

Dean \$35 Poorer...and Faster



Dean Chenoweth
... Driving for title

By Mickey Davis
Journal Herald Sports Writer

Remember the \$8 bearing that cost Parnelli Jones and his turbine racer the 1967 Indianapolis 500?

Well, Xenia hydroplane driver Dean Chenoweth had a similar problem. A \$35 one.

That \$35 figure, just peanuts when you consider Dean's new blue and white Myr's Special is worth over \$100,000, caused him to lose three races.

"It was always some little Mickey Mouse thing," Chenoweth said yesterday.

IN THE FIRST unlimited hydroplane race this year at Guntersville, Ala., Chenoweth and his crew tried out a new type of sparkplug wiring.

"But the tips of the wires came loose," Dean said. He finished second.

"Then our nitrous valve, a device we use for acceleration, fouled up our engine at Owensboro, Ky.," Dean continued, "and the same thing happened at Detroit. We thought the nitrous valve was sticking at the steering wheel, but actually it was the solenoid up in front of the engine that was doing the lodging."

Chenoweth finished third at Owensboro and second at Detroit.

"It was about a \$35 item," Chenoweth said.

UNLIKE PARNELLI, however, Dean had a chance to correct his inexpensive problem and, when he did, he won the biggest race of his life—Sunday's Gold Cup Regatta at Madison, Ind.

"Sure it was the biggest racing thrill I've had," said the Xenia auto dealer who has been racing 19 of his 32 years. "Now, we're halfway to the points' championship with another half to go."

Chenoweth, competing for the second year in the unlimited class, has 3,925 points in the Myr's Special—300 more than Bill Muncey in the Miss U.S. who is second.

"We won Sunday's race the hard way," Chenoweth said. "We had to beat the Notre Dame and the U.S. in the first heat and the U.S. and Miss Budweiser in the finals."

NOW, THE HYDROPLANE set heads West for the last three races—the Atomic Cup at Pasco, Wash., on July 27, another at San Diego in August, and the Gold Cup Race at San Diego in September.

"Everyone guns for the point title," he said. "To win a championship like this sets you in good position with people like STP and other owners."

"If we continue like we have . . . and I don't want to sound pessimistic or overly optimistic . . . I think we can take it all."

That \$35 may go a long way.