

# Sports

- ECONOMY
- TELEVISION
- ENTERTAINMENT

## It's Moore, MacGregor in a breeze

By BOB DUCA  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

HYANNIS — He is the hometown boy sailing on waters where he's spent half his life, so Tyler Moore doesn't need to be told there are plenty of people monitoring his performance and loads of pressure being placed upon his young shoulders this week at the U.S. Youth Sailing Championships.

### U.S. YOUTH SAILING

"Yeah, I've felt it," admitted Moore yesterday afternoon. "I know there are lots of people here expecting me to do well, and more so after what happened today."

What happened was simple. Moore, 16, a resident of Hyannis and member of the host Hyannis Yacht Club, and teammate Stuart MacGregor, 16, of South Dartmouth, swamped the opposition in winning the first of eight scheduled races in the Doublehanded Division yesterday.

Moore and MacGregor, teammates at Tabor Academy in Marion, sailed their Collegiate 420 through light, shifting winds to a two-minute, 33-second victory, which is a little like winning the Boston Marathon by five miles. In other words, it was a blowout, exceeding even the greatest expectations of Moore's family and friends.

"I know I'll have to sail extremely hard now," said Moore, ever the pessimist. "You never know what the wind will do. There are certain people who are faster in certain types of wind."

It took awhile for the races to begin yesterday due to four recalls and a late wind shift from north-northeast to southeast, causing officials to reset the course. The scheduled 12:30 p.m. start was delayed nearly two hours, forcing postponement of the second race in each of the three divisions.

But once matters did get under way, Moore and MacGregor dominated the field of 35 teams, taking the lead from the outset and then catching the first major shift halfway up the windward leg. From that point, they simply stretched their lead, albeit slowly in the 5-12-knot breezes, eventually crossing the finish line 90 minutes later.

"It was really light air out there," said Moore, who insisted local knowledge made little difference yesterday. "We managed to find the shift and capitalize on it. But we're way out there in the open, and knowing the shifts of wind and current in the nooks and crannies really doesn't do me any good."

Moore and MacGregor found the best wind on the right side of the course and held firm until the finish.

"The biggest thing was catching speed heading into the waves," Moore said. "That's where we picked up lots of time on the other boats. I've sailed here all my life, so I expected the wind to shift around to the southwest. It started to, but really never did. It stayed southeast most of the day."



Marc Garrison of Winnetka, Ill., reins in his boat after a false start in yesterday's singlehanded race on the first day of the U.S. Youth Sailing Championships.

TIMES PHOTO BY TORY READ

It was slow going most of the day, resulting in a reach to the finish.

"They were just dragging across," said one official.

Moore and MacGregor received three-quarters of a point for finishing first. All other racers are awarded points according to their position; two for second, three for third, etc. Rules state that four races must be run in each division to crown a champion. The committee has eight races scheduled, weather permitting. Each competitor will be allowed to throw out one race, providing at least five are run.

Low combined points at the end of the week will be determine the overall winners. The winners in each division — a light and heavyweight in boardsailing — as well as four sportsmanship honorees will be named to the U.S. Junior Sailing Team.

Following Moore and MacGregor yesterday was the team of Ryan Cox and Kevin Alfred of Thousand Oaks, Calif. In third were Mark Mendelblatt and Mitchell Rogers of St. Petersburg, Fla.

While Moore was the hometown favorite, people couldn't help rooting for the little guy who bested 20 others in the boardsailing race. Think you need power and strength to be successful in boardsailing? Consider Ethan Passant, or better yet, consider his size.

Passant, 17, doesn't look big enough to get his board into the water, let alone sail it past many opponents whose arms are thicker than his waist. He is all of 5-foot-2, 107 pounds, but he stunned everybody by winning the national youth boardsailing championship last year in San Diego and continued his fairy-tale ride yesterday with another victory.

Passant readily admits that because of his

light weight, he needs fairly calm wind conditions. "In heavy winds, I'd get killed because those other guys have such a weight advantage," he says.

He got the required light air yesterday. Sailing a Mistral, Passant edged John Jackman, 17, of San Diego by less than one minute. He grabbed the lead for the first time at the first triangle of the leeward leg. Jackman, who doesn't weigh much more than Passant at 110, had edged to within 20 yards when he decided to shift to the right side in search of better wind. Passant went to the left, found the correct breeze and held on for the triumph.

"It was pretty much a guessing game at that point," said Jackman.

It wasn't an especially exciting race because of the slow pace. For the most part, the boardsailors crawled along.

Passant's story is made more interesting by the fact that last year he moved from Florida to Albuquerque, N.M., where the opportunities to sail are, to say the least, limited. As a result, he hasn't sailed much lately.

"It's hard keeping sharp," he says. "I'm surprised I did so well today."

Finishing third among the boardsailors was Kevin Lowery, 15, of Alexandria, Va. The top three were classified as lightweights. The first heavyweight to finish was James Ford, 16, of Darien, Conn. in fourth place. Another heavyweight, Henri Maire, 16, of Westport, Conn., was fifth.

The Laser Division (singlehanded), boasting 70 racers, was won by Jim Davis, 16, of Largo, Fla. Davis handily defeated Scott Cheney, 18, of Austin, Texas, and Alex Camet, 18, of San Diego.

The competition continues today with three races scheduled, depending on wind conditions.

Complete results in *The Scoreboard*.