



*"Little Joe" speed boat tops in area, second in nation . . .*

# *Local power boat wins regatta*

**By Wanda Carton**

For thrills, spills, excitement and the chance to see the No. 2 power boat in the nation in the 145 class, "Little Joe," the place to go is Eastwood Park on June 6 and 7.

On those days, the Dayton Motor Boat Racing Association will sponsor the Eastern Divisional Championships at the American Aggregates Gravel Pit at the junction of Rts. 4 and 69 and Harshmanville Rd.

Pictured here are the "Little Joe," driver Ronnie Brunner, owner Joe Krietzer and the \$400 first place trophy they won at the Louisiana Cajun Regatta, held at Morgan City, La., May 6 and 7.

In 1966, the "Little Joe" won the Texas State Championship and was rated second in the nation in its class. Points scored in

approximately 30 sanctioned regattas in 1966 were tabulated by the American Power Boat Racing Association, and the "Little Joe" missed first place by only 300 points.

Most recently, the "Little Joe" won first place in the Cotton Carnival Power Boat Regatta at Memphis, Tenn., held May 13 and 14.

What makes a winning boat? "Well," said Mr. Krietzer, "first you have to have a good boat — well designed and perfectly balanced. Then, most important of all, you have to have a good driver. Ronnie is one of the best drivers in the country and we're looking forward to the No. 1 spot in the nation this year.

"First place in a regatta brings 400 points, and if we had won one more in 1966, the 'Little Joe' would have been No. 1," he noted.

Mr. Krietzer has been a power boat enthusiast for the past eight

years — first as a co-owner and, for the last four years, he has owned his own boat, "Little Joe." Mr. Brunner first drove for Mr. Krietzer and his partner, but when "Little Joe" came on the scene, he began driving exclusively for Mr. Krietzer.

Proceeds from the upcoming Eastern Divisional Championship Regatta will be added to the more than \$7,500 which has already been contributed to Barney Hospital by the Dayton Power Boat Association.

More than 100 boats have been entered in the championship re-

gatta in seven classes. They are classed according to the inside measurement in cubic inches, of the piston displacement of the motors.

The classes are 48, 145, 150, 225, 266 and 280 in the limited classes and the "seven-lieter" or 427 cubic inch, unlimited class.

The "Little Joe" is 13 feet-six inches long and is powered by a six-cylinder engine. It averages about 90 miles per hour over a five-mile course.

Races are run in two heats in each class, with the winner declared after the tabulation of accumulated points from each heat. Heats are limited to 12 entries, and if more than 12 are entered, elimination heats are run to narrow the field.