



Staff photo by Bill Garlow

Pit crews busy as beavers at Hydrobowl

Veteran racks up his first national crown

Spandau drives Nan-Net to a win

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Karl Spandau might be from the car racing capital of the nation — Indianapolis — but he turns his nose at that kind of racing.

He'd rather race a hydroplane any day.

For 25 years he's been involved in boat racing, first in outboard power boats, and now in the inboards.

After just five years of racing hydroplanes, Spandau drove Nan-Net in the 225 class to his first national title Saturday in the American Power Boat Association's National championships at the Hydrobowl.

"Two weeks ago, this boat was upside down," Spandau said. "We used to run this boat all the time, and when we heard that a few of the boats we knew from the east and west coasts and from Canada were coming here, we decided to put her back together."
Spandau usually drives in the 6-liter and

145 class, and this was the first time in over a year he's driven in the 225s.

He won the first final heat just edging by Honey Hush, driven by Roger Ottwell, but placed second in the final heat, behind Ottwell. But Brad Mosier, who drove Wild Waves, also gave Spandau competition in the final heat, and almost took second.

"As soon as I passed Wild Waves on the last straightaway, I knew I had it," Spandau said. "I knew I had to pass that guy after the third turn, and it all finally worked out. This is definitely one of the best classes to race in, because it's a fairly quick class."

Even though Spandau hadn't raced Nan-Net since last summer, he was confident the boat would perform well.

"We came over here last Tuesday for a test run, and I was running as good as I ever had," Spandau said. "It was running as well as when I set the course record with it in

1981. And this is a good course for me. It's good water. But you have to drive here, you just can't float around big turns."

Winning national titles is nothing new for Spandau. Before he switched to hydroplane racing in 1980, Spandau first made sure he made his mark in outboard racing. He won seven outboard national championships, and was inducted into the APBA Hall of Fame.

Junk Yard Dawg, driven by Joe Schulte, won the National title in the 1,200 CC class, while Steve David drove Ditty-Wa-Ditty to the 5-liter title. In the SS class, Roger Bode Jr. drove Color Me Gone to first place, and The Producer, driven by Anthony Franklin, took the 7-liter division 1 title. In the Pro Comp division, Eye of the Tiger, driven by Jamie Jamison, was the winner.

Competition concludes today at the Hydrobowl starting at 11:45 a.m. Tickets are \$5 at the gate, and children under 12 are admitted free.