



Daily News Photo by Eddie Roberts

BOB BLAZER WAVES A FRIENDLY "HI" TO THE CROWD
Blazer and His 145-c.c. Hydro Tuned Up Saturday at Eastwood Lake

Boats Churn Up Eastwood

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It must have been like going home for the powerboat fans Saturday watching tuneups for the First Dayton Championship Regatta at Eastwood lake. The real races start the week end of June 10-11 and go for two more week ends thereafter.

Saturday, there was the same dust, stirred by hundreds of feet and automobile tires, settling over everything. There were the crescendo and fading of hydroplanes, pleasure boats and stock outboards as they roared around the mile-long lake. And there were the sputter and cough of sleek racing boats, up on blocks, having their pitch tuned.

In 1971, more than 100,000 fans sat on wooden stands,

lawn furniture and ungraded shorelines to watch the race. Even more fans are expected to attend this year's races. But allowances for accommodating the throngs are being made.

EASTWOOD'S south shore has been graded to a uniform slope, and a 150-foot asphalt ramp has been installed. Plans are under way to blacktop much of the lake area's main entrance off Harshman Road, itself a major source of dust last year.

But for the 36 racing boats, crews and drivers at Eastwood Saturday, all that went before became unimportant. Three boats in the 145 class were trying out Pinto automotive engines for the first time, and these had to be balanced and adjusted and tuned.

Engines on the tiny stock outboards were installed, run off, and pulled so another engine could be tried.

JOHNNY Johnson, owner of the Dayton-based Johnny J, didn't feel his 280-class hydroplane needed to be worked on.

"We don't do much to our boat out here," he said, wiping dusty perspiration from his eyes. "I figure if we aren't ready to race when we get here, we shouldn't be here." Johnson's driver, Ronnie Brunner of Beavercreek, said the water was "sticky," which

6,200 rpm.

Although last week's original tune-up day was rained out, crews from Michigan, Indiana, Cincinnati and Kentucky were on hand to get the feel of the lake and get their entries in racing trim.

Bob Musson Jr., commodore of the hosting Dayton Motor Boat Racing Association (DMBRA), said fans should take note of several changes in ground rules for fans attending the activities in June.

"THERE WILL be no recreational vehicles or trucks permitted in the parking lot on the south shore," Musson said. "These vehicles should park on the east side of Harshman Road, via Springfield Street." Musson added that telephones will be available for fans' use this year, and that private boaters and fishermen will likely be able to use Eastwood following the final race date of June 25.

The Impossible Dream, a 145 class inboard hydro built by Joey Kreitzer, should command some attention next month. Kreitzer, once a crippled patient at the Children's Medical Center, recipient of the DMBRA earnings, has mended well enough to build the Dream which will race this summer. Kreitzer is only 15 years old, too young to drive in a sanctioned race, so