

Turner grand in Grand Prix race

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Put Terry Turner of Pomona, Calif. in a competitive boat and he's a threat to win any race.

Between 1976 and part of this season, Turner drove U-70 in six unlimited hydroplane races, and the best that can be said about that effort is the boat didn't sink.

So, the former 2.5-Litre and 5-litre national champion gave up his "thunderboat" ride for a seat in Henry Lauterbach's Grand Prix International boat, actually a 7-litre powered by a 400 cubic inch Chevy.

Not only could Uncle Norman's Lauterbach Special beat U-70 by a mile, it can also beat every other GPI as well. Sunday, Turner, 35, a veteran of eight years in the

driver's seat, romped to the Grand Prix national championship at Hydrobowl, averaging 89.365 miles an hour in his five-lap ride around the 1 2/3-mile course.

TURNER JUMPED out to a three-second lead in the first lap against Cincinnati's Jim Kropfeld in Long Gone, and then headed straight for the teller's window. Kropfeld, who earlier in the day took the 225 title, actually stayed in the chase until his boat fizzled midway through the third lap. Thus, a super effort in his first Grand Prix appearance went all for naught.

Larry Lauterbach in Edelweiss finished second, followed by Kent McPhail (Advanced United) and Joseph Gimbone (Joy Boy). Only four of the eight boats that started were still running at the finish.

Turner, who advanced to the championship race by capturing his heat in a not-too-quick 75.981, saved the best for last. "Once I took the lead, I saw no reason to punish the equipment. I went only as fast as I had to go.

"The water was a little rough in the championship heat and I drove comfortably. At the start, the other guys broke a little too early and I had only one place to go, on the outside. I hit the starting line full-bore."

There was speculation that Uncle Norman's Lauterbach Special would not be ready in time to race in Dayton. The boat was damaged in a race in Canada last week. "The boat got up in high water, hit and punched a hole in the side," said owner Henry Lauterbach. "We didn't patch the hole, we just rebuilt a new section."

Grand Prix International — 1. Uncle Norman's Lauterbach Special, driven by Terry Turner, Pomona, Calif.; 2. Edelweiss, driven by Larry Lauterbach, Portsmouth, Va.; 3. The Advanced United, driven by Kent McPhail, Edina, Minn.; 4. The Joy Boy, driven by Joseph Gimbone, Tanawanda, N.Y. Winning speed — 89.365 mph.

Super Stock & Ski — 1. Tie between SS 3, driven by Rick Berthold, Fox River Grove, Ill. and Never Satisfied, driven by Frank Lamberty, Fox Lake, Ill.; 3. Flatbottom, driven by Dan Murphy, Cincinnati.

225 CI — 1. Country Boy, driven by Jim Kropfeld, Cincinnati; 2. The Don Juan, driven by Don Pesadento, Allen Park, Mich.; 3. Specialist, driven by Bob Gabrowski, Detroit. Top speed — 84.112 mph.

280 CI — 1. Hire Voltage, driven by Stover Hire, Syracuse, Ind.; 2. The Cent-less, driven by Toby Barker, Tanawanda, N.Y.; 3. Chuckwagon, driven by Chuck Thompson, Farmington Hill, Mich. Top speed — 75.567 mph.

2.5 Litre — 1. Cmon Cmon, driven by Phil Lipschutz, Milford, Ohio; 2. Snafu 5, driven by Glen Turner, South Lockwood, Mich.; 3. Heltor

Skelter, driven by John DeVos, I. troit. Top speed — 74.658 mph.

145 CI — Yaller Dawg, driven Joe Schulte, Watervellet, Mich.; Bucksbot, driven by Tom Jeane Fair Haven, Mich.; 33. Hliack driven by Stuart Shane, Havre I Grace, Md. Top speed — 68.1 mph.

850 CC — 1. Kat-N-Nan II, driven by Anne Deuschele, Ft. Thom. Ky.; 2. The Ulcer, driven by Rob Probia, Novelty, Ohio; 3. The K. N-Nan, driven by Paul Bauer, Dr Park, Ohio.

Boats expected to hit 100 mph

Speed will be the name of the game tomorrow and Sunday as 10 classes of inboard powerboats take to the water of the Hydrobowl in the fourth weekend of Dayton Hydroglobe 77.

Speeds are liable to reach 100 miles per hour or better on a straightaway for nine out of the 10 classes competing. Over 150 inboards are expected to compete in the two-day event.

The Grand Prix International Class will be racing for the first time at the Hydrobowl. There is no restriction in the size of the boats in this class, but the hull must be 18 feet in length and

any size automotive engine may be used.

The boats in this class are 5- and 7-litre blown fuel hydroplanes — only slightly smaller than the unlimited hydroplanes.

Some of the top boats expected to run in this class include:

Edelweiss — Driven by Larry Lauterbach. A previous Edelweiss won the first Grand Prix National race in Columbus in 1974.

Norman's Lauerbach Special — Driven by Terry Turner. This boat has two wins to its credit this year in De-

troit and Madison, Wisc.

Miss Advance United — Driven by Kent MacPhail. Miss Advance United is the current American Power Boat Assn. (APBA) point leader.

Heavy Hauler — Driven by Dave Sutton. This boat is a re-designed version of the Heavy Hauler that Gene Whipp, of Dayton, won two world and two national 7-litre championships with in the early 1970s.

Practices will begin tomorrow and Sunday at 10 a.m., with the races beginning at noon.