



Staff Photo by Ed Johnsey

Skeeter Johnson Whips Wa Wa Two To Victory

... In Eastern power boat championships yesterday

15,000 See Long Gone Go

By Mickey Davis
Journal Herald Sports Writer

A big gold boat left a spray as high as 60 feet and left most of the 15,000 tanned and sun-burned spectators humming at yesterday's power boat championships at Eastwood park.

The boat, The Long Gone, was just that in sweeping honors in the seven-litre class—the biggest boats which competed in the Eastern division power boat championships.

Piloted by Bill Heath of Homewood, Ill., the Long Gone left its huge sprays (the hydroplane set calls them "rooster-tails") dropping on the rest of the field.

Heath guided the craft over the 1 2/3-mile-course for an average of better than 86 miles per hour for both heats.

"That's a little slow," said Heath, a 16-year racing veteran. Nevertheless, it was the top speed of the day for this picnic program which took seven hours and 15 minutes to complete.

The program was slowed somewhat by two accidents which necessitated the stoppage of both heats.

Jerry Sylva of New Orleans and Bill Burgess of Tonawanda, N.Y., were the drivers involved. Sylva flipped his 266 Plata Ray on the final lap of his race and suffered some minor leg abrasions.

overall event with better average speed.

"Whoever comes out of that first turn ahead usually wins between Ed and me," said Thomas after losing the first heat.

Sure enough, in the second heat Thomas jumped out in front with his Mai Tai at the first turn and won the race.

Heath, Skeeter Johnson in the Wa Wa Two (a 266 craft), Elwood Pliescott in his Woody Jr. Special (150 class), and F. C. Moore in his Southern Air IV (48 class), were winners in both heats.

They joined Jack Sweeney (145), Walter J. Struzek (280) and J. D. Hunt in his ski boat in the winner's circle. All first-place boats automatically qualified for the country's biggest power boat race—the National

Racing championships at Gunter'sville, Ala., July 27-31.

Most drivers—on the road, in water, anywhere—frown on women drivers. This doesn't include the 48 power boat class where pretty Anne Duchele of Fort Thomas, Ky., is just one of the guys.

The attractive 28-year-old mother of four proved she's every bit as good as the men at the wheel in piloting her Kant N-Nan IV craft to a third place finish.

"It takes all the strength out of me," said the 5-3, 115-pounder. "I shake all over for about an hour after each race. You know how you feel after you've lifted something heavy. But I don't think being a woman is any disadvantage."

Proceeds of the regatta, the third annual sponsored by the Dayton Motor Boat racing as-

sociation, will be turned over to the Barney Children's Medical center.

POWER BOAT RESULTS Two Heats

48 cubic inches—1. F. C. Moore, Hialeah, Fla., Southern Air IV, 64.748; 2. Hal Wienges, Miami, Fla., Wait-For-Me; 3. Anne Duchele, Ft. Thomas, Ky., Kai-N-Nan III.

145—1. Jack Sweeney, Rumson, N.J., Blue Chips, 65.693; 2. Dean Chenoweth Xenia, O., Chuck's Joy; 3. Cherri Petti Petti's Pet, Ventnor, N.J.

150—1. Elwood Pliescott Jr., Cambridge, Md., Woody Jr., Special, 74.875; 2. Ray Weber, Detroit, Mich., Mom's Worry; 3. Mike Cashin Jr., Detroit, Mich., Grew Soder.

225—1. Ed Morgan, Detroit, Mich., Chip's Winder, 82.797; 2. Dave Thomas, Dayton, Mai-Tai; 3. Roger Schaller, Detroit, Mich., Cobalt.

266—1. Skeeter Johnson, Cambridge, Md., Wa Wa Two, 77.865; 2. Paul Schroeder, Cincinnati, Scoundrel; 3. Anson C. Holly, Cajun Queen.

280—1. Walter J. Struzek, Norristown, Pa., Vagabond, 72.464; 2. Roy Wilson, New Orleans, La., Intruder; 3. D. F. Brouse, Canada, Miss Valley Field III.

Seven-litre—1. Bill Heath, Homewood, Ill., Long Gone, 86.124; 2. Gene Burgin, Newport, Ky., His Lordship; 3. Dean Chenoweth, Xenia, O., Sayonora II.

Ski boats—1. J. D. Hunt, Columbia, S.C., Cat Nip, 72.231; 2. Ed Zender Jr., Florissant, Mo., The Hex; 3. Steven J. Ritt, Chicago, Golden Dat.

The day for Sylva wasn't a total loss, however. He was selected the outstanding driver and sportsman by the official committee and presented a trophy for his feat—flip and all.

Burgess was unhurt, but his triple flip in a small ski boat left the crowd breathless. Burgess was tossed out.

"When it went over on the right side, I couldn't bring it down," said the chunky 12-year pilot who said this was his first flip.

Two of the best races on the program were in the 225 class. Dayton's Dave Thomas and Detroit's Ed Morgan exchanged wins in both heats, though Morgan in Chip Winder won the