for the 1981 Mike Gordon "100" for three-year-old Bacardi (rum) Crystal Trophy. Again I was on hand, this time with real film and a used ball point.

From the updated stats, the boat to beat was Gilbreath in Brad Miller's record holding 20' Rayson Craft, *Crazy Horse*. It came to Miami with the world GN straightaway mark of 102.45 mph and a batch of other impressive credentials... like winning the '78 and '79 U.S. high point GN crowns and the '79 and '80 APBA national sprint titles!

Never lacking confidence and occasionally thinking modesty is the name

action on the water



Duff Dally, a 27-year-old fireman, captured first place in his backup boat (GN 33) driving past Mario Squillace to victory.

of an actress on "Dallas," Daily says a run of bad luck kept him from beating out Gilbreath for those honors. One of them was Gilbreath blocking out the sun, forcing Daily to run in the dark. At 240 pounds, tidal waves were always a possibility, too!

Of the 27 entries in this year's Mike Gordon "100," the Deadly Daily Duo of Duff and pop, Del, would have two boats of their own and engines in three others.

Oddly, Duff chose to drive the older, slower hull explaining that he felt more comfortable in it. In a second boat, *Oh Mona Too* . . . a 20' Rayson Craft that the Dailys had purchased in wrecked condition last year, doing enough to it to give it a 105 mph top end . . . four mph quicker than *Oh Mona* . . . was Bob Shively of Miami, Florida.

Daily did have something extra going for him. Should *Oh Mona* falter or fail for any reason, Shively would come out of *Oh Mona Too* and Duff would go in.

Aside from pre-race press about Stuteville's ocean racing cockpit mate, Joey Ippolito, trying his hand at close

course racing, the talk was about the favorites . . . Daily and Gilbreath.

Although he had the credentials and would compete in co-sponsor Gordon's *Fish Peddler*, Stuteville would not be a contender this time since his mount was running in the lower powered GN class II division, whose top end is approximately 10 mph slower than the top-ranked Division I GN hulls.

Despite all the titles in 78-80 and the *Crazy Horse* victory here last year, Daily vowed that he actually had the two fastest boats in the race.

As it turned out, at least one of them was . . . and he needed both to win.

In the first heat *Crazy Horse* got up front early and won easily as Daily's *Oh Mona* packed up a vee drive half-way into the heat while running second and picking up time on the leader. Shively brought *Oh Mona Too* home second behind a greatly relieved Gilbreath, who admitted later his boat was beginning to vibrate badly from a cracked prop.

That Division I heat was bad news for a



Defending champ Gilbreath and *Crazy Horse* 55 seconds late at finish for third.

lot of people . . . former straightaway holder Bob Donahue of North Miami, Fla., lost a prop on his *Black Silk*, causing the drive shaft to rev up and crack its gearbox, finishing Donahue's race day.

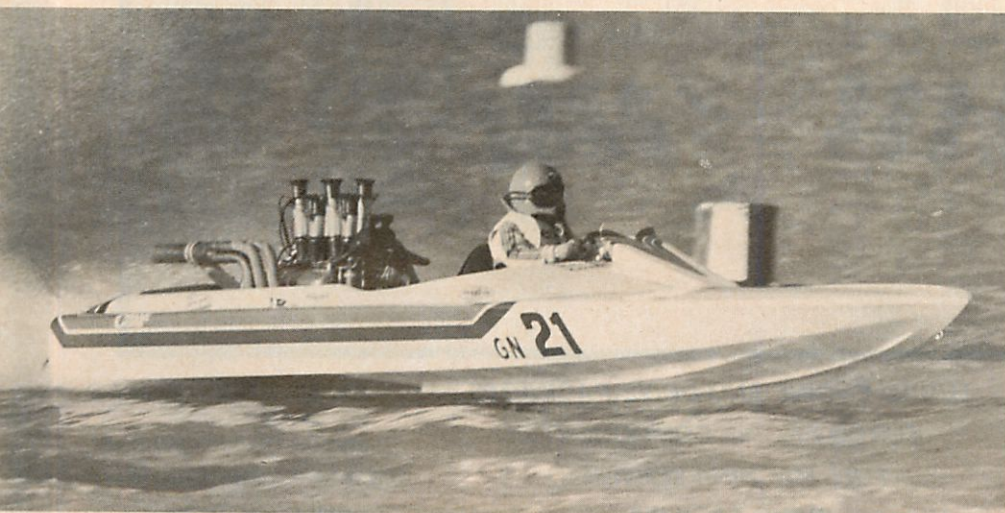
Terry Stanford's *My Jeannie* popped an oil line, giving the Prattfield, Ala., driver a hot oil bath. He fixed it in time to come back for the finale.

