

# Falcinelli takes 1.5 liter

► **She was the only woman to compete in any of the races this weekend.**

**By Dave Lance**

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In first place heading into the final lap of Sunday's Thunder at the Bowl 1.5 liter race, Jennifer Falcinelli was just hoping her boat's engine wouldn't conk out.

It came close.

On the last lap of the four-lap, five-mile final at Eastwood Lake's Dayton Hydrobowl, Cal Phipps passed Falcinelli, splashing her engine with water.

"I thought it was going to kill my engine," said Falcinelli, who resides in Detroit, Mich., "but it started to pick up after the turn."

It picked up enough for her to regain her lead and win the race, barely edging Phipps. Finishing times were not recorded in the

race. Falcinelli, the only woman to compete in any of the hydroplane races this weekend, has been racing only since the beginning of the year. This was her first victory.

Falcinelli, 25, picked up the sport from her father, who has raced for more than 20 years.

"For it only to be her third or fourth race, she's doing a heck of a job," said Phipps, who lives on the same block as Falcinelli. "She's going to be a great driver."

Phipps showed some strong driving of his own, winning the final of the National Modifier (five-liter engine). As with his earlier race, no finishing times were recorded. Phipps edged out Randy Wolfe for the win.

"Whoever gets the better start between us, wins," Phipps said.

In other action, Dennis Macy of Garden City, Mich., won the final of the Grand National Hydro

(seven-liter) in 3:25.0 in his boat The Menace. Steve Kuhr of Cincinnati, riding the renowned boat, The Irishman, was second (3:25.4).

Dutch Squires of Denver, Colo., won his second final in as many days, winning the 2.5-liter stock final in 4:03.0. Alan Bush of Grand Island, N.Y., was second (4:28.1).

"Your goal is always to win, but I didn't expect to win them all," said Squires, who holds the world kilometer record in the 2.5 stock (110.5 mph). "Our boat (Mega Bucks) is running real good. We made a few minor changes that got us faster through the weekend."

Charles Palm of Chicago, riding in the Money Monster, won the Super Stocks in 3:22.0.

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