



Staff Photo by Walt Kleine

One of 'Mighty Mites' set for Eastwood this weekend

# Koch Memorial Trophy set for Eastwood races

By Jim Robey  
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More than 700 boat racers and 100,000 spectators are expected at Eastwood Lake over the next three weekends for championship regattas, but Dayton's foremost racing fan will be present only in memory.

David W. Koch, 28-year-old boating buff killed in an industrial accident last January, is the late regatta chairman being remembered with the "Dave Koch Memorial Trophy."

The trophy will be awarded each weekend to the driver who is closest to the starting line at the sound of the starting gun, according to the Dayton Motor Boat Racing Assn. (DMBRA), the chief sponsor of the races.

"Boat racing was Dave's whole interest," said his mother, Mrs. David W. Koch.

**"HE NEVER** raced himself. He was interested in the equipment, craftsmanship and helping others.

"He built a 145 cubic inch hydroplane and called it 'The Joker,' but he didn't race the boat personally.

"His only trophy was given to him by the DMBRA. They gave Dave the 'Hard Luck Award,'" Mrs. Koch said.

Gene Whipp, one of the four DMBRA members carrying on the race chairman duties, says Koch did more than anyone to advance boat racing in Dayton and that his contributions are of national significance.

"He's the man most responsible for standardization of the boat racing clock now ac-



David Koch

Boat Assn. (APBA)," Whipp said.

**"DAVE ALSO** initiated the Poloroid picture to determine false starts and developed a video tape system to judge winners as they cross the finish line."

Koch's innovations are incorporated in a 10-foot, do-everything clock that serves as the focal point of the races.

Five minutes before each race the clock fires a warning cannon to alert the drivers and blasts another warning one minute before the start of the race.

When the second hand reaches zero, a buzzer blows and two Poloroid pictures are taken. As the boats cross the finish line the video tape tracks the winners.

**"KOCH RIGGED** this thing so it's all automatic," Whipp said. "The only thing we have to do is load the cannon and push the button."

When the Koch clock sounds the alert at noon tomorrow

about 150 drivers will be on hand for the stock outboard races.

The drivers will compete in six classes with two classes running at a time. tStock outboards, capable of straightaway speeds of up to 90 miles per hour, will run in two heats, each time going 24 laps around the 1 2-3-mile course.

One of the new stock outboard classes making it debut tomorrow will be the SS-25 for 335-pound, stock hydroplanes with 25 cubic inch engines.

**ON SUNDAY,** 12 classes of stock outboards will be running starting at 8 a.m. and the closed course event is expected to attract 400 entries.

Among the local drivers considered strong contenders this weekend are Bill Ellis of Springboro and his wife, Jo Ann.

Bill, employed at Kimberly Clark, is national champion and national high point champion in the B Stock Outboard division.

Jo Ann Ellis, one of three women racers expected, holds the world straightaway record in the little A Stock Runabout. Her record with the 7.5-horsepower engine is 54.217

mph, set last year at Knoxville, Tenn.

On June 17-18 races will continue at Eastwood with the Outboard Pleasure Craft boats and on June 24-25 the inboard hydroplanes will run for world championships.