



Staff Photo by Ed Johnse

On His Way To World Record In Powerboat Race

... Dayton's Jon Culver skims over water at Eastwood lake

Culver Sets World Powerboat Mark

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Area Drivers Win 5 Categories

By Dick Belsky

Journal Herald Sports Writer

Area drivers stole the show at Eastwood Lake park yesterday, winning five of the nine categories in the Eastern Divisional powerboat races.

Dayton's Jon Culver, Dave Thomas and Jack Brown, Xenia's Dean Chenoweth and Richard Cunningham of Celina, O., all captured first-place awards before an estimated crowd of 15,000 which had to brave a 45-minute delay at one point because of heavy rain.

Culver won his race in the JJ category in world record time as he roared around the five-mile track at 57.915 mph., to break the existing mark of 55.9 mph. held by Don Done of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

For his feat Culver received a special "Governor's Trophy" from Gov. James Rhodes who was a special guest at the races.

Although no other world records were broken, one probably would have been except for a fluke disqualification.

Thomas, driving Mal-Tai, had completed 2 3/4 laps at better than record time in the 225 cubic inch class. He was only 500 feet short of the finish line when the boat behind him flipped over. The driver, Don

was owned by Cincinnati's Bill Blazer, who died recently.

"His two sons are on my pit crew," Brown explained, "and we thought we'd win this race as sort of memorial."

Cunningham's victory, in "Shamrock," came in the 280 cubic inch category.

All nine winners are eligible for the national championships to be held in Seattle in three weeks.

Two of last year's national

champions, Bill Sterrett in the seven liter and Ed Morgan in the 225, both ran into trouble with their boats and failed to defend their titles.

Engine Trouble Develops

Ann Duchehe of Ft. Thomas, Ky., the only woman in the races, was unable to compete in yesterday's heats.

Mrs. Duchehe led the 48 cubic inch class for two laps before falling back to fifth because of engine trouble.

Second In Re-run

The fluke of it all was that anywhere else in the country the race would not have been stopped and Thomas would have had his record.

Most courses will allow a race to continue once it has reached the last lap, but a local rule requires it to be stopped at any time in the heat that a mishap occurs.

"It's a good rule though," Thomas said. "I know if I was hurt, I'd want to be pulled out of the water."

Thomas wound up finishing second in the re-run of the race, but took a first in the second heat to wind up high point man in the category.

The two days of racing were sponsored by the Dayton Motorboat Racing association and all proceeds went to Barney Medical Center for Children.

Following are the results with the boat, driver, owner, and speeds:

145 — "Chuck's Joy," Dean Chenoweth of Xenia, Charles Fyffe of Dayton, 63.829-63.336; "Wild One," Jim Roberts of Dayton, (same), 60.160-61.728; "Neat Pete," Dick Boyer, Jr. of Germantown, (same), 57.142-58.290.

49 — "Wait For Me," Henry Ball of Union Lake, Mich., (same), 51.428-56.496; "Neat Pete," Dick Boyer, Sr., of Germantown, (same), 53.444-51.107; "Honk," Harrison Quirk of Ypsilanti, Mich., (same) 52.083-52.203.

280 — "Shamrock," Richard Cunningham of Celina, (same), 67.720-65.082; "Sassy Jan II," Ken Wright of St. Clair Shores, Jim Cunningham of Celina, 67.517-64.48; "Rowdy," Don Walori of Hays, Va., (same), 71.203-disq.

225 — "Mal-Tai," Dave Thomas of Dayton, Marv Bernstein of Oak Park, Ill., 76.401-76.401; "Chip Winder," Ed Morgan, Jr. of Trenton, N.J., (same), "Fat Chance," George English of Detroit, Mich., Royce Rieband of Detroit, 66.030-72.322.

266 — "Miss Ottawa," Frank Kosso of Ottawa, Ill., Pete Woock of Ottawa, 77.320-77.121; "Scoundrel," Mike Wiener of Cincinnati, Bob Ballinger of Cincinnati, 69.124-69.951; "Wa-Wa-Too," Skeeter Johnson of Cambridge, Md., William Ritner of Gladwyne, Pa., 80.071-disq.

JJ—Jon Culver of Dayton, (same), 57.915, 57.655; "No Problem," John Keller of Midway, (same), 56.190-56.896; "The Pig," Charles Scraggs of Cincinnati, (same) 53.667-52.879; "Ski Boats—Spider," John Stone of Glenview, Ill., (same) 73.50-74.625; "Sidewinder," Bud Cobble of Chattanooga, Tenn., (same), 71.423-73.409; "Das Fireschmittin' Aaaaah"