

Top speeds may also mean some spills.

"These boats do flip over," Wright said. "There will probably be two or three racers who flip over this weekend."

According to Wright, accidents don't always equal injuries. "You can get injured, but there are a lot of safety features in these boats."

Danger is a fact of life for most racers and so is prize money. More than \$23,000 is up for grabs this weekend.

"A whole lot of hard work and a lot of prize money are really increasing participation in this year's event," Wright said.

Last year there were 70 racers while Wright estimates 120 drivers will race this year.

The racers aren't the only ones who will profit from the weekend's activities. Proceeds from the event benefit the Gem City Hope Foundation, an organization that focuses its efforts on helping the young people of the Miami Valley.

"We're funding a unified high school and college program with Sinclair College," foundation appropriations administrator Curt Jones said. "Proceeds help juniors in high school get all the way through the college program in several different areas."

• FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993 □ 3D

# Hot boats roar into Hydrobowl

By Debbie Juniewicz

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Sunshine dances gently on bright, peaceful water.

A breeze blows lightly across the calm surface.

Suddenly, the tranquility is shattered with a thunderous roar and a speeding blur.

Hydroplane boats return to Dayton this weekend for "A Celebration of Speed" featuring The City of Dayton Mayor's Trophy Challenge feature race.

The Dayton event, with 94 confirmed boats from across the country and 25 more possible competitors, is one of the largest hydroplane events in the midwest.

"The average boat count for races around here is 65," race director Ken Wright said. "The hydrobowl is one of the top three race sites in the country so people want to race here."

Wright sites three reasons for the Hydrobowl's premier status — excellent viewing for spectators; the pit is safely in a remote location and no matter what the weather conditions the boats can usually race.

Dayton racer Steve Shade has another good reason for participating in this event — possible record speeds.

"The hydrobowl is unusual because it is recessed 20 feet below ground level so there's little wind resistance," he said. "It allows us to get closer to or break record speeds."

## HOW TO GO

■ **What:** World class inboard hydroplane circle racing.

■ **When:** Saturday, 12-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon; feature race at 5 p.m.

■ **Where:** Hydrobowl (Eastwood Park, state Route 4 and Harshman Road).

■ **Cost:** \$10 adult weekend pass. \$25 family weekend pass (2 adults, 3 children). Children under 12 free.

■ **Today:** Meet the drivers and watch test runs from 1-6 p.m. Free.

■ **Local racers:** Steve Shade, Dayton 5-liter stock, Joe Kreitzer, Kettering, 2½-liter stock, Mark Dowty, Covington, 2½-liter Mod, Sue McCarthy, Kettering 2½-liter stock, Jeff Corrigan, S. Carolina; past Commodore of the Dayton Motor Boat Racing Assoc.