



BILL GARLOW/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Cameron takes checkered flag in 5-liter class qualifying race

Boaters can't escape Dayton jinx

Hydrobowl unkind to local racers

By Greg Simms
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Once Alan "Bo" Schide puts his wooden Shopsmith 31 5-liter hydroplane on the water, he can outrun just about anyone in his class, but he cannot get away from the Dayton jinx.

"Dayton is our hometown," said Ron Brunner, owner of the Shopsmith 31. "We've been racing here since 1966. We've just had trouble winning here."

Saturday was no exception. Schide never got in the race because the craft hit something in the water at the Hydrobowl during a five-minute warmup period before the first elimination heat began.

powerboat bobbed in the water. "We're in Dayton," he said with a shrug. "We lost steering. Bo hit something out there and it blew a hole in the front of the boat. We'll be ready to run tomorrow."

It's easy to understand their frustration, considering that Schide, from Centerville, won the American Power Boat Association national championships in Miami, Fla., two weeks ago. And on July 27 he set the world one-mile record for 5-liter hydroplanes, averaging 80 miles per hour in a five-lap, five-mile race. The Shopsmith 31 is powered by a 305-cubic-inch Chevrolet engine.

It seems that the Schide-Brunner team can do anything but perform well in Dayton.

ago," Schide said before the four-mile, four-lap heat began. "But it seems that historically, no one from Dayton has ever done well."

Schide has a theory concerning the Dayton jinx. "Because it's in Dayton, we spend a lot of time getting ready for the race, selling tickets, getting sponsors." So he and Brunner don't get to concentrate solely on the race.

Schide said Saturday that he "kind of took it easy this year," meaning he spent less time than usual promoting the race. It didn't matter. Maybe it will today in the two heats he is scheduled to race in.

The local favorite got off easy compared to Len Buckman of Cincinnati. Buckman's hydroplane ran well — maybe too well. He was running third in the race that Schide was favored to win. But Buckman

drobowl waters. He complained of lower back pains after the incident and was taken to Miami Valley Hospital, where he was treated and released.

Jim Pancoast of Sturgis, Mich., eventually won the 5-liter class, averaging 77.45 miles per hour.

Dayton's Jerry Scheidt was involved in another accident that could have been serious. He was piloting the "Blurred Vision" when it caught fire. He jumped into the water to avoid the blaze. Scheidt brushed it off and drove in five more races.

Saturday's winners were Dick Felsner of Detroit in the 850 cubic inch modified class; Gary LaFrance of Ontario, Canada, in the 2.5-liter stock class; Doug Felster of New Baltimore, Mich., 2.5-liter modified; Grayson Jones of Cambridge, Md., 6-liter class; and John Schroeder of Okeana, Ohio, in the Cobra flat boat