Chenoweth One Lucky Boat Racer

By MAX MOSS Daily News Sports Writer

X e n i a 's Dean Chenoweth hasn't the "foggiest" idea why his unlimited hydroplane, Miss Budweiser, exploded during S u n d a y 's Atomic Cup races in Pasco, Wash., but as he told today, "I figured I was a goner."

Explaining that he and his crew won't knwo for fure what caused the mishap until they can examine films which were taken of the race, Chenoweth has came out of the wreck with only minor injuries.

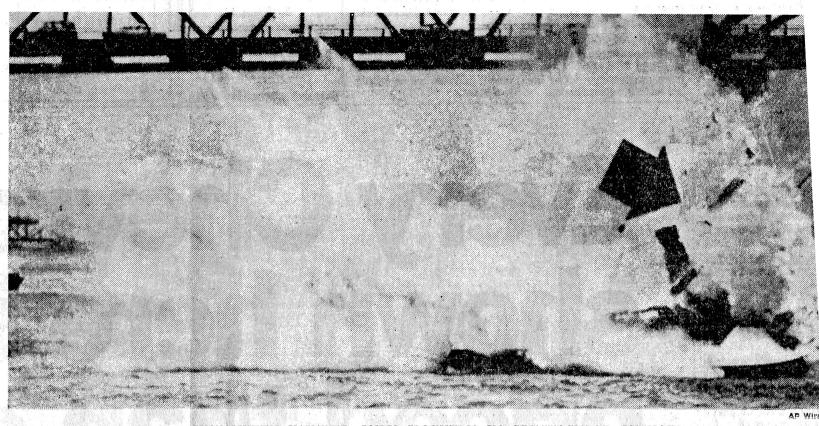
"I have one nerve in my bicep that hasn't responded yet," he said today, "but I do have the use of my arm and hand.

"EVERYONE OUT there thought I was done for.

"And, when you look at the boat (It was recovered Sunday evening) and see how the nose section, top and bottom, is gone clear back to the engine, you've got to wonder."

Chenoweth was optimistic about his chances of picking up another title going into the heat race, after having solved some propeller problems which had been plaguing the boat on rough water.

"Just as a last-minute check of the new rig, I took her out for a couple of laps before the heat race," he explains. "And she ran beautifully.



CHENOWETH INJURED ONLY SLIGHTLY IN SPECTACULAR MISHAP Arrow Points To Xenia Racer's Legs As He Is Thrown Through The Air

"We started the race and I was just coming out of the No. I turn for the second time, really getting on her, when it was like someone slammed a big door.

"I only remember what happened vaguely. I know I hit the water for a ton. The, it seemed as if something hit me on the head . . . maybe it was the boat. ut, others tell me that wasn't the way it happened at all.

AS FOR the future, Chenoweth will be going to Seattle, site of the Gold Cup event Aug. 2, to examine the films of the mishap next week. When he and Miss Bud will be ready to run again isn't known.