



Staff Photo by Woody Snyder

The splash and the splendor as boats roar around Eastwood Lake

# Whipp whipped by Woody

By Paul Meyer

Journal Herald Sports Writer

Gene Whipp made a lot of moves yesterday as he piloted his boat "Shamrock" around Eastwood Park Lake in the 15th Annual Dayton Motorboat Racing Assn. Regatta.

But one move Whipp didn't make out of his boat may have cost him first place in the 280-cubic inch class.

Whipp, who was the national sprint champion in his class in 1969, won his qualifying heat easily. So did A. M. Woody. And those two figured to be the top contenders when the final heat was run.

**BUT WHIPP**, of Dayton, after watching Woody, of New Albany, Ind., win his heat,

decided he would need a bigger propeller if he were to beat Woody in the finals.

"A bigger prop," Whipp explained, "would give me more speed down the straightaways. His boat had about three or four miles per hour on me and I thought a bigger propeller would give me enough extra to beat him."

But after a consultation with boat owner Jim Cunningham of Celina, Whipp decided to leave his smaller prop on.

**"THE BOAT'S** engine wasn't in top shape," Whipp explained. "And Jim thought that since it wasn't in good shape, it might not be able to handle the bigger prop."

So Whipp went with the original setup — and got whipped.

But the Whipp-Woody race was probably the most competitive race of the day's program.

Whipp got a good start and was ahead of Woody's yellow "Streaker" for most of the first lap. Then Woody's faster boat moved out down the backstretch of the second lap and Whipp couldn't make up the lost ground in the remaining lap of the three-lap sprint.

**"BEING IN** second place," said Whipp, "loses you another three or four miles per hour. You're running in the leader's wake and that loss

coupled with the three or four miles per hour he had on me at the start was too much.

"But at least he knew we were in the race," Whipp added.

Whipp felt that if his boat's engine had been "up to snuff, we would have won." But with the condition of the engine, Whipp said it would have been "questionable" if the change would have made any difference.

"We may have even lost some acceleration," Whipp said. "The only way you'll ever know is to go ahead and make the change."

**WHIPP ALSO** had some tough luck in the 150-cubic inch class when he blew his

new engine after winning his qualifying heat.

"I just crossed the finish line," Whipp explained, "and never did have the boat f out. I decided to see what would do since it was the first time we'd used it. I had it to 7,800 RPMs and all of sudden it blew. I was knocked against the dashboard and the wind knocked out of me."

Thus, Whipp was unable to compete in the finals of the class and Conley Snowden of Lexington, Ky., emerged as the winner in "T Cat," a boat Whipp used to drive.

**THE 150 CLASS** was designated as the first Fore Moeller Memorial Race in honor of the long-time Dayton racer who died of leukemia last summer. Moeller was one of the early organizers of the DMBRA.

Only one Dayton driver managed to take a first place. Jim Spencer won the Outboard pleasure craft's G Class. Other area racers in the top three were Dayton's Ken Bailey (2) in the OPC's I Class and Carlisle's Thomas Boyer (3) in the 850-cubic inch class.

A crowd estimated at better than 20,000 viewed the races at Eastwood Lake, site of next year's National Championships.

#### OUTBOARD

**T Class** — 1. Bill Petty, Wapakoneta; 2. Carl Hardy, Pinckney, Mich.; 3. Tom Stickle, Oshkosh, Wis.

**S Class** — 1. Tom Stickle, Oshkosh, Wis.; 2. Jim Flood, Mansfield, Ohio; 3. Tom Bucknell, Warrensville Hgts., Ohio.

**Family G Class** — 1. Jim Spencer, Dayton; 2. Jerry Hopkins, Goshen, Ohio; 3. Jack Hausch, Akron, Ohio.

**Family E Class** — 1. Arthur Frensen, Wonder Lake, Ill.; 2. Dave Reay, Newcomerstown Ohio; 3. Wayne Kimmel, Lakeview, Ohio.

**Family J Class** — 1. Lawrence Rucker, Inkster, Mich.; 2. Tom Metzger, Fairview Park, Ohio; 3. Philip Arth, Newcomerstown, Ohio.

**Family I Class** — Herman Hageman, Lorain, Ohio; 2. Ken Bailey, Dayton; 3. Joseph Kovcsdy, Jr., Fairview Park, Ohio.

#### INBOARD

**145 Cubic Inch Class** — 1. Bob Blazer, Cincinnati; 2. Charles and Ethel Long, Danville, Ky.; 3. Rusty Scheckelhoff, Troy.

**150 Class** — 1. Conley Snowden, Lexington, Ky.; 2. Durb King, Covington, Ky.; 3. Richard Willim, Allen Park, Mich.

**225 Class** — 1. Danny Walls, Bellevue, Ky.; 2. Deon Guerine, Melrose Park, Ill.; 3. James Thompson, Chicago.

**280 Class** — 1. A. M. Woody, New Albany, Ind.; 2. Gene Whipp, Dayton; 3. Bruce Whited, Piqua, Ohio.

**Five liter Class** — 1. James Deel, Worthington, Ohio; 2. Sam Guarino, East Detroit, Mich.; 3. Lee Bellamy, Monroe, Mich.

**Seven Liter class Division I** — 1. Frank M. Byers, Jr., Columbus; 2. Ken Weber, Bellevue, Ky.

**Seven Liter Class Division J** — James Curtis, New Albany, Ind.

**850 Class** — 1. Paul Bauer, Deer Park, Ohio; 2. Ann Deuschle, Ft. Thomas, Ky.; 3. Thomas Boyer, Carlisle, Ohio.