When they hauled *Oh Mona Too* out of the water, Del Daily realized that his son Duff, who was still being towed in on the disabled *Oh Mona*, was close as this to losing his third straight Mike Gordon "100." *Oh Mona Too*, which had crashed the day before the 1980 race with its previous owner driving, purchased and rebuilt by the Dailys, had several cracks in it . . . one a fearsome looking three-footer at the bow between the deck and hull!

When *Oh Mona* was placed alongside its sister boat, its crew prodded its bowels

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Driving co-sponsor Mike Gordon's *Fish Peddler*, Stuteville won Division II.

MIKE GORDON

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to diagnose the ailment... a chewed up vee drive... their first thoughts were to switch gear boxes with the split boat. But the mounting holes were not the same.

Duff would do battle at speeds to 100 mph in *Oh Mona Too* with its beak held together with silver air duct tape!

As is his wont, Daily the Younger felt confident that his boat would hold together. Others weren't so sure... at 100 mph any really violent torque could easily split the fabric duct tape... sending the flimsy deck into his face at speed.

Meanwhile, Stuteville was doing his thing in the Division II heat bringing Gordon's *Fish Peddler* home first.

Now the stage was set for the Big Casino.

If Duff had any doubts about his well being, it never showed... taking off into Biscayne Bay like he was underage and overinsured.

He had *Oh Mona Too* up front by the second lap and was in his groove with its 700 hp Chrysler hemi humming beautifully. A development which almost always spells defeat for everybody else.

As confident as Daily was, Gilbreath and his like-muscled 700 hp Chevy hemi powered *Crazy Horse* was rearing to hand the cocky 27-year-old Miami fire-

man his second thrashing on his home court in as many years.

Sitting behind Fort Hill, S.C.'s Mario Squillace in the *Nutmegger* with all kinds of power to burn, the economy sized Californian was mulling over when he'd make his move for the lead during the first two laps when he felt a clunk.

Crazy Horse had hit something, sending its tach needle up 1000 rpms and it speed down 10 mph. And that was all she wrote for the defending champion.

Gilbreath, whose whole family takes part in competing the boat... the owner Brad Miller, who at 41 is ten years older and is Jerry's son-in-law (Gilbreath married Brad's wife's mother), and father Jake whose California plant makes race boat headers... took the bad luck philosophically.

After the race, he promised to be back next year with one of the new Howard Arneson drives which the famed swimming pool sweeper manufacturer developed for his offshore racing boats. Gilbreath says his team has already reached 118 mph in a GN, using an Arneson drive unit on a Division II engine!

Daily eased *Oh Mona Too* past the finish line for his ninth win here in the U.S. GN season opener, covering 37 laps (61.2 miles) at an average speed of 81.6 mph... 13 seconds quicker than Squil-

lace could do in the Chevy powered *The Nutmegger*. *Crazy Horse* galloped in 55 seconds back of the winner.

A surprise fourth and winner of the Division II was Stuteville in sponsor Gordon's *Fish Peddler*.

Seal Beach, Ca.'s Wayne Brooks was fifth in *Outlaw*, followed by Margate, Fla.'s Steve Goodman in *Destiny*, and Stuteville's father-in-law, veteran Dan Deatherage of Hialeah Gardens, Fla., in *Ditch Digger*.

As I peddled my way home, my hopes ran high again. There was good reason. Not only had Duff won \$4600 but he was planning on getting married between now and next year's Mike Gordon "100." Once more I could think about my invention: If he didn't change the name of his boat next year and would be kind enough to win, I had the '82 race wired. Meanwhile the thought of possibly some little Duffers coming up added to my ideas of a white Sea Roots TV series.

Recalling that both his mom, Mona, Pop Del, and his sister Randy all raced at one time... sometimes against each other... I could envision Sea Roots I, Sea Roots II, Sea Roots III, etc., etc.

And what about a boat called *Oh My!*... what the GN folk will be saying if they hatch one more hemi-headed Daily around here.



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