

Staff Photos by Bill Gartow

Cincinnati's Jim Kropfeld (J-55) drives his seven-litre 'Streaker' to victory in Grand Prix event at Hydrobowl

# Gimbrone wins Governor's Cup

By Leal Beattie

Journal Herald Sports Writer

Joe Gimbrone subscribes to the adage that "money isn't everything."

The Tonawanda, N.Y., resident pocketed just \$200 for winning yesterday's featured Governor's Cup Invitational during the World Inboard Championship boat racing meet at the Dayton Hydrobowl.

But he heaped praise upon the local facility and the race organizers.

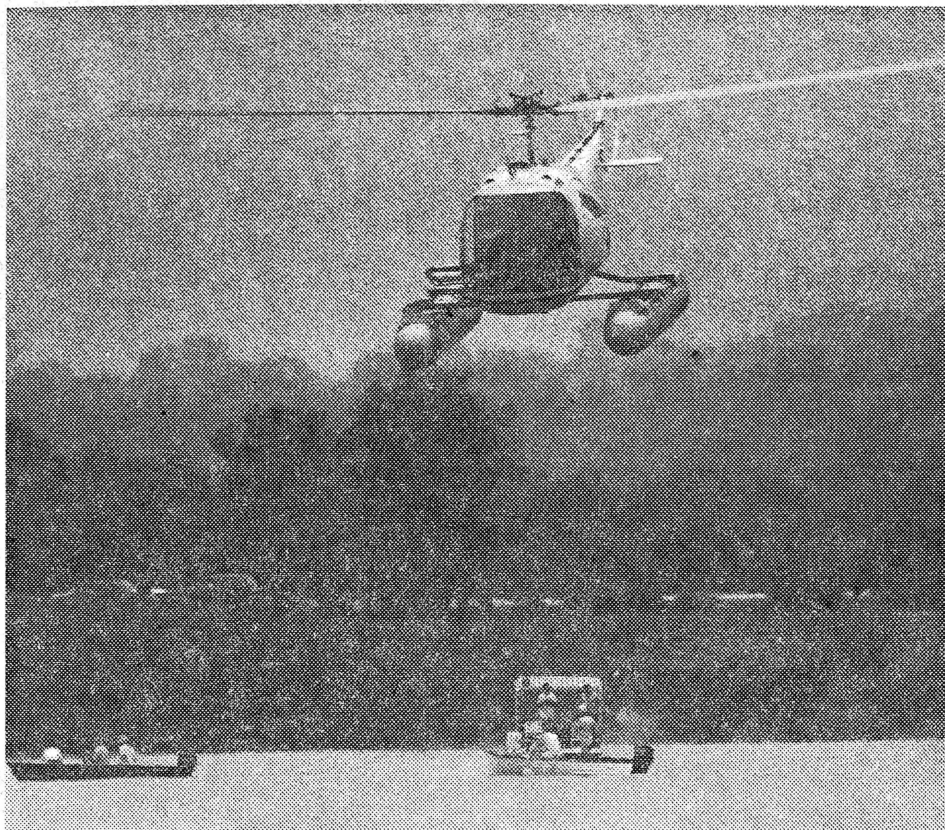
"The facilities here overpower my shortcomings," Gimbrone said. "It's such a safe course."

## GIMBRONE COMPETES

much of the time in Canada, where the prize money is more creative. In the last three weeks, in fact, he had earned over \$2,500 in that country.

"Boat racing is very professional in Canada," said Gimbrone, who is employed as a truck driver in Buffalo, N.Y. "You can go into a town of only 100 people up there, and they tie up with money out of the

But you don't have to run for a lot of money all the time. I had to come here to Dayton. This is a prestige race," he



Helicopter hovered over race course to provide emergency aid

advantage over runner-up Sherman Pohlhamus at the finish. Pohlhamus piloted a smaller 225-cubic inch craft.

"I've always had a lot of bad luck here in the past — blown engines and gearboxes," Gimbrone said. "Pohlhamus and John Simon (another 225 c.i. boat driver) usually outaccelerate us in this type of race, but we have a higher top end speed. I've never lost to a 225 when my boat was running right."

Gimbrone shared the spotlight with four other drivers who won the Grand Prix Restricted divisions earlier in the day. GPR races match boats of varying classes and speeds with a handicap start.

A crowd held down by the threat of rain — which did delay the proceedings for about an hour at one point — saw Michigan resident Chuck Thompson and Cincinnati's Jim Kropfeld claim the A and B Division titles, respectively.

THOMPSON ALSO won the day's opening event, a rerun of the 280-cubic inch class finals. He had apparently been the winner of the same event a day earlier, but confusion over whether the race should have been restarted because of

back the next week. They're averaging 87.891 miles per hour. Gimbrone took the lead midway

New Yorker Greg Barker v the GPR's C Division in his c.i. boat, and Minnesota's Gary Mitsch took the D title in Super Stock craft.

The Grand Prix style of racing adds competition as the faster boats attempt to catch their slower counterparts, but many of the drivers believe the danger increases accordingly.

"It's dangerous in the corner when you have slow and fast boats going through at the same time," Gimbrone said. "The smaller boats slide, but the bigger boats can power through."

"It's exciting for the fans though. It isn't a parade when one boat gets out in front and stays there."

#### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

**Grand Prix Restricted-A** — 1. Chuck Thompson, Southfield, Mich., 280 c.i. boat; 2. Jim Kropfeld, Cincinnati, 225 c.i.; 3. Joe Simon, Eggertsville, N.Y., 225 c.i.

**GPR-B** — 1. Jim Kropfeld, Cincinnati, 7-litre II; 2. Jules LeBoeuf, Valleyfield, Quebec, 5-litre; 3. Joe Hartdegen, Chalmette, La., 7-litre II.

**GPR-C** — 1. Greg Barker, Grand Island, N.Y., 145 c.i.; 2. Joe Schulte, El Segundo, Calif., 145 c.i.; 3. Ken Kreitzer, Dayton, Ohio, 145 c.i.

**GPR-D** — 1. Gary Mitsch, Osseo, Minn., Super Stock; 2. Don Melbinger, LaGrange, Ill., Ski Class; 3. Stephen Goodman, Moline, Ill., Super Stock.

**GPR-A Consolation** — 1. Ken Kreitzer, Dayton, 280 c.i.; 2. Ron Snyder, Piqua, Ohio, 225 c.i.; 3. John Gochanour, Warren, Mich., 225 c.i.

**GPR-C Consolation** — 1. Robert Presler, West End, N.J., 145 c.i.; 2. Charlie Lott, Danville, Ky., 145 c.i.; 3. Joe Hartdegen, Chalmette, La., 2.5-litre.

**Governor's Cup Invitational** — 1. Jim Gimbrone, Tonawanda, N.Y., 7-litre I; 2. Sherman Pohlhamus, Miami, Fla., 225 c.i.; 3. Tony Piazza, Metairie, La., 7-litre II.

**280 c.i. Finals** — 1. Chuck Thompson, Southfield, Mich., 76.563 mph; 2. Don Sutton, Spring Arbor, Mich.; 3. Stover Hays, Syracuse, Ind.