

Sunday, July 10, 1966

# Power Boats Outrun Rain

## Chenoweth 2-Race Winner; Finals in 9 Classes Today

By TOM CARROLL, Daily News Sports Writer

NATURE loosed a storm of lightning and thunder over Eastwood lake at approximately 5:20 last evening but the American Power Boat association's Eastern divisional championships had run their first-day's course with Dean Chenoweth of Xenia as top dog.

The roof of the judge's stand was ripped off, public address system poles were upended and several drivers were caught on the lake with their boats wide open in practice runs, when the storm hit, but otherwise the Dayton Motor Boat Racing association's second annual regatta got off to a dandy start. A total of 140 boats had been registered.

Racing resumes at noon today in all nine classifications.

Yesterday's program took care of eliminations in the 145 and 280 classes but saw heat winners in the 225, 266, 7-litre and 48 engines.

for two laps before her engine soured and pushed her back to fifth place. She insists she'll be back today, however.

Twelve boats will compete in each class over the one and 1/2-mile course in today's finale.

Proceeds from the two-day event, for which there is a one dollar admission charge—children under 12 are admitted free—will be turned over to the Barney's Medical center. The course is situated at the corner of Harshman Rd. and Routes 4 and 69.



**A LOT OF POWER ON DISPLAY IN EASTERN DIVISIONAL  
Skeeter Johnson Well Ahead of the Pack in 266 First Heat—Staff I**

It looked like another dark day for accident-plagued powerboat racing before several thousand fans here when Torby Baker of Niagara Falls flipped in his 145 cubic inch boat on the first turn of yesterday's opening race. But the New Yorker scrambled out all right, although he was through racing for the day.

Chenoweth, a last-minute substitute driver for Mike Thomas of Harvey Cedars, N.J., who was unable to make connections to Dayton because of the airline strike, won in two Dayton-owned craft yesterday.

He first piloted Charles Fyffe's Chuck's Joy to the front in the 145 hydroplane eliminations, then returned to win the first heat in George Walther's 7-litre Chrysler Queen.

Skeeter Johnson of Cambridge, Md., national 266 boat champion, running for the first time here, was some three miles per hour off his best time in winning his first heat yesterday but was enthusiastic about the racing course over the lake at Eastwood park.

"I WOULD SAY that the only other place where you'll see faster boats than there would be at St. Pete," said the 40-year-old Johnson, who admits to racing speedboats for 19 years. Johnson won his national title at St. Petersburg, Fla., a year ago and will be back there to defend his title two weeks hence.

"This is a beautiful lake, with fast water," Johnson continued. "We'll do 84 to 85 miles an hour out there and I'd guess we were doing 130 down the chute."

The largest number of boats ever—nine—started the 7-litre race but the field for the 20-foot, Chrysler or Ford-powered craft soon dwindled.

Col. Jack Brown of Dayton, whose Moonshine Baby took a pair of firsts in its maiden trip on the water at Ypsilanti, Mich., a week ago, never got to the first turn yesterday, because of engine trouble.

Bill Sterrett of Owensboro, Ky., the national 7-litre champion, had an aptly named Miss Crazy Thing after leading the first heat. The engine soured and Sterrett had to call it quits, as did Daytonian Dave Thomas, driving Walther's other 7-litre.

Thomas, the 28-year-old who's been speedboating since 1959, switched to the 7-litre when his own Mai Tai 225 spewed oil all over his feet coming out of the last turn of the final lap in a race for those 16-foot craft. He had been leading national champion Ed Morgan up to that point but the Trenton, Mich., skipper went on to take the first heat.

Also coming a cropper yesterday was the lone woman in the



**BOATS TAKE TO THE AIR AS WELL AS WATER IN PIT AREA**  
Craft Lowered Over Bank at Eastwood Park As Crew, Drivers Confer

### Yesterday's Power Boat Results

**FIRST HEAT RESULTS** — (Boat Fyffe 2. — S-21, Warrior; Danny number, name of boat, driver, home town; 225 Cubic Inch — N-71, Chip Winder; Ed Morgan, Trenton, Mich.; own boat with Dick Gordon; 76.595 mph; N-10, Empty Pockets; Don Waldorf, Jr., Hayes, Va.; own boat; N-160 — Mai-Tai; Dave Thomas, Dayton; owner, Mary Beanstein, Oak Park, Ill. 266 Cubic Inch — F-247, Wa Wa Too; Skeeter Johnson, Cambridge, Md.; owner, William Wittner, Gladwyne, Pa.; 80.071 mph; F-53, Miss Ottawa; Frank Kosso, Ottawa, Ill.; owner, Peter Woock, Ottawa, Ill.; F-888, Jade Dragon; Gene Bramlett, Miami, Fla.; own boat.

**7-Litre** — H-12, Chrysler Queen, Dean Chenoweth, Xenia; owner, George Walther, Dayton; 73.530 mph; H-42, Louisville Kid; Bill Cousins, Louisville, Ky.; owner, Marlow Cooper, Louisville, Ky.; H-26, Hyriser; James McLeod, Wyandotte, Mich.; own boat.

**48 Cubic Inch** — Y-111, Neat Pete; Dick Boyer Sr., Germantown; own boat; 53.444 mph; Y-73, Honk; Hoddy Quirk, Ypsilanti; own boat; Y-77, Wait 4 Me; Henry Ball, Union Lake, Mich.; own boat.

**280 Cubic Inch** — 1.— E-48, Rowdy; Don Waldorf, Hayes, Va.; own boat; E-143, Charge It-Too; Richard Newell, Hamilton Square, N. J.; own boat. 2.— E-84, Crazy Thing; Terry Sterrett, Owensboro, Ky.; own boat; E-888, Miss New Jersey; Perry Walter, Rumson, N. J.; own boat. 3.— E-120, Too Much; Douglas DeVries, Kalamazoo, Mich.; own boat.

Walls, Belleville, Ky.; owner, James Davis, Dayton; S-92 Little Joe; Ronnie Brunner, Dayton; owner, C. A. Kreitzer, Dayton. 3. — S-99, Neat Pete; Dick Boyer, Germantown, own boat; S-45, Wild One; Jim Roberts, Dayton, own boat. 4.— S-07, Blue Chips; Jack Sweeney, Rumsor, N. J.; own boat; S-125, O'Hara's Malarkey; John O'Hara, Bellbrook; own boat. 5.— S-43, L'il Miss Lou; Charles Long, Danville, Ky.; own boat; S-221, Coyote; Jim Davis Jr.; own boat. 6. — S-151, Riff Raff; Jack Brown, Dayton; owner, Wilbert Reeves, Bellevue, Ky.; S-116, Gambling Lady; Chuck Kaiser, Dearborn, Mich.; own boat.