



SKIP PETERSON/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Lance Faulkner (K-70) leads Mike Allen during the Thunder at the Bowl hydroplane races.

WATER SPORTS

Phipps loses boat

By Dave Lance

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Never mind that Cal Phipps of Detroit placed in the top three in two races Sunday at the Dayton Hydroplane Regatta. He's lucky he wasn't seriously injured at Eastwood Lake.

Coming around Turn 1 in the National Modifier final, Phipps' boat — Fast Tracker — blew an engine as other boats were approaching. One of those boats — Wild Viking, driven by Einar Glasius — crashed into Fast Tracker, with Glasius' propeller slashing into the back of Fast Tracker.

Phipps, who anticipated the contact and tucked deep in his uncovered cockpit, escaped unharmed. But the back of his boat was slashed all the way to the battery and dry sump tank, which is mounted behind the engine.

"I was very lucky," said Phipps, who finished second in one of the 1.5-litre finals and third in one of the 5.0 finals. "I was ready for the impact and I just held on to the steering wheel and ducked down."

► Kettering native wins

National Modified: Joe Kreitzer, a native of Kettering living in Defiance, won one of the National Modified finals after losing the lead following the second lap.

Kreitzer caught Doug Miller of Grand Rapids, Mich., on the fourth and final lap.

"I just kept going harder and harder," Kreitzer said. "I usually don't do so well in my hometown

because of bad luck, but everything came together."

Kreitzer's boat is the Summer Dreams.

► Melina a crowd pleaser:

Michael Melina of Locust, N.J., almost lost control of his 5.0 boat, Aiki Mikey, during the final, but settled it down and won the race, to the delight of the fans at the finish line.

"On Lap 2 we almost (tipped over) on the front stretch," Melina said. "We were five feet over the water, but she got back down."

"The crowd was into it. I could tell they were cheering and I thought I put on a show for them."

Melina said his boat isn't running as well as it will be in three weeks when he competes in the Summer Nationals.

"We've got three more races before the Nationals (Aug. 20-22) and we're trying to tune up the equipment," he said. "When she picks up and goes, she's gone. (Aiki Mikey) is recognized by everybody as one of the fastest boats in the country."

► Cheezum wins 1.5 Mods: Alicia Cheezum of Centreville, Md., caught Phipps on the third lap of the 1.5 Modifiers final and held on for the victory in her Jake Rattle-N-Roll.

Cheezum started the race in the third lane, but when she built a big enough lead moved into Lane 1.

► **CONTACT** Dave Lance at 225-7492 or by e-mail at dave_lance@coxohio.com