

SPORTS



Times Photo by VINCENT DeWITT

Hang in there

■ Sailors in a 420 class race, secured by harnesses, hang off their boat during action yesterday in Hyannis Harbor on the opening day of the Hyannis Yacht Club Regatta.

Another photo, story /B-5



Times Photo by VINCENT DeWITT

■ An unidentified sailor guides his boat through brisk winds in Hyannis Harbor during yesterday's 52nd annual Hyannis Yacht Club Regatta.

Hyannis hosts regatta weekend

The 52nd annual Hyannis Yacht Club Regatta got under way yesterday morning at the club on Ocean Street in Hyannis. Some 175 sailboats of different sizes and different rigs are participating in this event that had its beginning back in 1939, a year after the yacht club was founded.

The competition will be for ocean-racing boats, usually 25 feet and longer, as well as for about 140 boats which will race in their one-design classes. This regatta is sailed on six different race courses set up on Lewis Bay and Nantucket Sound.

Invited to race as one-design fleets are the Lasers, Beetlecats, Collegiate 420's, Cape Cod Knockabouts, J-22's and 24's, the Optimist Prams, Sunfish, JY 15's and Vanguard 15's. There is also a division of Laser Masters racing in their New England Championship and the 505's sailing for the trophy that goes along with being the East Coast Champion.

The "ocean fleet" will compete in divisions separated by the fact that some skippers will sail with spinners and some will not. Both the racing and the cruising fleets will be competing under the Performance Handicap Racing Rule.

According to regatta chairman Bradford Egan and senior race officer Tom Duggan, trophies for the regatta will be presented after the completion of the sailing tomorrow afternoon. There will be a trophy given for the best performance in a boat sailing one-design, the Frank B. Bearse Trophy, named after a long-time member of the club.

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A massive fleet of sailboats gathered in Newport this past week for the New York Yacht Club Sesquicentennial Regatta. A highlight of the event was the renewed battle between the 1992 America's Cup skippers Bill Koch and Dennis Conner.

Last Sunday, the first day of competition, 214 sailboats raced on three separate race courses in 17 classes on Rhode Island Sound. Racing continued all week and ended yesterday after five races that will be counted in the series. Today's competition is celebrating the 150-year history of possibly America's most prestigious yacht club.

In the first face-off between Koch and Conner last Sunday in the Modern 12-Meter Division, Koch's Kiwi Magic crossed the finish line more than a minute ahead

Dock Lines

By Joe Hoffman

of Conner in Stars & Stripes '87. Koch had chartered the Kiwi from New Zealand's Michael Fay.

The race scheduled for Monday had to be canceled because of fog on the Sound, and the race committee called for that race to be made up on Thursday.

Tuesday's hazy sunshine and light 7-12-knot southerly breeze was welcomed by the big fleet, and the closest finish occurred in the Modern 12-Meter Division. Stars & Stripes '87 seized the opportunity to win the race over the 12.5-mile course and beat out Koch by 34 seconds. Coming in only 24 seconds behind Conner was Regatta Chairman Charles Robertson in Cannonball.

The scheduled layday for the sailors was Wednesday and Conner had plans to take some friends out for a sail in his boat that won the America's Cup from Australia in that memorable regatta Down Under. During the sail, the 80-foot mast on Stars & Stripes snapped in half. It is now out of the NYYC Regatta and Conner will not race the rest of the series.

With two races on Thursday the door was wide open for Koch. In the first race he beat out Fiddler and Cannonball and then turned around in the afternoon and did the same thing again. With only yesterday's race to be factored in, Koch and Kiwi Magic cannot lose their division.

The Transitional 12-Meter division winner will be Gary Jobson from Annapolis, Md., and David Pensky from San Diego, sailing Defender; and the Classic 12 division trophy will belong to Gleam, skippered by Tom Taylor of Fort Worth, Texas, as he beat out American Eagle and Weatherly for the top honors.

Figawi sailor Jim Stanley from Cumberland Foreside, Maine, won the J-44 division in his boat Capella VII, and the Johnstones, Robert and Rodney, did well in the Sport Division in Tern and Ragtime but were beaten — it appears — by Nicholas Brown from Baltimore in Quadrille.

Joe Hoffman is a Times special writer.