

Daytonian owns 5 liter class

Scheidt's victory a sweet treat

By DAVE LONG
Staff Sports Writer

The circumstances weren't exactly the way Jerry Scheidt would have liked them to be. But he had no control over matters. The only thing he could do was push his boat as hard as possible, hope to get across the finish line first and finally win an inboard hydroplane race in Dayton.

And he did. After 15 years of racing water skimmers, Scheidt became only the third Daytonian to claim victory in the annual Hydroglobe at the Hydrorowl.

He captured the competition-thin 5 liter class before an estimated 15,000 people Sunday afternoon in the second and final day of racing.

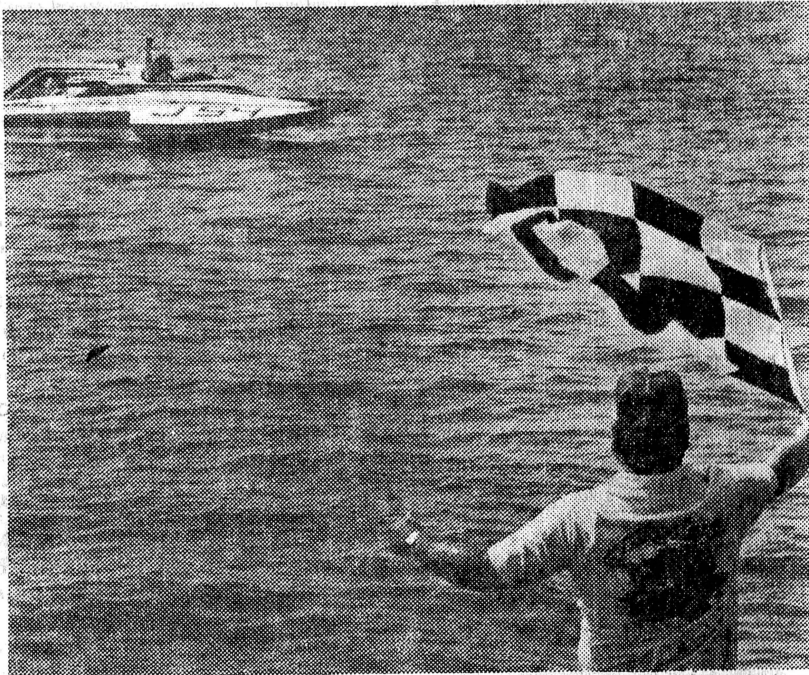
ONLY GENE WHIPP, the former stereo shop owner who now races offshore boats out of Florida, and Alan Schide, a fellow worker of Scheidt's at Delco Products, have been local winners. That goes back through 18 years of racing at the Hydrorowl or Eastwood Lake if you prefer.

"There's bigger races on the circuit, like the nationals in three weeks in Decatur, Ill., but nothing tops this for me," said the 40-year-old Scheidt. "I've raced everything in this town from go-karts to quartermidgets to motorcycles. But nothing tops winning here no matter what happened. So few of us have done it.

"You want to win because all your friends and family and everyone is here. Personally, you can't beat it. I could win national championships and it will never be better than this."

Scheidt was one of seven class winners Sunday.

WHEELER BAKER OF Chester, Md., took the big money back to Maryland's eastern shore by capturing the Stroh's Challenge Cup in the 7 litre class. He



Staff photo by Bill Vaughn

Checked — Baker gets flag in Stroh's Cup

won around \$3,000 in first prize money and took the overall point lead in the six-race series by winning both Saturday and Sunday.

Other trophy and prize money winners were Rick Albrecht of Loveland, Ohio, in the 850cc class; Ed Reim of New Baltimore, Mich., in the 145 cubic inch class; Stover Hire of Syracuse, Ind., in the 280 cubic inch class; Chris Oliver of Annapolis, Md., in the 2.5 liter class and James Deel of Worthington, Ohio, in the 225 cubic inch class.

Hire, who also took third in the 7 liter group, is one of the most consistent winners ever at the Hydroglobe. It was the third consecutive year he has won his class and the ninth time in the last 11 years.

Scheidt ran against Hire for a while in the 280s and then moved up to the 5 litre jobs where he and Schide have had a good rivalry. Saturday, Scheidt thought it had ended.

HE AND SCHIDE were side by side at the start of the final heat of the 5 liter competition when Schide's boat, the "Star Ship" disintegrated from under him.

"Al and I have been going at each other a long time," said Scheidt. "We're good friends, but it's still competition. It was right at the start and there was no way I was going to let him beat me to the corner.

"He was pushing hard and the boat got a little sideways. I had looked over to make sure he knew I was there

when I saw him get the wrong way and the boat came apart around him.

"It was only a matter of time before it happened. We (the boat drivers) all knew it and so did he. That was an evil boat.

"By the time I got back around the lake, all I saw was parts of the boat floating all over the place and Al floating face down in the water. I thought that was it for him. I just went back to the pits and told them to put it on the trailer. We were done."

Schide was fished from the water and taken to Miami Valley Hospital where he is reported in fair condition with a badly broken arm. He will be hospitalized for an undetermined amount of time.

BECAUSE HE WAS THE point leader at the time of wreck, Scheidt had to go out and run one lap in order to be technically declared a class winner.

"It was tough going out after I saw what happened to Al, but I pushed as hard as I could just hoping to get the top speed of the day," said Scheidt. He averaged 102 mph, which was the fast speed of the day — better than the 7 liter boats he wanted to show up.

Sunday's class victory was almost as easy. There were only five 5 liter boats in competition to begin with. Schide and Phil Lipschultz of Cincinnati both crashed Saturday. That left only Alex Stewart of Toronto, Canada, as an opponent. The third boat was driven by 70-year-old Sam Gurino of Detroit who runs slow and steady.

Scheidt ran away from Stewart, averaging 95.898 mph for the six laps around the course.

"I would have liked for it to be a little different, but it wasn't," said Scheidt. "I still had to go out and run. I'm not going to knock it. It's a win in Dayton."