

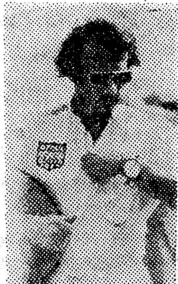
# Gusts make smooth Eastwood a hazard

By HARVEY SHAPIRO  
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The usually calm and smooth Eastwood Lake showed a different side Sunday. As a result, the second day of Hydroglobe '76 was shortened because of rough water.

Three of the seven final heats on the program were cancelled when westerly winds with gusts up to 30 m.p.h. made the course too dangerous.

Just ask Ann Deuschle whose 400-pound Kan-N-Kan split its bottom side during the final heat race. "I never thought this little lake could get so rough."



Kropfeld

**JUST ASK** Jim Potter whose 1,000-pound Nan Net No. 2 rolled over and nearly sank. The Plainfield, Ind., driver was pulled out of the water shaken, but not hurt.

Potter's mishap occurred in the first lap of the 225 ci final heat. The action was immediately stopped. A short while later, the course was declared closed.

Even before that decision, Jim Kropfeld, driver of Country Boy, reigning 225 national champion, called the conditions "terrible. It was bad yesterday (Saturday), but even worse today.

"This is a super course, and I've got a good handling boat, but one time going down the back stretch the boat flew out of the water, and it hardly ever does that," he said. "I had to ease off the throttle a bit."

**IT TURNED OUT** to be a good weekend for owner Mike Wiener of Cincinnati and Kropfeld. Country Boy captured the 225 class event and Grand Prix Re-

stricted showdown Saturday, surprising the more powerful jay boat Scorpio.

Sunday, Kropfeld rode Country Boy to another class win, based on the one heat result.

The 16-foot boat, built early in 1971 was owned and driven by Joe Siracusa of Mayor City, La. Siracusa, who set a competitive course record in 1972, was later killed in an industrial accident.

**WIENER**, a former boat racer who drove to the five litre world championship in 1966, heard of Country Boy and flew to Louisiana, liked what he saw, and closed the deal.

By December of 1974, Wiener had retired as a driver but wanted to continue in the sport. That he did as owner of Country Boy. . . the name he inherited from his predecessor.

"It took us three months to completely rework the boat," he said. "I knew Jim and asked him to drive for me." Since then, that combination has lost only once. That was three weeks ago in Raleigh, N.C., to "Don Juan."

Last year, Kropfeld not only captured the world championship for his class, but broke the five-mile competition record of 91.001, with a 93.168 m.p.h. average at Hampton, Va.

**"IT COST US \$3,000** to win the world title and \$300 at Seattle," said Wiener. Obviously, the expense in inboard racing far exceeds the dividends.

"In the last three-four years," he added, "the purses have gone up 15-20 per cent. The problem is that we have so many classes. If there were one or two classes, I can see big prize money with national TV."

Why has Country Boy so dominated its class? "It's a combination of the best of everything. I have the best driver, the best boat, the best engines, the best crew.